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TELEGRAM

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Answer to Rasa & Macinas

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 CGFMFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
 COMCBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
 COMNAV FACENGCAM ALEXANDRIA VA
 PACNAV FACENGCAM PEARL HARBOR HI

1. 2nd Ship agrounded at Helen Reef
2. (MAPNAS + RASA) Congressmen React to U.S. Action
3. Mac Graduates

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TT LNO HONOLULU HI
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 FCDNA-LGA KIRTLAND AFB NM
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 COMTEWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
 SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN
 AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC. ISL. MONTHLY
 (SECON SHIP AGROUNDED AT HELEN REEF)

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SAIPAN, MARCH 20 (MNS)---A SECOND FISHING VESSEL FROM TAIWAN RAN AGROUND THIS WEEK ON HELEN REEF 371 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KOROR.

EARLIER REPORTS SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE FIRST VESSEL BELONGED TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BECAUSE OF "MISUNDERSTANDING" ABOUT RADIO CALL SIGNS.

ALF BERGESEN, DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE ON SAIPAN, SAID "SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE HAD A BOOK THAT HAD A

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A LIST OF SHIPS AND THEIR CALL SIGNS. IT LOOKED AS THOUGH THE FIRST SHIP THAT WENT AGROUND AT HELEN REEF HAD A CALL SIGN REGISTERED WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HOW THAT HAPPENED I DON'T KNOW, BUT IT WAS A TAIWANESE SHIP."

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INDICATED THAT THE SHIP ACCIDENTLY WENT AGROUND AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF POACHING OR VIOLATION OF TERRITORIAL WATER. THE CREWMEN WERE RELEASED.

FOUR TAIWANESE FISHING VESSELS RESPONDED TO THE DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE SHIN CHIFAH NO. 1 LAST WEEK. THE TT GOVERNMENT FIELD TRIP SHIP MICRONESIA PRINCESS WAS ALSO DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE.

THE FIRST TAIWANESE SHIP TO ARRIVE AT HELEN REEF ATTEMPTED TO PULL THE STRICKEN VESSEL OFF THE REEF, BUT IT, TOO, GOT ITSELF GROUNDED DURING THE PROCESS.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE FIRST SHIP, SUIN HIN JU, IS STILL ON BOARD THE SECOND SHIP ALTHOUGH HIS CREW HAD LEFT WITH THE THREE VESSELS THAT CAME TO THE RESCUE. NO NAME OR SIZE OF THE SECOND VESSEL WAS GIVEN.

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ON BOARD ONE OF THE THREE VESSELS THAT CAME TO THE RESCUE WERE BODIES OF SEVEN DEAD CREWMEN. A TT MEDICAL OFFICER FROM THE MICRONESIA PRINCESS WENT ABOARD TO EXAMINE THE BODIES BUT COULD NOT DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF DEATH. THAT SHIP WAS ORDERED TO SAIL AWAY FROM

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THE VICINITY. (FULL REPORT UNAVAILABLE)

THE MICRONESIA PRINCESS IS STILL IN THE VICINITY AWAITING WORD FROM SAIPAN ON WHETHER TO REMOVE THE OIL AND FUEL ON THE TWO GROUNDED VESSELS.

"WE HAVE NOTIFIED THE TAIWANESE GOVERNMENT THAT WE WANT TO REMOVE THE FUEL ON THE FIRST VESSEL," MACKENZIE SAID. "IF WE CANNOT REMOVE THE FUEL, WE WANT THE TAIWANESE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL PAY FOR THEIR REMOVAL AND ANY DAMAGE THAT MAY OCCUR AT A LATER DATE," HE SAID.

THE CREWMEN OF THE SECOND VESSEL ARE STILL ON BOARD THE SHIP AWAITING REPATRIATION.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

(CONGRESSMEN REACT TO U.S. CONGRESS ACTION)

SAIPAN, MAR. 20 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN

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OSCAR C. RASA AND JOSE MAFNAS SAID THIS WEEK THAT RECENT APPROVAL OF AN AUTHORIZATION MEASURE BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR TRANSITION OF THE MARIANAS INTO AN AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH WAS A "MINOR VICTORY" FOR U.S. MILITARY INTERESTS, BUT THEY PREDICTED THAT THE MARIANAS COVENANT WILL NOT BE APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS LATER THIS YEAR, IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

RASA, WHO RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON THIS WEEK AFTER MEETINGS WITH KEY MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, SAID HE HAS BEEN GIVEN "STRONG ASSURANCES" THAT THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. AND MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES LAST MONTH, WILL NOT BE APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN SAID THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE \$1.5 MILLION REQUEST FOR TRANSITION FUNDS WOULD BE APPROVED AS PART OF THE ANNUAL TRUST TERRITORY GRANT FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS BUT HE ADDED: "THE COVENANT AGREEMENT WILL DEFINITELY HAVE TO BE RENEGOTIATED. ONLY A FEW MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE

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CONTENTS OF THE COVENANT. THOSE THAT DO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT DO NOT SEEM TO LIKE WHAT THEY SEE."

ASKED WHICH PART OF THE COVENANT AGREEMENT SEEMED TO BE THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL, RASA SAID SEVERAL U.S. CONGRESS MEMBERS THOUGHT PROVISIONS THAT WOULD ALLOW ONLY PERSONS OF NORTHERN MARIANAS ANCESTRY TO OWN LAND WERE "RIDICULOUS."

"ANY AGREEMENT THAT WILL GIVE CERTAIN PRIVILEGES TO SOME U.S. CITIZENS AND NOT TO OTHER U.S. CITIZENS, SUCH AS LAND OWNERSHIP PROVISIONS IN THE COVENANT, WILL SIMPLY NOT BE APPROVED. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT THIS," RASA DECLARED.

POINTING TO THE FACT THAT THE \$1.5 MILLION SET ASIDE FOR THE MARIANAS TRANSITION WAS PASSED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS BY A NARROW EIGHT-VOTE MARGIN, RASA SAID, THE FACT THAT SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY CAUSED SO MUCH DEBATE AND DISAGREEMENT IN THE U.S. SENATE "THIS WEEK" IS EVIDENCE ENOUGH THAT LARGER REQUESTS FROM U.S. CONGRESS MIGHT FACE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

"I WONDER WHAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WOULD HAVE DONE IF WE HAD BEEN ASKING FOR \$20 MILLION INSTEAD OF \$1.5 MILLION?" RASA ASKED.

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REPRESENTATIVE MAFNAS, WHO REPRESENTS TINIAN IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, SAID THAT "JUDGING FROM COMMENTS MADE IN NEWSPAPER REPORTS, THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WERE NOT EVEN CONSIDERED DURING THE DEBATE IN THE U.S. SENATE.

"I AM CONCERNED," MAFNAS SAID, "BECAUSE SOME INDIVIDUALS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS SAID THEY SHOULD 'GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS' OF ESTABLISHING A BASE ON TINIAN BECAUSE THE U.S. HAD TO LEAVE ITS BASES IN OKINAWA. IF WE ARE TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL, BENEFICIAL AND LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, THEN WE MUST DO SO AS EQUALS. OUR RELATIONSHIP MUST BE REDEFINED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS," HE ADDED.

ASKED HOW WE WOULD DESCRIBE THE RELATIONSHIP ENVISIONED IN THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH UNDER THE COVENANT, MAFNAS SAID: "THE COVENANT WILL GIVE THE UNITED STATES TOTAL OWNERSHIP

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OF THE MARIANAS, IN THE LONG RUN. IN ITS PRESENT FROM, THE COVENANT WILL GIVE THE U.S. FULL CONTROL OVER ALL THE LANDS IN THE MARIANAS. I SAY THIS BECAUSE THE U.S. WILL HAVE FULL POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN OVER OUR LANDS, AND THE COVENANT WILL GIVE THE U.S. THE POWER TO EXERCISE EMINENT DOMAIN

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HERE AS THEY DO IN ANY OF THE 50 STATES, "MAFNAS SAID.
CONCERNING THE EFFORTS OF U.S. SENATOR GARY HART
AND OTHERS IN OPPOSING TRANSITION FUNDS FOR THE MARIANAS.
AT THE PRESENT TIME, BOTH RASA AND MAFNAS AGREED THE

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THOSE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS "MUST BE GIVEN THE CREDIT AND RESPECT" FOR REVEALING WHAT THAT THEY DESCRIBED AS "THE REAL UNDERLYING REASONS BEHIND RUSHING THE PROPOSED STATUS AGREEMENT."

"THE MOTIVES FOR PASSING THE TRANSITION AUTHORIZATION ARE CLEARLY MILITARY, NOT HUMANITARIAN," RASA STATED. "ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE DO AGREE ON THE POINT. THE PROBLEM IS, NOT ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE

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REALIZED THIS YET," MAFNAS CONCLUDED.

THE AUTHORIZATION BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EARLY NEXT WEEK. IF THE BILL IS APPROVED, A SECOND MEASURE MUST ALSO BE APPROVED BY BOTH HOUSES TO ACTUALLY APPROPRIATE THE TRANSITION MONEY. ACCORDING TO SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL, APPROVAL OF TRANSITION FUNDS FOR THE MARIANAS DOES NOT COMMIT THE U.S. CONGRESS TO SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED COVENANT AGREEMENT.

(MOC GRADUATES 25)

SAIPAN, MAR. 20 (MNS)---SOME 25 STUDENTS GRADUATED RECENTLY AT THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER (MOC) IN KOROR, PALAU, IN THE FIELDS OF CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN, SECRETARIAL, COOKERY, PLUMBING AND MULTIMEDIA, ACCORDING TO A RELEASE FROM MOC.

FOUR STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELDS. THEY WERE: DIANAA SUMAN OF PALAU IN CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN, HEINEY NENA OF PUNAPE IN PLUMBING, ANASTASIA FISHER OF THE MARIANAS IN SECRETARIAL AND COLUMBUS TMOODRAN OF PALAU IN MULTIMEDIA. NENA WAS SPEAKER AT THE

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GRADUATION CEREMONY.

FRANCISCO SAUFMAI OF YAP WAS GIVEN THE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP.

OF THE TOTAL GRADUATES, 10 WERE IN PLUMBING, SIX WERE IN SECRETARIAL, FOUR WERE IN COOKERY, THREE WERE IN CLOTHING

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CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN AND TWO WERE IN MULTIMEDIA.

OF THE 25 STUDENTS, 12 WERE FROM PALAU, FIVE FROM TRUK, FOUR FROM THE MARSHALLS, TWO FROM YAP AND ONE EACH FROM THE MARIANAS AND PONAPE.

THE SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS CURRICULUM IN AGRICULTURE, DENTAL NURSING, HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND DIESEL MECHANICS, CARPENTRY, AUTO MECHANICS, WAITRESS, WELDING, MASONRY, CLERK TYPING AND AUTO BODY REPAIR.

SIX STUDENTS RECEIVED 4.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGES ON A 4.0 SCALE FOR WINTER QUARTER. THEY WERE ROBERT PETALMAI OF YAP IN AGRICULTURE, ALBERT JOHNNY OF TRUK IN AGRICULTURE, JOHN MAILUS OF YAP IN AGRICULTURE, REBECCA RULUKED OF PALAU IN DENTAL NURSING, WILHELM RECHYUNGEL OF PALAU IN HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND DIESEL MECHANIC AND SALTER BORONG OF PONAPE IN CARPENTRY.

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