

(WIRE IN KOROR)

1975

KOROR, MAR. 26 (MNS)---A FIRE RESULTING FROM FAULTY ELECTRICAL WIRING DEMOLISHED A HOTEL, AN ABAI, AND THREE PRIVATE HOMES IN KOROR WEDNESDAY, (MAR. 26) ACCORDING TO DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRWIDOL.

"FIRE OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE UNABLE TO CONTROL THE FLAMES BECAUSE ALL THE BUILDINGS WERE MADE OF WOOD WHICH BURNED SO FAST THAT THEIR EQUIPMENT WERE USELESS," NGIRWIDOL REPORTED.

ALL FIVE BUILDINGS WERE BURNED TO THE GROUND IN ABOUT AN HOUR'S TIME. THERE HAS BEEN NO RAIN IN KOROR FOR MANY WEEKS AND THAT ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE RAPID SPREAD AND WIDE DESTRUCTION OF WEDNESDAY'S FIRE, NGIRWIDOL SAID.

THE BUILDINGS THAT WERE DESTROYED WERE THE DUTY HOTEL OWNED BY NGIRUTANG OIT, AND ABAI FOR THE YOUNG MEN OF ALHAI MUNICIPALITY, AND THREE PRIVATE HOMES, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE RESIDENCE OF NGIRATKEL ETPISON, OWNER OF NECO COMPANY OF PALAU.

NO ONE WAS INJURED IN THE FIRE.

(ASHMAN ELECTED TO PATA BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

SAIPAN, MAR. 26 (MNS)---MIKE ASHMAN, CHIEF OF TOURISM FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, HAS BEEN ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PACIFIC AREA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION, (PATA). THE SELECTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY LAST WEEK BY MORE THAN A THOUSAND DELEGATES ATTENDING THE 24TH ANNUAL PATA CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

ALTHOUGH THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF PATA FOR 23 YEARS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MICRONESIA HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE PACIFIC AREA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION IS MADE UP TO 36 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, OVER 50 AIRLINES AND STEAMSHIP COMPANIES, AND MORE THAN 1,400 OTHER BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN TOURISM-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

"THIS IS NOT JUST AN HONORARY POSITION FOR MICRONESIA," SAID ASHMAN UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE 1975 PATA CONFERENCE. "IT NOW ENABLES MICRONESIA TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION IN GUIDING PATA'S FUTURE ACTIVITIES SO THAT THEY WILL BE MORE MEANINGFUL FOR MICRONESIA AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND AREAS."

IN THE PAST, PATA DIRECTED MOST OF ITS ENERGY TOWARDS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PACIFIC. ACCORDING TO ASHMAN, MORE EFFORT NOW WILL BE EXPENDED TOWARDS IN-COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS PRESERVING TOURIST DESTINATION AREAS AND THEIR CULTURAL ASSETS, AS WELL AS PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

ONE SUCH RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE DIRECTS PATA TO USE "EVERY REASONABLE MEANS TO INFLUENCE GOVERNMENTS AND ALL ORGANIZATIONS...TO WORK TOWARD THE PROHIBITION AND ABOLISHMENT OF ALL PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING CONSTRUCTION WHICH ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE ATTRACTION OF THOSE AREAS." "THE PATA DELEGATES ARE CONCERNED," SAID ASHMAN, "ABOUT ADVERTISING SIGNS WHICH DISFIGURE AND DESTROY THE BEAUTY OF AN AREA AND ARE DETRIMENTAL TO ALL EFFORTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT."

ANOTHER PROJECT, WHICH MICRONESIA HAS PROPOSED, CALLS FOR PATA TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH EXAMINATION INTO THE ECONOMICS OF TOURISM. "WE WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT ECONOMIC BENEFITS TOURISM BRINGS TO AN ISLAND AREA SUCH AS OURS," SAID ASHMAN, ADDING, "WITH THE GREAT AMOUNT OF IMPORTS REQUIRED TO CREATE AND CARRY ON THE BUSINESS OF TOURISM, WE HAVE TO GET THE ANSWER TO HOW MUCH DOES TOURISM BENEFIT THE ECONOMY, SO THAT WE CAN PLAN THE WISE USE OF OUR HUMAN AND LAND RESOURCES." "THIS PROJECT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY PATA THIS YEAR AND OUR MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD,"

13975

ASHMAN SAID, "WILL GIVE US A GOOD CHANCE OF SEEING THAT THIS PROJECT IS UNDERTAKEN."

OTHERS FROM MICRONESIA WHO ATTENDED THE PATA CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP WERE FRANCISCO M. DIAZ AND VICENTE T. CANACHO OF THE MARIANAS, GEORGE NGIARSAGI, SALVATOR ONGRUNG, KATSUMI INABO AND MASAO GULIBERT OF PALAU, AND KINTOKI JOSEPH AND KISANDE SOS OF TRUK DISTRICT. THE GROUP STUDIED RESORT DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF, THE PROBLEMS OF CASINO OPERATIONS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND FESTIVALS IN RELATION TO TOURISM.

(TT APPROPRIATION BILLS APPROVED)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 26 (MNS)---THE HOUSE INTERIOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS APPROVED A PACKAGE OF BILLS RECENTLY TO AUTHORIZE MORE MONEY FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY AND PROVIDE SPECIAL HELP FOR BIKINI AND THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, ACCORDING TO WEDNESDAY'S (MAR. 26) EDITION OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY REP. PHILIP BURTON, (D-CALIF), WHICH GENERALLY PREVAILS IN THE FULL INTERIOR COMMITTEE, APPROVED ANOTHER \$15 MILLION FOR MICRONESIA FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR--RAISING THE AUTHORIZATION CEILING FROM \$60 MILLION TO \$75 MILLION.

IT ALSO APPROVED BURTON'S BILL TO PROVIDE \$3 MILLION TO THE PEOPLE DISPLACED FROM BIKINI DURING THE NUCLEAR TESTING AFTER WORLD WAR II AND ACCEPTED AND BILL THE SENATE PASSED LAST WEEK TO GIVE \$1.5 MILLION TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FOR COSTS FOR TRANSITION TO THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH STATUS.

THE SENATE BILL HOLD THE TRANSITION MONEY FOR RELEASE AFTER CONGRESS APPROVES THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT. BURTON SAID HE DIDN'T LIKE THIS DELAY, BUT DISLIKE IT LESS THAN MAKING THE MONEY SEEM CONDITIONAL ON APPROVAL BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS IN THE PLEBISCITE.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT IS ASKING \$80 MILLION FOR MICRONESIA IN THE COMING FISCAL YEAR, BUT THE SUBCOMMITTEE DID NOT ACT ON THAT REQUEST ON TUESDAY (MARCH 25).

REP. BURTON ALSO EXTRACTED FROM TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON A PROMISE THAT HE WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH, OR LET ANY OF HIS SUBORDINATES TRY TO INFLUENCE, THE JUNE PLEBISCITE IN WHICH CITIZENS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL VOTE ON WHETHER TO ENTER A COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U. S.

JOHNSTON SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO MAKE IT A MATTER OF RECORD THAT HE HAS NO PLANS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE PLEBISCITE AND THAT HE HAS STEERED CLEAR OF ANY INVOLVMENT IN THE STATUS PROCEEDINGS.

(MEDICAL SEMINAR RESUMED IN PALAU)

KOROR, MARCH 26 (MNS)---MEDICAL OFFICERS THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA RESUMED ITS WEEK-LONG SEMINAR TUESDAY (MAR. 25), IN KOROR, ACCORDING TO PALAU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRNIDOL. THE SEMINAR IS BEING HELD AT THE McDONALD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM.

THE SEMINAR DREW PARTICIPANTS FROM THE TT HEADQUARTERS AND CONSULTANTS FROM AUSTRALIA.

PALAU DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MINORU Ueki GAVE THE WELCOMING REMARKS, FOLLOWED BY HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL; KOROR MAYOR RUBASCH FRITZ; DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS O. FEMERGESAU, AND TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUBASAGI. "WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HOST THIS SEMINAR AS IT IS OCCASSIONAL FOR US TO HOST SUCH

13976

AN IMPORTANT SEMINAR," DR. UKKI SAID.

CHIEF IREEDUL YUTAKA GIBSON AND MAYOR RUBASH FRITZ ALSO WELCOMED AND THE SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF PALAU INDICATING THAT THE SEMINAR IS VERY IMPORTANT, AND THAT ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

"THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT A SIMILAR SEMINAR OF THIS NATURE IS EVER HELD IN PALAU, BUT WE SELDOM HOST AN IMPORTANT SEMINAR LIKE THIS," PALAU DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS KENENGASAU SAID. "WE HAVE SEEN ACHIEVEMENT AND GREAT PROGRESS OF HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS IN OUR DISTRICT AS WELL AS IN THE ENTIRE MICRONESIA," HE EMPHASIZED.

TT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUMANGAI ALSO SPOKE. HE REVEALED THE PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE OVERALL TT HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS AND SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL AFFECT FUTURE HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS IN MICRONESIA.

"THERE ARE NOW 44 MEDEX GRADUATES, AND WE EXPECT 10 MORE GRADUATES BY OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. THIS WILL GIVE US, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MEANS TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO SOME 50,000 MICRONESIAN PEOPLE IN THE OUTER ISLANDS," DR. KUMANGAI SAID.

CITING SOME EXAMPLES OF IMPROVED HEALTH CARE IN THE DISTRICT CENTERS DR. KUMANGAI POINTED OUT THE FOLLOWING: THE ORTHOPEDIC AND OTOLARYNGOLOGY SERVICES WHICH ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY STAFF SURGEONS AND VISITING CONSULTANTS FROM GUAM AND HONOLULU, THE FULLY OPERATIONAL LIMITED HEMODIALYSIS CARE FACILITY IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, VENEREAL DISEASES SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL EFFORTS, AND THE TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM.

SOME OF THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE TT, ACCORDING TO DR. KUMANGAI IS THE HEALTH CARE COST WHICH HAS GONE UP IN A MAGNITUDE THAT THIS FISCAL YEAR BUDGET COULD NOT SUPPORT EXPENDITURE FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND MEDICAL REFERRAL. HE INDICATED THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL DEFINITELY RUN INTO THE LARGEST ANNUAL DEFICIT EVER COMPILED.

"HIGH COST OF PERSONNEL COMPENSATION, WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF SALARIES FOR SEVERAL HEALTH PERSONNEL CATEGORY, AND THE USUAL ANNUAL SALARY INCREMENTS HAVE PUT A LOT OF STRAIN AND EVEN HAVE REDUCED THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED TO PAY FOR SUPPLIES LOCALLY, AND ALSO FUNDS NEEDED FOR INTRA-DISTRICT TRAVEL," HE ADDED.

FINALLY, HE SAID THAT THE EMERGENCY AIR MEDICAL EVACUATION IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. HE INDICATED THAT THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, HAVE MADE AN EARNEST ATTEMPT TO RESTORE EMERGENCY AIR EVACUATION.

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, DR. KUMANGAI SAID, THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL BE REQUIRED TO FURNISH ITSELF THE CAPABILITY OF MEDICAL AIR EVACUATION, BUT THE DRAWBACK OF THIS IS THE LACK OF FUNDS.

DR. WEISEL VISITS TT

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---A POLITICAL COUNSELOR FOR THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN MANILA IS CURRENTLY ON SAIPAN ON A THREE-DAY VISIT TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL SITUATION IN MICRONESIA.

DR. HORST WEISEL, CONCURRENTLY SERVING AS CONSUL FOR MICRONESIA, GUAM AND WAKE ISLAND, WILL ALSO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH GERMAN NATIONALS IN THE TT WHILE HERE.

13977

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE, DR. WEISEL SPOKE ABOUT TOURISM AND ITS POTENTIAL IN MICRONESIA. HE ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING IN GERMAN TOURISTS IN LARGE NUMBERS.

THE GERMAN CONSUL OFFERED SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ATTRACT GERMAN TOURISTS. HE SAID THE T.T. SHOULD ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH TOURISM FIRMS IN GERMANY. HE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT MICRONESIA ONCE WAS ADMINISTERED BY GERMANY AND THIS WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE GERMAN TRAVELERS.

WHILE ON SAIPAN, DR. WEISEL PAID A COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, MET WITH EDWARD RANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, VICENTE SANTOS, PRESIDENT OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, KALEB UDUI, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND SEVERAL BUSINESSMEN.

DR. WEISEL'S ITINERARY CALLS FOR HIM TO VISIT KOROR, YAP, PONAPE AND THE MARSHALLS.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(RASA/MAFNAS CHARGES HICOM OF MISINFORMATION)

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN OSCAR RASA AND JOSE MAFNAS CHARGED WEDNESDAY (MAR. 26), HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON WITH "MISLEADING" REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP BURTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS REGARDING HIS INVOLVEMENT ON THE MARIANAS COVENANT.

IN A LETTER TO REPRESENTATIVE BURTON, RASA AND MAFNAS CHARGED THAT THE HICOM "MISLED" BURTON BY PROMISING THAT HE OR ANY OF HIS TT SUBORDINATES WOULD NOT "INTERFERE OR INFLUENCE" THE JUNE PLEBISCITE WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WILL VOTE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE COVENANT.

IN A LETTER TO BURTON DATED MARCH 26, 1975, RASA AND MAFNAS CHARGED THAT THE HICOM HAS DETAILED A U.S. CITIZEN WHO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE TT GOVERNMENT AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE RADIO PROGRAMS CALLED "UNDERSTANDING THE COVENANT."

THE CONGRESSMEN ALSO CHARGED THAT THE HICOM'S SUBORDINATE WHO IS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF PRODUCING RADIO PROGRAMS ARRANGED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICATION DIVISION TO "EXPEDITE THE PRINTING OF THE SECOND ISSUE OF THE COVENANT NEWSLETTER, WORK FOR WHICH THEY WERE PAID BY THE TT GOVERNMENT INCLUDING OVERTIME."

THEY ALSO CITED THAT CERTAIN UNNAMED EMPLOYEES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT IN THE MARIANAS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF TRANSLATING THE COVENANT AND RELATED INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS INTO THE LOCAL LANGUAGE FOR RADIO PROGRAMS. THE PROGRAM "OUR MICRONESIA" PRODUCED BY THE ESG TASK FORCE FOR BROADCAST IN THE TT "HAS BEEN DROPPED WITHOUT EXPLANATION IN THE MARIANAS AND REPLACED BY "UNDERSTANDING THE COVENANT," RASA AND MAFNAS POINTED OUT.

THEY ALSO NOTED THAT THEIR CONCERN IS NOT THAT A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IS BEING LAUNCHED IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED COVENANT, BUT THAT THE WORK IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY "SUBORDINATES" OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WITH HIS APPROVAL, AND THAT SUCH WORK CERTAINLY DOES TEND TO "INFLUENCE" MARIANAS VOTERS." THIS WORK SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND FUNDED BY THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WHICH IS NOT THE CASE TODAY, ACCORDING TO RASA AND MAFNAS.

13978

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN ALSO CHARGED THAT THE LOCAL TELEVISION STATION ON SAIPAN (WSZE), "PROVIDED AMPLE TIME IN A QUESTION AND ANSWER INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS TO EXPLAIN THE COVENANT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS...BUT IT HAS CURRENTLY ADOPTED THE POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING TIME TO EITHER SIDE TO PRESENT PROS AND CONS RELATIVE TO THIS ISSUE. WHILE THIS STATION IS NOT UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL, FOR SOME REASON ITS MANAGEMENT POLICIES REFLECT A BIAS WHICH MAY BE THE RESULT OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCE."

RASA AND MAFNAS CHARGED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONTRADICTED HIS PROMISE EVEN BEFORE IT WAS MADE BEFORE CHAIRMAN BURTON'S COMMITTEE "AND THAT HIS STATEMENTS WERE GROSSLY MISLEADING."

13979