

CALL USERS: PLEASE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SALII SETS ECONOMIC GOALS AS NO. 1 PRIORITY) 1975

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SAIPAN, FEB. 13 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATE VICE-PRESIDENT LAZARUS SALII RECOMMENDED THURSDAY (FEB. 13) THAT TALKS BETWEEN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE "SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY" UNTIL SUCH TIME AS MICRONESIA IS ECONOMICALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT.

ECHOING THE SENTIMENTS OF SENATOR AMATA KABUA EARLY THIS WEEK, SALII SAID THE CONGRESS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS HAS HAD SIX YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED: "WHAT HAVE WE ACCOMPLISHED?" NOTING THAT PROGRESS DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS OF TALKS HAS LEFT A LONG WAY BEFORE AN AGREEMENT BY BOTH SIDES CAN SATISFACTORILY BE REACHED, HE SAID THE PROBLEM LIES IN THE UNITED STATES' UNWILLINGNESS TO SEE THAT MICRONESIA HAS A SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMY. SALII ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF WANTING TO KEEP MICRONESIA "FOREVER DEPENDENT UPON THEM FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD."

SEN. SALII SAID THE RECORD WILL SHOW THAT THE UNITED STATES' PERFORMANCE IN DEVELOPING MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY HAS "RESULTED IN DISMAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT..." ACCORDING TO SALII HE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT "THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY SABOTAGING" MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH IN ITS "STRUGGLE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ORDER TO INSURE OUR COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR DEMANDS IN THE FUTURE."

SALII POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES "IS NOT ONLY VIOLATING ITS PROMISES UNDER THE TRUSTESHIP AGREEMENT...BUT ALSO HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATING EXTREME BAD FAITH." HE SAID THAT WHILE THE U.S. OFFERS "PROMISES" AND "CONCESSIONS WITH ONE HAND" IT CONTINUES TO "HOLD A CLUB ON THE OTHER."

THE SENATOR ALSO SAID: "I DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT WE TERMINATE NEGOTIATIONS PERMANENTLY; NOT NOW AT LEAST. BUT I DO RECOMMEND WE SUSPEND THEM INDEFINITELY." HE DECLARED: "WE MUST ASK THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE LAST TIME TO HONOR OUR REQUEST AND TO TAKE FULL AND POSITIVE ACTION UPON THE ECONOMIC LEGISLATION WE HAVE PASSED, OR WILL PASS DURING THIS AND THE NEXT SESSION."

SALII CONCLUDED: "...WHEN WE ARE NO LONGER ENTIRELY DEPENDENT UPON THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER AND CAN SEE OURSELVES WELL ON THE ROAD TO SELF-RELIANCE, EVEN THOUGH WITH SOME SACRIFICE, THEN WE CAN RESUME NEGOTIATIONS MORE AS EQUALS." HE SAID THE UNITED STATES MUST CHANGE ITS "ATTITUDE...ITS UNDERLYING GOAL, TO KEEP MICRONESIA FOREVER DEPENDENT..."

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 13 (MNS)---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS BLASTED THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS IN THE SENATE THURSDAY (FEB. 13) SAYING THAT, "IT IS MY SUSPICION THAT THE AMERICANS DO NOT WANT US TO BECOME SELF RELIANT...IF MY SUSPICION IS CORRECT, THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ONLY VIOLATING ITS PROMISES UNDER THE TRUSTESHIP AGREEMENT,... IT IS ALSO DEMONSTRATING EXTREME BAD FAITH."

SEN. LAZARUS SALII ALSO CALLED FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS "INDEFINITELY." (SEE PREVIOUS STORY FOR FURTHER COVERAGE).

PASSED IN THE SENATE ON SECOND READING WAS A BILL RELATING TO INTEREST RATES ON LOANS FROM FUNDS BORROWED BY THE FH HOUSING AUTHORITY FROM COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. THE INTENT OF SB 6-40 IS TO RAISE THE RATE OF INTEREST WHICH THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES MAY CHARGE PERSONS IN LOANING MONEY FOR HOUSING.

13571

SEN. PEDRO A. TENORIO OF THE MARIANAS EXPLAINED THAT THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO KEEP THE SAME RATE OF 4-1/2 PERCENT ON LOANS FROM GRANTS OR SUBSIDIES SO THAT THE INTEREST RATE WOULD ONLY

BE RAISED ON MONEY BORROWED FROM COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

DURING THE MORNING SESSION THE SENATORS ADOPTED THREE RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA 10TH ANNIVERSARY. IN ONE OF THESE (SJR 6-27) THE WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST HELD IN COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENT WERE ANNOUNCED AND PAID TRIBUTE TO. TERRITORY-WIDE WINNERS WERE, IN THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION, JOSEPH ASANUMA OF PALAU; AND IN THE POST SECONDARY DIVISION, MIGUEL SABLAN DEMAPAN OF THE MARIANAS. THE THEME OF THE ESSAYS WAS "RESPECT FOR THE PAST: CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE."

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR DISTRICT WINNERS WERE, FOR THE MARIANAS, GUADALUPE T. TORRES AND MARIA D. CABRERA; FOR PALAU, MYCORY SIMEON AND JOSEPH ASANUMA; IN PONAPE, ALBERTINA DIOPULOS AND FLORINA ANSON; IN TRUK, ANSELMO DANIEL AND EMMANUEL F. SEADY; FOR YAP, PETER FAGALDEFRAD AND JOHN CHINGYAN; AND WOODEN ISHODA IN THE MARSHALLS.

ONLY THREE DISTRICTS HAD WINNERS FOR THE POST SECONDARY CATEGORY. THEY ARE, IN THE MARSHALLS, TIMIUS K. AWIEN; IN THE MARIANAS, MIGUEL SABLAN DEMAPAN AND JUAN N. BABAUTA; AND AURELIO SAUDER AND CURTIS HAYSECK IN TRUK.

THESE WINNERS ARE SCHEDULED TO PRESENT THEIR ESSAYS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON MONDAY (FEB. 17) AT 1:00 P.M.

THE OTHER TWO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DIRECTED THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO SET ASIDE FEB. 15-17 FOR THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION (SJR 6-25); AND CALLED FOR A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ON FEB. 17, (SJR 6-26).

THE SENATORS VOTED IN THE MORNING SESSION TO AMEND THEIR RULES TO INCREASE THE MEMBERS FROM FOUR TO FIVE ON THE HEALTH AND THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES.

THE SENATORS ALSO ADOPTED TWO OTHER SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THEY URGED THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A YEAR LONG HEAD START PROGRAM IN YAP, (SJR 6-4); AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DR. AROBATI HICKINS, (SJR 6-28).

DEBATE CONTINUED IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 13) ON A BILL TO PROVIDE THAT, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1975, ALL OCCUPANTS OF HOUSES, APARTMENTS, HOUSE TRAILERS AND OTHER LIVING UNITS, OWNED, RENTED, USED, OR PROVIDED FOR BY THE TERRITORY GOVERNMENT SHALL BE LIABLE TO PAY FAIR RENTAL CHARGES FOR THE USE OR OCCUPANCY OF SUCH HOUSING UNITS EXCEPT AS MAY OTHERWISE BE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. LAW OR REGULATIONS, (HB 6-37).

THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE BILL BE PASSED BECAUSE IT "WOULD GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL REVENUES FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA" FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS. "IT IS OUR STRONG FEELING," CONTINUED THE COMMITTEE, "THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GET OUT OF THE HOUSING BUSINESS."

SAYING THAT THE TASK OF A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN CURBING GOVERNMENT SPENDING IS NOT AN EASY ONE, THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT A "TIME MUST COME WHEN THE CONGRESS HAS TO TAKE AFFIRMATIVE STEPS TO TAILOR OUR GOVERNMENT'S SPENDING TO MEET THE NEEDS, PRIORITIES, AND REVENUE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

"IT IS THE OPINION OF YOUR COMMITTEE, THAT WITH THE EVER INCREASING FINANCIAL BURDEN OF VITAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, THE ERA IN WHICH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY IS EQUATED WITH A MULTITUDE OF FREE BENEFITS, ESPECIALLY FREE HOUSING, MUST COME TO AN END," THE WAYS AND MEANS REPORTED URGING FAVORABLE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

PONAPE REP. EDGAR EDWARD SPOKE AGAINST THE BILL SAYING THAT THE BILL IS "PREMATURE" AT THIS TIME AND THAT HE FELT IT

MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES.

THE STRONGEST OBJECTION RAISED DURING THE DEBATE CAME FROM TRUK CONGRESSMAN LAMBERT AAFIN. IN A PREPARED SPEECH, AAFIN TOLD THE HOUSE MEMBERS THAT MANY GOVERNMENT CONTRACT EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT RENEW THEIR CONTRACTS IF THE BILL IS SIGNED INTO LAW. HE GAVE A BREAKDOWN OF 103 EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICTS EXCLUDING THOSE WORKING FOR THE HEADQUARTERS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE MARIANAS DISTRICT. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN A SURVEY RECENTLY CONDUCTED, OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE 103 EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES STATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT RENEW THEIR CONTRACTS IF THE CONGRESS CUT THE EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES' CHILDREN, REQUIRE THEM TO PAY FOR UTILITY BILLS, AND REQUIRE THEM TO RENT GOVERNMENT HOUSES. HE TOLD THE CONGRESS THAT THE BILL WOULD CREATE A "PROBLEM OF GREAT MAGNITUDE" AND URGED THE HOUSE NOT TO PASS THE BILL. AAFIN THEN MADE A MOTION TO DEFER ACTION ON THE BILL UNTIL NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS. THE VOICE VOTE WAS NOT CLEAR, SO A DIVISION OF THE HOUSE WAS CALLED FOR, RESULTING IN 10 VOTING AGAINST AND 10 VOTING IN FAVOR. TRUK REP. SASAUO HARUO WAS ABSENT FROM THE MEETING. THE MOTION TO DEFER ACTION FAILED TO PASS THE HOUSE.

IN A ROLL CALL VOTE TO PASS THE BILL ON SECOND READING, EIGHT MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY VOTED "CONFLICT OF INTEREST." THOSE VOTING AGAINST THE BILL WERE: CONGRESSMEN LAMBERT AAFIN, CHARLES DOMNICK, ATAJI BALOS, KUNIWO NAKAMURA, CHIRO ALBERT, EDGAR EDWARD AND EKPAP SILK. REP. RESIO MOSES EXPLAIN DURING THE DEBATE THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, INCLUDING 122 CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ARE EXCLUDED FROM PAYING RENTS UNDER THE BILL. THE BILL PASSED AND WILL NOW GO TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

A BILL TO IMPOSE A TAX OF 50 CENTS PER DAY ON ALL HOTEL ROOMS OCCUPIED BY TRANSIENTS (HB 6-69), WAS FILED AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, IF THE BILL IS ENACTED, IT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE GROWING TOURIST INDUSTRY, WHICH IS IN ITS INFANCY IN MICRONESIA.

TWO JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED. THEY ARE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ACCEPT A GRANT OFFER FOR THE PREPARATION OF A FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE AIRPORT ON HOEN ISLAND IN TRUK, (HJR 6-35); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AT BOTH DISTRICT AND HEADQUARTERS LEVELS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO INCREASE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN THE OUTER ISLANDS IN TRUK DISTRICT, (HJR 6-12).

NINE BILLS AND SIX HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE PLACED BEFORE THE CONGRESSMEN THURSDAY. THE BILLS WOULD: AMEND SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-89 RELATING TO THE PURCHASE AND USE OF A SCHOOL BUS FOR MICRONESIAN STUDENTS IN GUAM AND PARTIAL TT SCHOLARSHIP, (HB 6-218); PROVIDE A NEW BASE SALARY SCHEDULE, ESTABLISH NEW AND REVISED POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES COVERED BY TITLE 61 OF THE TT CODE, AND PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED SALARY PLAN, (HB 6-219); CHANGE SECTION OF TITLE 41 OF THE TT CODE WITH RESPECT TO COMPENSATION OF MICRONESIA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, (HB 6-220); REQUIRE THE FATHER OF A CHILD BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VARIOUS COSTS CONCERNING THE CHILD, (HB 6-221); CREATE A POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION OF MICRONESIA AND TO PRESCRIBE ITS FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDE FUNDS THEREFOR, (HB 6-222); APPROPRIATE \$500,000 AS A GRANT TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COPRA PRODUCTION, (HB 6-223); AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE

MICRONESIA, (HB 6-224); SPEND \$25,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DOCK AT NUKAF, PATA ISLANDS, TRUK, (HB 6-225); AND SUPPLY \$150,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SEAWALLS IN THE FAICHUK AREA, TRUK LAGOON, (HB 6-226).

THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED WOULD: AUTHORIZE THE HICOM TO ACCEPT A GRANT OFFER FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN AIRPORT SYSTEM PLAN FOR THE TT FROM THE FAA, (HJR 6-56); EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S. FOR TEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-57); EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONCERNING MINIMUM WAGES, (HJR 6-58); REQUEST THE U.S. TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO ASSURE THAT ALL SUCCESSFUL CLAIMANTS UNDER TITLE I OF THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS ACT OF 1971 RECEIVE THE FULL AMOUNTS AWARDED TO THEM, (HJR 6-59); REQUEST THE HICOM TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING SHIPS FROM NAURU TO CARRY SURFACEMAIL IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE TT, (HJR 6-60); AND REQUEST THE HICOM TO PRESCRIBE AND PROMULGATE UNIFORM RULES ON THE SEIZURE OF FOREIGN VESSELS VIOLATING THE TT TERRITORIAL WATERS AND FISHING ZONES, (HJR 6-61).

THE HOUSE WILL RECONVENE AT 3:00 P.M., AND THE SENATE AT 10:00 A.M., ON FRIDAY (FEB. 14).

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(GUERRERO ON WAR CLAIMS AND SALARIES)

SAIPAN, FEB. 13 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---TAKING NOTE OF THE URGENCY TO RESOLVE DISCREPANCIES IN TITLE I OF THE MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS ACT AND THE NEED TO "IMMEDIATELY" OFFER SOLUTIONS TO THE CURRENT SALARY AND PAY SCALE, CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO OF THE MARIANAS URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO FAVORABLY ACT ON THE RESOLUTIONS HE INTRODUCED ON THE TWO ISSUES.

IN REMARKS BEFORE THE HOUSE THURSDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 13), GUERRERO SAID THAT AS OF FEBRUARY 7 OF THIS YEAR, THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION HAS ADJUDICATED 4,364 OF THE 9,607 CLAIMS UNDER TITLE I AND THE AMOUNT FOR AWARDS TOTALS ABOUT \$9,256,659. THAT AMOUNT GIVES AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT \$963.74 PER CLAIM.

THIS MEANS, ACCORDING TO GUERRERO, THAT 55 PERCENT OF THE CLAIMS HAVE YET TO BE ADJUDICATED OUT OF THE 7.5 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS REMAINING FROM THE \$10-MILLION AVAILABLE UNDER TITLE I. HE SAID THESE FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS COULD AMOUNT TO \$30 MILLION, BUT SINCE THERE IS ONLY \$10 MILLION REMAINING, AWARDEES WILL RECEIVE "33" CENTS FOR EVERY DOLLAR TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, GUERRERO NOTED, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ALL OF THE 356 CLAIMS UNDER TITLE TWO, FOR WHICH THERE IS SOME \$20 MILLION, WILL BE PAID IN FULL. HE SAID THAT THIS ALSO INDICATES THAT MOST OF THE MONEY UNDER TITLE TWO WHICH WOULD REMAIN UNSPENT FOR AWARDS WILL "DEFINITELY" RETURN TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

GUERRERO ASSERTED THAT IF THE UNITED STATES COULD AFFORD TO SPEND \$1 TRILLION-SOME IN FOREIGN AID TO BETWEEN 1941 AND 1967, NOT TO MENTION THE HUGE FINANCIAL AID TO VIETNAM, THEN HE SEES NO REASON WHY THE U.S. CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY MICRONESIANS THE FULL AMOUNT THEY DESERVE. HE NOTED THAT WHAT MICRONESIANS IS ASKING FOR IS VERY "MINIMAL" COMPARED WITH THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS THE U.S. SPENDS IN FOREIGN AID IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

INFORMING HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE U.S. IS TRYING TO DEVELOP A REPUTATION WORLD-WIDE AS A "PEACE-LOVING AND FAIR NATION," HE ASKED: "WHY DOESN'T THE UNITED STATES WANT TO DEVELOP THAT 'REPUTATION' IN MICRONESIA ALSO?" HE SAID FOR DECADES U.S. ADMINISTRATION OF MICRONESIA IN TERMS OF AID "SEEMED TO TRICKLE IN, IN BITS AND PIECES."

ON ANOTHER EQUALLY IMPORTANT ISSUE, GUERRERO URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION PROPOSING A "HIGHER" SALARY

13574

BASE, SINCE HE FEELS THAT THE DRAFT BILL BY A SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON THIS ISSUE IS "INSUFFICIENT" TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION.

NOTING THAT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES LIKE SUGAR AND RICE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY GONE UP WHILE THE SALARIES AND WAGES REMAIN "UNCHANGED" HE ASKED HOW ANYONE CAN EXPECT A MAN WHO MAKES ABOUT SEVENTEEN-HUNDRED DOLLARS A YEAR TO "ADEQUATELY" PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY IN ADDITION TO HAVING TO PROVIDE FOR CLOTHING, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND OTHER FAMILY NECESSITIES?"

CONGRESSMAN GUERRERO ALSO NOTED THAT THESE COMPLAINTS, FOR THE MOST PART, "HAVE RIGHTLY COME FROM OUR LOWER PAID GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE IN THE LOWER BRACKETS AND WHO ARE AFFECTED THE MOST."

(COVENANT TO BE SIGNED)

SAIPAN, FEB. 12 (MNS)---THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, HAVE REACHED FULL AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. CHAIRMAN EDWARD DLG PANGELINAN ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY NIGHT (FEB. 12) THAT THE MPSC HAD VOTED 15-0 TO SIGN THE COVENANT.

THE DOCUMENT WILL BE SIGNED AT 2 P.M., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE MOUNT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING MORE THAN A WEEK OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS. THE COVENANT COVERS THE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FUTURE COMMONWEALTH AND THE UNITED STATES, ARRANGEMENTS FOR FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT, THE APPLICATION OF VARIOUS FEDERAL LAWS TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, SPECIAL PROVISIONS ON REVENUE AND TAXATION, FUTURE DIRECT U. S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL LEASE CERTAIN LANDS. THE DOCUMENT PROVIDES FOR REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND ALLOWS FOR THE SELECTION OF A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNDER TERMS TO BE SPECIFIED IN THE CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

THE SIGNING IS THE FIRST STEP IN THE RATIFICATION PROCESS OF THE COVENANT. IT WILL BE SUBMITTED NEXT TO THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FOR ITS APPROVAL AND THEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT FOR THEIR APPROVAL IN A PLEBISCITE. WITH A FAVORABLE VOTE IN THE PLEBISCITE THE COVENANT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE U. S. CONGRESS FOR THEIR APPROVAL. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE INSTALLED THEREAFTER WITH THE OFFICIAL NAME OF COMMONWEALTH AND AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP FOR ALL THE TTPI.

(AUTHORITIES RECOMMEND ACTION IN CERTAIN AREAS)

SAIPAN, FEB. 13 (MNS)---THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MANAGERS OF MICRONESIAN FISHING AUTHORITIES HAS SAID IN A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT NO DISTRICT HAS ANY CLEAR, COMPREHENSIVE SET OF GOALS AND PLANS TO DEVELOP ITS FISHERIES.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO IDENTIFY THEIR PARTICULAR NEEDS IN TERMS OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS AND TO MAKE PLANS TO CARRY THEM OUT. IT ADDED THAT SUCH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED NOT ONLY BY THE FISHERMEN AND THE COOPS BUT ALSO BY THE LOCAL LEADERS AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS.

13575

THE MANAGERS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SECURE ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OR THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN DEVELOPING DISTRICT AND TERRITORY-WIDE PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA'S FISHERIES.

TO AVOID DUPLICATION IN GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS IN FISHERIES, THE MANAGERS RECOMMENDED THE MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION BE LIMITED TO PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ENGAGING IN PRODUCTION-ORIENTED EXPERIMENTS AND APPLIED RESEARCH WHILE THE FISHING AUTHORITIES CONCENTRATE IN THE ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE MANAGERS PROPOSED THAT THE MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION BE STAFFED WITH COMPETENT, AND PRODUCTION-ORIENTED PERSONNEL WITH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN TUNA AND BEEF FISHERIES AND IN MARICULTURE WHO CAN BE READILY CALLED UPON BY THE FISHING AUTHORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE.

CALLING THE \$600,000 ALLOTTED TO THE DIVISION AS "PITIFUL" THE MANAGERS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ALLOTMENT BE INCREASED SO THAT THE DIVISION CAN HIRE QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. THE MANAGERS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT HIRING AND SALARY POLICIES PREVENTING EMPLOYMENT OF SUCH PEOPLE BE SUSPENDED SO THE DIVISION CAN BEGIN TO HIRE THEM.

THEY ALSO CALLED UPON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO BE LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AND THE FISHING AUTHORITIES.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO REQUESTED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO HIRE A PERSON WITH MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FISHERIES TO ASSIST FISHERY PROGRAMS CREATED BY THE CONGRESS AND TO ADVISE THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IN ITS OWN FISHERY PROGRAMS.

THE MANAGERS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT DIVING AND OTHER NON-PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS BE REMOVED FROM THE MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION AND BE PLACED UNDER OTHER OFFICES OR GIVEN TO PRIVATE OPERATORS.

THEY ALSO ASKED THAT PETER WILSON, CHIEF OF THE MARINE RESOURCES WHO IS NOW ON LEAVE, NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HEAD THE DIVISION.

THE MANAGERS ALSO SAID THAT THE FISHING AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE PLANNING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS IN FISHERIES AND CALLED UPON THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW TO PARTICIPATE IN MAKING DECISIONS IN PLANNING AND BUDGET ALLOCATION IN THIS AREA.

THEY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT TO PROVIDE COORDINATION IN AWARDED LOANS FOR FISHERY DEVELOPMENT, THE FISHING AUTHORITIES HAVE A SAY IN AWARDED EDLF LOANS FOR FISHERIES.