

(SECOND SHIP AGROUNDED AT HELEN REEF) 1975
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
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 CHIFAN
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.

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
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
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

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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 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.

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 OF THE MARIANAS, IN THE LONG RUN. IN ITS PRESENT FORM, 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 HERE AS THEY DO IN ANY OF THE 50 STATES," MAFNAS SAID.

CONCERNING THE EFFORTS OF U.S. SENATOR GARY HALT AND OTHERS IN OPPOSING TRANSITION FUNDS FOR THE MARIANAS AT THE PRESENT TIME, BOTH RASA AND MAFNAS AGREED THE 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."

13921

THE PROBLEM IS, NOT ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS HAVE 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 OUTSTANDINGS IN THEIR FIELDS. THEY WERE: DIANAA SUMAN OF PALAU IN CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN, HEINEY WENA OF PONAPE IN PUMBLING, ANASTASIA FISHER OF THE MARIANAS IN SECRETARIAL AND COLUMBUS TMOEDRAN OF PALAU IN MULTIMEDIA. WENA WAS SPEAKER AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.

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

OF THE TOTAL GRADUATES, 10 WERE IN PUMBLING, SIX WERE IN SECRETARIAL, FOUR WERE IN COOKERY, THREE WERE IN CLOTHING 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, WAITER-WAITRESS, WELDING, MASONRY, CLERK TYPIST 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 RECHMEYUNGEL OF PALAU IN HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND DIESEL MECHANIC AND SALTER BORONG OF PONAPE IN CARPENTRY.