

(RED CHINA'S SHIP RUNS AGROUND)

SAIPAN, MAR. 12 (MNS)---A FISHING VESSEL FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA RAN AGROUND TUESDAY (MAR. 11) AT HELEN'S REEF, HELEN ISLAND, AN UNINHABITED ISLAND 371 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KOROR, PALAU DISTRICT CENTER.

THE VESSEL, SHIN CHIFAH NO. 1, WAS SPOTTED BY A NAVY SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT FROM THE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER ON GUAM. NO SIZE OF THE VESSEL WAS GIVEN. ACCORDING TO TT MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER LT. CMDR. ALAN R. PENDLETON, THE CREW HAD ABANDONED THE VESSEL AND APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH. THE CREWMEN ARE LIVING IN TENTS ON HELEN ISLAND.

THE TRUST TERRITORY VESSEL MS MICRONESIA PRINCESS LEFT KOROR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (MAR. 12) ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE SOUTHWEST ISLANDS AND WILL RESCUE THE CREW. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS BY THE CHINESE SHIP.

THE SHIP WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO PULL THE FISHING VESSEL FREE. PENDLETON SAID THE CREWMEN WILL BE RETURNED TO KOROR FOR REPATRIATION.

STATUS LIAISON OFFICER DAVID SCHIELE TOLD THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE THAT HE WILL GET INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ON HOW TO REPATRIATE THE CREW MEMBERS.

MEANWHILE, A JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL WAS SPOTTED FISHING ABOUT A THOUSAND YARDS OFF AGRINAN ISLAND, 75 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN. A NAVY P-3 AIRCRAFT ON A ROUTINE PATROL FLIGHT TO THE NORTHERN ISLANDS SPOTTED THE VESSEL. THE FISHING BOAT LEFT THE AREA IMMEDIATELY UPON SEEING THE AIRCRAFT. THE NAVY TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE VESSEL WHILE IN THE AREA.

(PEREZ NAMED MDB PRESIDENT)

SAIPAN, MARCH. 12 (MNS)---DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK (MDB) BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ANNOUNCED TUESDAY, (MAR. 11), THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSE S. PEREZ OF GUAM AS THE FIRST MDB PRESIDENT.

CHAIRMAN COLEMAN SAID THAT "MR. PEREZ' EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT FINANCING WILL HELP SPEED UP THE BANK'S DEVELOPMENT BY SEVERAL YEARS." UPON TAKING OFFICE, PEREZ SAID THAT HE WAS "OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT THE BANK' FUTURE.

PEREZ SERVED TEN YEARS AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GEDA) BEFORE ASSUMING THIS NEW POST. WHILE WITH GEDA, HE WAS PARTIALEY INSTRUMENTAL IN INITIATING CONTACTS FOR GUAM'S INVOLVEMENT IN ESCAP, UNDP AND THE ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB).

PRIOR TO THAT, PEREZ WAS ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR THE BANK OF AMERICA AND BANK OF GUAM. HE HAS REPRESENTED GUAM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. AS PRESIDENT OF THE MDB, PEREZ WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION, STAFFING AND BUDGETING. HE WILL REPRESENT THE BANK ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH OR WITHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.

PEREZ IS SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE APRIL 24 TO 27 AS AN OBSERVER AT THE ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) BOARD MEETING IN MANILA.

THE MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK (MDB) WAS CREATED BY LAW THROUGH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN MAY, 1974. THIS ACT REPEALED THE LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF MICRONESIA, AND REPLACED IT WITH THE MDB WHICH EMPHASIZES DEVELOPMENT LOANS.

THE MDB WILL PROVIDE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM LOANS FOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS, AND ALSO PROVIDE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

IN EQUITY CAPITAL FOR SELECTED ENTERPRISES AND PROJECTS, AND TO MOBILIZE DEVELOPMENTAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES FROM EVERYWHERE. A NATIVE OF GUAM, PEREZ IS MARRIED AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN.

(COLEMAN INKS TWO BILLS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 12 (MNS)---DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN SIGNED INTO LAW TWO MORE BILLS PASSED BY THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DURING ITS RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION ON SAIPAN. COLEMAN SIGNED THE BILLS TUESDAY (MARCH 11).

THE FIRST BILL IS TO CREATE A MICRONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, WITH THREE MEMBERS FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND WILL ALLOW THE HIRING OF FORMER SEN. ANDON ANARAICH OF TRUK AS CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION, (SB 6-76). THE MEASURE NOW BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 6-3.

PUBLIC LAW 6-4 IS A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$139,500 FOR MICRONESIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, (SB 6-77).

(PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CONVENED)

PONAPE, MAR. 12 (MNS)---PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SPEAKER ITOR HARRIS OFFICIALLY OPENED THE FIFTY-DAY SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE THIRD PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE IN KOLONIA, MONDAY, (MAR. 10). THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY FR. FRANCIS HEZEL, ACCORDING TO FRANCIS SIMEON, WSZD PROGRAM DIRECTOR.

A THREE-MEMBER COMMITTEE INFORMED DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR BENJAMIN WEILBACHER THAT THE LEGISLATURE IS READY TO TRANSACT BUSINESS, AND THAT THE STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE BE DELIVERED ON WEDNESDAY, (MAR. 12).

IN ADDRESSING THE PONAPE LAWMAKERS, SPEAKER HARRIS SAID, "AS WE ENTER INTO THIS NEW SESSION, THE ISSUE WHICH WOULD BE FOREMOST IN OUR MINDS, PROVIDING THE FULCRUM OF OUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, IS THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FUTURE OF PONAPE DISTRICT."

SPEAKER HARRIS SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF PONAPE HAVE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE LEGISLATORS THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF WEIGHING MATTERS WHICH WILL EFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE ISLANDS.

SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCORDING TO SPEAKER HARRIS, INCLUDES: WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE BEST FOR PONAPE DISTRICT AND ITS PEOPLE; WHETHER PONAPE SHOULD TAKE A FORM OF A SEPARATE STATE OR SHOULD IT BE AFFILIATED IN SOME WAY WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA.

THE LEGISLATURE SPEAKER POINTED OUT THAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT INDEPENDENT. "THIS IS BECAUSE WE DO NOT TRUST OUR ABILITY TO STEP FORWARD," HE ADDED. "THE KEYSTONE UPON WHICH ALL ELSE DEPENDS IS SELF-SUFFICIENCY," HARRIS SAID.

CITING THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, HARRIS POINTED OUT THAT PONAPE DISTRICT WILL BE FORCED TO UTILIZE ONLY \$400,000 FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND POLICE PROTECTION. "THIS IS LESS THAN ONE-TENTH OF THE PRESENT \$5 MILLION WHICH IS AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

"WE THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO GUIDE THE FUTURE OF PONAPE DISTRICT," HARRIS CONCLUDED.

(SAIPAN COUNCILMAN ENDORSES COVENANT)

SAIPAN, MAR. 12 (MNE)---A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS INTRODUCED MONDAY; (MAR. 10) AT THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

SAIPAN COUNCILMAN JUAN DLG. DEMAPAN, AUTHOR OF THE RESOLUTION SAID IN A PREPARED STATEMENT THAT THE RESOLUTION "WOULD EXPRESS A SENSE OF THE COUNCIL" IN SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE COVENANT.

DEMAPAN SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD GO "OFFICIALLY ON RECORD" OF ENDORSING THE COVENANT AND URGE THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO SUPPORT THE UPCOMING PLEBESCITE TO BE HELD IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR.

THE SAIPAN COUNCILMAN URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO "GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION AND EXPEDITE" THE ENACTMENT OF THE RESOLUTION.