

(PALAU CONCON CONVENE) 1975

PALAU, MAR. 14 (MNS)---HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WITNESSED THE FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PALAU CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CONCON) ON WEDNESDAY, (MAR. 12), ACCORDING TO PALAU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRMIDOL. F15

PALAU CONCON PRESIDENT SENATOR ROMAN TNETUHL OFFICIALLY DECLARED THE COVENING OF THE PALAU CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION PRECEDED BY SPEECHES FROM TRADITIONAL CHIEFS IBEDUL AND REKLAI, PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SPEAKER ITELBANG LUII, CONCON CHAIRMAN JOHN O. NGIRAKED, DEPUTY DISTAD HARUO I. REMELIIK, AND CONCON PRESIDENT SENATOR TNETUHL, NGIRMIDOL REPORTED. 17

HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL, IN HIS MESSAGE, ASKED THAT PALAUANS PRESERVE ITS TRADITIONS AND CULTURE, SAYING THAT "THE DIFFICULTY OF TRYING TO SET THE COURSE OF OUR SOCIETY IS BASED MAINLY ON THE MOUNTING DISRESPECT FOR ONE'S FELLOWMEN," HIGH CHIEF REKLAI WARNED THAT THE WRITING OF THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT AN EASY TASK, ADDING THAT PALAU FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE GREATLY AFFECTED BY THEIR WORK.

SPEAKER LUII SPOKE ABOUT THE HISTORICAL EVENTS OF PALAU FOREIGN DOMINATION, WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO THE CREATION OF THE PALAU CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BY PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. "WE ARE FINALLY GIVEN A CHANCE TO CREATE OUR OWN GOVERNMENT," SPEAKER LUII SAID.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE WRITING OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PALAU DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON JOHN O. NGIRAKED SAID, "THERE IS NO FORMULA YOU CAN FIND IN THE BOOK, OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD THAT WILL GIVE YOU THE METHOD OR PROCESS WHEREBY A SOLUTION IS PROVIDED AS TO HOW TO WRITE THE PALAU CONSTITUTION," HE URGED THE PALAUANS TO COOPERATE AND HELP THE LEADERS IN THE WRITING OF THE PALAU CONSTITUTION, NGIRMIDOL REPORTED.

SPEAKING FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS REMENGASAU, WHO IS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., DEPUTY DISTAD HARUO I. REMELIIK STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONCON STATING THAT "THE DELEGATES ARE OUR EYES, MOUTHS AND EARS--SOME OF YOU MAY BE CALLED UPON TO ASSIST US TO MAKE THIS CONSTITUTION SERVE OUR PURPOSES."

CONCON PRESIDENT SENATOR ROMAN TNETUHL, AT THE CLOSING OF THE CEREMONY SAID "THERE IS NO MODEL IN THE WORLD THAT WE CAN USE TO WRITE OUR OWN CONSTITUTION, THE PALAUANS CAN MAKE THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION THAT WILL GUARANTEE EQUALITY FOR EVERYONE," TNETUHL SAID. THE WRITING OF THE PALAU CONSTITUTION IS AN EASY TASK AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN TWO WEEKS, HE ADDED,

THE PALAU CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS EXPECTED TO MEET FOR NOT MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS, NGIRMIDOL CONCLUDED.

(INDEPENDENCE DISCUSSED, COMMISSION ORGANIZED)

PONAPE, MAR. 14 (MNS)---THE PONAPE DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION RECENTLY VISITED THE VILLAGES IN PONAPE DISTRICT AND CONDUCTED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PEOPLE IN REGARD TO THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON THE UPCOMING MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. "MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN PONAPE EXPRESSED TO THE DELEGATION THEIR GREAT INTEREST IN HAVING MICRONESIA BECOME AN INDEPENDENT NATION AFTER A NEW CONSTITUTION IS FORMED ESTABLISHING A NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA," ACCORDING TO RADIO STATION MANAGER HALVERSON JOHNNY OF PONAPE'S WSZD.

JOHNNY FURTHER REPORTED THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT EXPRESSED TO THE DELEGATION THAT "THE MORE WE STAY UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN INDEPENDENCE, THE MORE WE WILL KEEP ON LOSING OUR LANDS, AND WE WILL END UP WITH NO CONTROL OF OUR LANDS," THE STATION

MANAGER ALSO REPORTED THAT SOME PEOPLE WANTED MICRONESIA TO FIRST EXERCISE SOME SELF-GOVERNMENT BEFORE CONSIDERING INDEPENDENCE AS A SERIOUS POLITICAL CHOICE.

IT WAS REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PEOPLE WERE UNDECIDED ON THE POLITICAL STATUS QUESTION AND WANTED THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO DECIDE FOR THEM THE BEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA.

WITH THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL STATUS FOREMOST IN MIND, THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE RECENTLY CREATED THE PONAPE DISTRICT COMMISSION ON FUTURE GOVERNMENT. THE COMMISSION, CHAIRED BY FORMER CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVE HEINRICH IRIARTE, WAS CHARGED WITH THESE RESPONSIBILITIES: EVALUATING THE ATTITUDES OF THE PEOPLE OF PONAPE DISTRICT REGARDING THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA; FORMULATING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; RECOMMENDING TO THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON THE FUTURE GOVERNMENTS OF PONAPE AND MICRONESIA; AND FORMULATING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HAVING A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR PONAPE DISTRICT.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS WORK AS TO WHAT CONCRETE OR SPECIFIC STEPS PONAPE DISTRICT MAY PURSUE FOR ITS FUTURE. THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, WHICH HAS BEEN MEETING IN A 50-DAY SESSION SINCE MARCH 10, IS CONSIDERING INDEPENDENCE AS A POSSIBLE POLITICAL STATUS FOR PONAPE DISTRICT. THE POSSIBILITY OF INDEPENDENCE IS REPORTEDLY DIM, HOWEVER.

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

INDEPENDENCE HAS NOT BECOME AN OFFICIAL STATUS FOR PONAPE DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, IT STARTED TO GAIN MOMENTUM IN PONAPE AFTER THE RECENT ISSUANCE OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER RETURNING THE PUBLIC LANDS TO MICRONESIA.

#### (WON PAT MEETS IT STUDENTS)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 14 (MNS)---GUAM CONGRESSMAN ANTONIO B. WON PAT MET RECENTLY WITH 30 MICRONESIAN STUDENTS WHO ARE PRESENTLY ENROLLED IN COLLEGE COURSES IN MICHIGAN AND OTHER STATES. THE STUDENTS WERE VISITING THE CAPITOL UNDER THE AUSPIECES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS, ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM WASHINGTON CARRIED BY DATELINE, GUAM'S AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

DISCUSSING THE POLITICAL SCENE WITH THEM IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION, WON PAT POINTED OUT: "YOUNG CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA ARE IN A PARTICULARLY UNIQUE POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF YOUR TERRITORIES."

MANY OF THE STUDENTS QUESTIONED THE CONGRESSMEN CONCERNING HIS OPINIONS ON THE BENEFITS GUAM HAS DERIVED FROM ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED STATES. OTHERS DEMONSTRATED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE PRESENT COVENANT WITH THE U. S. IN WHICH THE MARIANAS HAVE ALREADY EMBARKED.

IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION, WON PAT STRESSED: "IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC FREELY AND IN A DEMOCRATIC MANNER CHOOSE ITS POLITICAL STATUS. IN THIS CHOICE YOU, THE FUTURE LEADERS, MUST PLAY A RESPONSIBLE ROLE, WHATEVER STATUS IS CHOSEN, THE OLD ADAGE 'IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH' IS RELEVANT AND VALID."

(PATA CONFERENCE)

SAIPAN, MAR. 14 (MNS)---THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC AREA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION (PATA) WILL BE HELD AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE IN AUSTRALIA BEGINNING ON MONDAY (MARCH 17).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOST COMMITTEE IS THE AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND RECREATION, FRANK STEWART, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF PATA FOR 1974-75. REPRESENTATIVES FROM 34 COUNTRIES WILL ATTEND THE FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE.

MORE THAN 1300 OVERSEAS DELEGATES AND VISITORS HAVE REGISTERED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. BIG GROUPS ARE COMING FROM JAPAN, INDONESIA, INDIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SMALLER NUMBERS OF REGISTRATION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PHILIPPINES, FIJI AND PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE HARRY MULLIKIN, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN HOTEL AND MOTEL ASSOCIATION, AND ROBERT McMULLEN, OF GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS. THEY WILL DISCUSS THE ECONOMICS OF TRAVEL WITHIN THE PACIFIC AREA. CAPTAIN ROBERT J. RITCHIE, GENERAL MANAGER OF QUANTAS AIRWAYS LIMITED, WILL ALSO SPEAK.

REPRESENTING THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT ARE: KINTOKI JOSEPH, CHAIRMAN, TRUK TOURIST COMMISSION, AND KISANDE SOS, FROM TRUK; GEORGE NGIRARSAOL, CHAIRMAN, PALAU TOURIST COMMISSION, SALVATOR ONGRUNG, AND KATSUMI INABO, FROM PALAU, FRANK DIAZ, CHAIRMAN, MARIANAS TOURIST COMMISSION, AND VICENTE T. CAMACHO, FROM THE MARIANAS, AND MIKE ASHMAN, CHIEF OF TOURISM BRANCH.

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE WILL HAVE THREE WORKSHOP SESSIONS, AT ADELAIDE, HOBART, AND TOWNSVILLE, AND EACH WITH A DIFFERENT THEME. THEY ARE: (1) IN ADELAIDE, SITE OF A WELL-ESTABLISHED ARTS FESTIVAL, THE TOPIC WILL BE FESTIVALS AND TOURISM; (2) IN HOBART, THE TOPIC WILL BE THE MELDING OF SCENIC AND HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS AND CASINOS INTO A BALANCED TOURISM PLAN AND (3), TOWNSVILLE, DELEGATES WILL LOOK AT THE WAYS IN WHICH SUCH UNIQUE AREAS AS THE BARRIER REEF OF AUSTRALIA CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM.