

(SEN. HART AGAINST COMMONWEALTH) 1975

WASHINGTON, MARCH 11 (MNS)---SENATOR GARY HART, (D-COLORADO), SAID SUNDAY, (MAR. 11) HE IS ATTEMPTING TO RALLY SUPPORT TO BLOCK MEASURE AIMED AT CONVERTING THE MARIANA ISLANDS FROM A UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP TO A "UNITED STATES MILITARY COLONY," ACCORDING TO A RECENT UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI) STORY.

"THE ONLY REASON THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THESE TRANQUIL ISLANDS, AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF MICRONESIA, IS TO BUILD ADDITIONAL, ENORMOUSLY EXPENSIVE BASES IN THE PACIFIC," HART SAID. "BUT THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE NEVER BEEN ASKED WHAT THEY THINK OF THIS IDEA."

HART SAID, A MEASURE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE SENATE SOON PROVIDES \$1.5 MILLION TO AID IN CONVERTING THE SPARSELY POPULATED CHAIN OF ISLANDS, AND WAS INCLUDED IN A BILL TO INCREASE HOUSEKEEPING MONEY FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR FOR MICRONESIA. HE SAID HE WOULD OFFER AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL THAT WOULD DELETE THE "TAKEOVER PROVISIONS."

"THERE IS A LOT WRONG WITH THIS SCHEME," HE SAID. "IT IS APPALLING THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD INVOLVE ITSELF IN THIS TYPE OF ARCHAIC POLICY."

HART SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD PLANNED A TIMETABLE CALLING FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD IN JUNE FOR MARIANAS CITIZENS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WANT TO BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS.

"RIGHT AFTER THE ELECTION, THE PENTAGON PLANS TO SET UP A NEW UNITED STATES-ADMINISTERED GOVERNMENT AND THEN APPROACH THE CONGRESS TO ASK APPROVAL FOR THE TAKEOVER," HART SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE TIMETABLE ESTABLISHED IN THE COMMONWEALTH COMPACT SIGNED LAST MONTH BETWEEN MARIANAS AND U.S. NEGOTIATORS, THE U.S. WILL NOT BEGIN LEASING OR CONTROLLING LAND IN THE ISLANDS UNTIL FULL COMMONWEALTH STATUS IS ESTABLISHED. THAT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED BY FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE CHIEF U.S. NEGOTIATOR, TO BE ABOUT 1980.

(FIRST DAY'S HEARINGS "VERY MILD")

WASHINGTON, MAR. 11 (MNS)---SHARP QUESTIONING BY SEN. BENNETT JOHNSTON (D), ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, AT MONDAY'S HEARINGS, (MAR. 10) ESTABLISHED THAT "NO ONE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT WAS CONNECTED WITH ANY WRONGDOING" IN REGARD TO THE ACQUISITION AND USE OF SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

SEN. JOHNSTON CAREFULLY INTERROGATED THREE GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATORS REPRESENTING VARIOUS FEDERAL AGENCIES CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW BUT THE AGENTS TESTIFIED THEY UNCOVERED NO SUCH EVIDENCE.

TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON SAID AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST DAY'S HEARINGS THAT THE QUESTIONING WAS "VERY FAIR AND VERY MILD." THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ASST. SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, ROY HUGHES, SUBMITTED A 150 PAGE OPENING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR DETAILED OPERATIONAL INFORMATION, DISTRICTS FROM EACH DISTRICT WERE AFFORDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE CONCERNING ONGOING AND PROPOSED PROJECTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY (MAR. 12). THE SCHEDULED WITNESSES ARE WILLIAM PENROSE, FORMER TRANSPAC OFFICIAL; RICHARD THORPE, PRIVATE SCRAP DEALER; AND LAWRENCE

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THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DELEGATION IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO MAKE A PRESENTATION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN WASHINGTON UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF BUDGETARY HEARINGS NOW SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK.

(REP. BASILIUS ON COM LEGISLATIONS)

SAIPAN, MAR. 11 (MNS)---PALAU REPRESENTATIVE POLYCARP BASILIUS IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE TRUST TERRITORY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, REVIEWED SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGISLATIONS ENACTED BY THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

AMONG THEM ARE: A MEASURE GRANTING TRADITIONAL CHIEFS VOTING RIGHTS AT THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CONCON); CREATING A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE; CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA; DECLARING THE CONSTITUTION OF MICRONESIA TO BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND; ALL WHICH ARE CONNECTED TO THE UPCOMING CONCON.

THE OTHERS INCLUDES; A BILL PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES; CREATING A COMMITTEE ON MICRONESIAN CLAIMS; A BILL TO PROVIDE THE GROSS TAX ON WAGES AND SALARIES; A MEASURE GRANTING ACCESS TO CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORDS; PROVIDE FOR A JURY TRIAL IN EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDING; A MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT TO DISTRICT COURT JUDGES AND THE PASSAGE OF THE SALARY ACT.

REP. BASILIUS, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, TOLD THE CONFEREES THAT MANY OF THE LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE CONGRESS CALLS FOR ENFORCEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. "HOWEVER," THE PALAU CONGRESSMAN ADDED, "A LAW IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE PEOPLE WHO ENFORCE IT. THUS, WHAT I SAID TODAY IS MORE THAN JUST A REVIEW OF THE LEGISLATION. IT IS A CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO ENFORCE IT."

GRANTING OF VOTING RIGHTS FOR MICRONESIA'S TRADITIONAL LEADERS IS IMPORTANT, BASILIUS SAID, BECAUSE IN MANY CASES, THE CHIEF'S "POWER AND PRESTIGE" MAY ACTUALLY BE "GREATER" THAN THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE.

"TO MAKE THEM ONLY NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION," HE CONTINUED, IS NOT ONLY AN "INSULT" BUT WOULD "ALSO GIVE THE CONSTITUTION...LITTLE VALIDITY AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE."

THE FORMING OF A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WILL SOLVE MANY PROBLEMS BEFORE THE CONVENTION ACTUALLY CONVENES. BASILIUS POINTED OUT THAT DELEGATES-ELECT WHOSE CREDENTIALS ARE REJECTED WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL TO THE ACTUAL CONVENTION. SINCE THE CONVENTION WILL ONLY MEET FOR 90 DAYS, "TO SPEND EVEN A SMALL PORTION OF ITS TIME ON CREDENTIALS MATTERS COULD BE DISASTROUS," BASILIUS WARNED.

THE SENIOR PALAU REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED TO THE PUBLIC DEFENDERS THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENDUM SHALL OCCUR BEFORE JULY 12, 1975, SO THAT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE KNOWN TO THE DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON. THE REFERENDUM WILL BE CALLED TO DETERMINE WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WANTS.

CONCERNING A MEASURE DECLARING THAT THE CONSTITUTION OF MICRONESIA BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND, BASILIUS SAID, "THIS WILL BE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND

PUBLIC DEFENDERS BECAUSE THE CONSTITUTION IS CERTAIN TO HAVE A BILL OF RIGHTS WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR TRIAL WORK."

ON THE SUBJECT OF REVENUE SHARING, A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, A MEASURE WHICH PASSED DURING THE LAST SESSION SPECIFIES THE GROSS TAX ON WAGES AND SALARIES OF THREE PERCENT WILL BE REDUCED TO TWO PERCENT AND A DISTRICT SURTAX HAS BEEN ADDED TO MAKE UP FOR THE ONE PERCENT REDUCTION. "THUS," HE EXPLAINED, "MONEY WHICH PREVIOUSLY WOULD HAVE COME INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CONGRESS IS NOW BEING RETURNED TO THE DISTRICTS FOR THEIR OWN USE."

THE ENACTMENT OF THE SALARY ACT WILL GIVE "RELIEF" TO PERSONS IN THE LOW-INCOME LEVEL. HOWEVER, FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS BILL WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DEEMS THAT THERE ARE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PAY FOR THE RAISES GRANTED THROUGHOUT THE SALARY STRUCTURE. BASILIUS STATED THAT IF THE SALARY ACT IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS OR EMPLOYEES WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED TO MEET THE PAY RAISES.

SEVERAL BILLS ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS DEALS DIRECTLY WITH THE JUDICIARY SYSTEM. ONE OF THEM PROVIDES FOR A JURY TRIAL IN EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS. BASILIUS SAID LAND CASES, IF IT COMES BEFORE A COURT OF LAW, "SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY ONES PEERS RATHER THAN BY A JUDGE WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE A MICRONESIAN."

ANOTHER BILL GIVES CONGRESS GREATER CONTROL OVER DISTRICT COURT JUDGES IN MICRONESIA. UNDER THE BILL, DISTRICT COURT JUDGES WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS. THE BILL ALSO SPECIFIES THAT JUDGES WILL SERVE FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS RATHER THAN "DEFINITE SPECIFIED TERMS." THE OTHER PROVISION UNDER THE BILL PROVIDES THAT NO DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MAY BE AN OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE TT GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS NECESSARY TO "AVOID CONFLICT OF INTEREST" AND TO ENSURE A MORE EVEN-HANDED APPLICATION OF JUSTICE, BASILIUS ASSERTED.

(PALAU CONCON UNDERWAY)

PALAU, MARCH 11 (MNS)---THE PALAU DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION(CONCON) OFFICIALLY GOT UNDERWAY MONDAY (MAR. 10) IN KOROR AT THE LEGISLATIVE HALL, ACCORDING TO PALAU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRMIKOL.

PALAU SENATOR ROMAN TNETUOHL OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION AND SADANG SILMAI, VICE-SPEAKER OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE WAS CHOSEN VICE-PRESIDENT. THE FIRST DAY OF THE 30-DAY MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS.

A STEERING COMMITTEE OF FOUR MEMBERS WAS FORMED TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE NUMBER OF COMMITTEES TO WORK ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PALAU CONCON ACCORDING TO PALAU PUBLIC LAW 5-6-16, CONSISTS OF 28 MEMBERS FROM THE FOLLOWING GROUPS: SEVEN FROM THE PALAU LEGISLATURE; FOUR HEREDITARY CHIEFS; ALL MEMBERS OF THE PALAU DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA; ONE PERSON EACH FROM THE THREE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES IN PALAU DISTRICT; ALL ELECTED DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON; TWO MEMBERS OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND TWO PERSONS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR.

THE PALAU DISTRICT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL "PREPARE ALTERNATIVE DRAFT CONSTITUTIONS PROVIDING FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF PALAU IN A LOOSE FEDERATION WITH OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA AND IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR FOR FUTURE SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENT STATE OF PALAU OR FOR ANY OTHER FORM OF GOVERNMENT WHICH THE DELEGATES SHALL DESIRE."

(MICRONESIAN SEMINAR ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT)

PONAPE, MAR. 11 (UPI)—A SEMINAR ON MICRONESIAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT RECENTLY CONCLUDED FOUR DAYS OF DISCUSSION AT THE FOWAPE CATHOLIC MISSION, ACCORDING TO SEMINAR DIRECTOR FR. FRANCIS HEZEL.

THE SEMINAR IS THE THIRD AND FINAL IN A SERIES OF THREE SEMINARS WHICH ALSO INCLUDED EDUCATION AND POLITICAL STATUS.

FR. HEZEL NOTED THAT SOME 21 PARTICIPANTS, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF FR. JOE CAVANAGH, ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES FOR MEASURING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND EIGHT PROGRAMS IN MICRONESIA NEEDED IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT MUST BE EVALUATED IN TERM OF PRESENT AND CONTINUING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY EFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FR. HEZEL POINTED OUT.