

1975

(GAMBLING COMMITTEE REPORT SUBMITTED)

SAIPAN, MARCH 31 (MNS)---IN A FINAL DETAILED REPORT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GAMBLING RECOMMENDED THAT COMMERCIAL GAMBLING SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY AT THIS TIME. IT CALLED UPON THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO OUTLAW COMMERCIAL GAMBLING EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1976, THE DATE THE PRESENT SLOT MACHINE LICENSES EXPIRE, ACCORDING TO SAIPAN'S MARIANAS VARIETY, A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

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THE 14-MEMBER AD HOC COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF STUDYING GAMBLING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY BUT THE PRIMARY INVESTIGATION HAS FOCUSED ON SLOT MACHINES ON SAIPAN. THE COMMITTEE HELD WEEKLY MEETINGS FOR THREE MONTHS TO CONDUCT SURVEYS, HEAR GUEST SPEAKERS, PERFORM EXTENSIVE RESEARCH, CONSULT VARIOUS AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBJECT.

THE SAIPAN NEWSPAPER INDICATED THE COMMITTEE WAS HAMPERED BY ITS LACK OF FULL INVESTIGATIVE POWER BECAUSE IT RECOMMENDED THAT ANY FURTHER ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP COMMERCIAL GAMBLING SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO ANY EXISTING COMMERCIAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES AND SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY WITH AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME IN-RESIDENT STAFF MEMBER, AND WITH LOCAL SUBPOENA POWER TO COMPEL TESTIMONY.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN SHOULD BE DRAFTED TO ANALYZE THE EFFECTS OF A PARTICULAR FORM OF GAMBLING. IT ASKED THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO SEEK AN AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES CODE SO THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY COULD RECEIVE THE FULL INVESTIGATIVE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPERTISE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS NOT POSSIBLE UNDER EXISTING LAW.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BASED ON SUCH FACTORS AS THE INCREASE IN CERTAIN CRIMES AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF SLOT MACHINES. THEY CITED THE FACT THAT THE MUNICIPAL AND TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENTS ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO MONITOR AND POLICE SLOT MACHINES, A RECENT DISRUPTION IN INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC STABILITY AND DECREASE IN PERSONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE PLAYING SLOT MACHINES WERE NOT TOURISTS BUT RESIDENT MICRONESIANS, AND THE CONFUSION AS TO THE EXACT EXTENT OF FOREIGN INFLUENCES AND CONTROL IN THE INTRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SLOT MACHINE ACTIVITIES OF SAIPAN.

THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT THE TOURIST INTEREST HAD BEEN HELPED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF SLOT MACHINES ON SAIPAN, BUT THEY HAD NOT GENERATE THE EXPECTED REVENUES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT REVEALED A JUDGEMENT THAT THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE PRESENT, LOOSELY-REGULATED SLOT MACHINES OUTWEIGHED THE BENEFITS TO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY OF SAIPAN.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS ALREADY SENT COPIES OF THE REPORT TO THE VARIOUS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS FOR COMMENTS.

(CRASAGIVEN AIR TIME)

SAIPAN, MARCH 31 (MNS)---MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN OSCAR C. RASA HAS BEEN GRANTED "EQUAL TIME" TO UTILIZE SAIPAN'S GOVERNMENT-OWNED BROADCASTING STATION, KJOR, TO BROADCAST HIS VIEWS ON THE COVENANT. THE COVENANT WAS SIGNED FEBRUARY 15 BY MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION

(MPSC) AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO "ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

IN A MEMORANDUM TO KJOR STATION MANAGER RUDY M. SABLAN, MARIANAS DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER DAVID Q. MARATIA STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA THAT "CONGRESSMAN RASA AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF THE RECENTLY SIGNED COVENANT MAY UTILIZE KJOR FOR BROADCASTING OF THEIR VIEWS.

"SUCH VIEWS, HOWEVER, MAY BE SUBJECT FOR REBUTTAL BY THE MPSC, THUS EQUAL TIME PER SE MAY BE ORDER," ACCORDING TO THE MEMORANDUM.

THE REGULAR PROGRAM, "UNDERSTANDING THE COVENANT" WHICH BEGAN MARCH 15, DEALS WITH A SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE COVENANT. IT WILL BE CONTINUED, ACCORDING TO MARATIA'S MEMORANDUM.

THE SERIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, HAS BROADCAST FIVE PROGRAMS TO DATE.

#### (CCM RECRUITERS TO VISIT TT)

PONAPE, MAR. 31 (MNS)---THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA (CCM) BOARD RECRUITERS, BEDEBII MECHET, DAKIO SYNE AND A NURSING SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE WILL VISIT THE DISTRICTS BEGINNING THIS WEEK TO GATHER APPLICATIONS, TEST DATA, REFERENCES AND MEET WITH INTERESTED STUDENTS, ACCORDING TO THE CCM RELEASE.

THE RECRUITERS WILL BE IN PONAPE APRIL 3-4; TRUK 7-11; SAIPAN, 11-16; YAP, 16-18; AND PALAU, 18-23. APPLICANTS INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH THE RECRUITERS SHOULD SEE THEIR DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR.

ALSO, DUE TO THE MERGER OF CCM AND THE NURSING SCHOOL, ALL NURSING STUDENTS WILL ATTEND THE FIRST YEAR AT CCM ON PONAPE. STUDENTS MAJORING IN NURSING WILL TRANSFER TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA NURSING SCHOOL ON SAIPAN FOR THE SECOND YEAR. STUDENTS MAJORING IN TEACHING OR BUSINESS WILL REMAIN ON THE PONAPE CAMPUS.

#### (MLSC RECEIVES GRANT)

SAIPAN, MAR. 31 (MNS)---A \$3153 TRAINING GRANT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION (MLSC) FOR ITS COUNSELOR-TRAINING PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO SATURDAY'S (MAR. 29) EDITION OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

DAN MACMEEKIN, MLSC ATTORNEY, SAID THAT THE GRANT MEANS THAT MLSC CAN CONTINUE ITS LEGAL-EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR MICRONESIAN COUNSELORS. THE PROGRAM, DESIGNED TO PREPARE COUNSELORS TO PRACTICE LAW IN MICRONESIA, BEGAN IN AUGUST 1973.

"A COUNSELOR WHO COMES OUT OF ONE OF OUR TRAINING COURSES HAS HAD THE EQUIVALENT OF A LAW SCHOOL COURSE," CONTENDED MACMEEKIN. "MATERIALS ARE ADAPTED TO MICRONESIA AND PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO MICRONESIA ARE EMPHASIZED," HE ADDED.

THE \$3,153 IS "JUST ENOUGH" FOR ONE TRAINING SESSION, ACCORDING TO MACMEEKIN. "TO MY KNOWLEDGE THE MLSC PROGRAM IS UNIQUE, BOTH WITHIN THE TT AND AMONG OTHER LEGAL-SERVICES PROGRAMS IN THE U.S.," HE STATED.

ATTENDING THE SESSION AT THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WERE MLSC COUNSELORS DANIEL AQUINO AND FELIX FITIAL FROM THE MARIANAS; RUBEN ZACKHRAS AND DONALD CAPELLE FROM THE MARSHALLS; IOANES KANICHY AND DELSON EMMES FROM PONAPE; HANS WILLIANDER AND TONY ROSOKOW FROM TRUK AND MOSES ULUDONG AND MARIANO CARLOS FROM PALAU.