

(HICOM SIGNS 20 BILLS) 1975

SAIPAN, APR. 14 (MNS)---TWENTY BILLS HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SIGNED THE BILLS FRIDAY (APRIL 11). HE ALSO VETOED TWO BILLS (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

THE SIGNED BILLS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-A BILL TO FURTHER RESTRICT THE DEFINITION OF A FISHING COOPERATIVE SO THAT TO QUALIFY A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF A COOPERATIVE'S BUSINESS MUST BE DONE WITH ITS MEMBERSHIP SO THAT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF ITS GROSS SALES MUST BE DERIVED FROM MARINE RESOURCES, (HB 6-129), PUBLIC LAW 6-28;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$671,223 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, (HB 6-154), PUBLIC LAW 6-29;

-EARMARKING \$253,764 TO DEFRAY EXPENSES OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT DELEGATIONS, (HB 6-127), PUBLIC LAW 6-30;

-TO REQUIRE THE CHIEF OF THE LABOR DIVISION TO MAINTAIN UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON LABOR IN THE TRUST TERRITORY INCLUDING TRAINING PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES, APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND STATISTICS AND BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE SUCH INFORMATION WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CONFERENCE OF SOUTH PACIFIC LABOUR MINISTERS, (SB6-28); PUBLIC LAW 6-31;

-GRANTING THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS WHO ARE DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON THE RIGHT TO VOTE, (SB6-34); PUBLIC LAW 6-32;

-TO PROVIDE CONTROL, ACCOUNTING, LIMITATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (HB 6-67), PUBLIC LAW 6-33;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$616,000 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, (HB 6-178), PUBLIC LAW 6-35;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$500,500 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE, (HB 6-177), PUBLIC LAW 6-34;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$400,000 AS A GRANT TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO BUILD A COPRA PROCESSING PLANT IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (HB 6-223), PUBLIC LAW 6-36

-TO CREATE A REVOLVING FUND IN EACH DISTRICT; TO AUTHORIZE THE COLLECTION OF LANDING FEES ON AIRCRAFT; AND TO EARMARK LANDING FEES FOR MAINTENANCE OF AIRPORTS, (HB 6-263), PUBLIC LAW 6-37;

-TO EXEMPT MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF ANY BOARD, COMMISSION, AGENCY, AUTHORITY, OR OTHER BODY OR POSITION CREATED BY A DISTRICT LEGISLATURE FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE TT PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM ACT UNLESS SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED BY DISTRICT LAW, (SB 6-73), PUBLIC LAW 6-38;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$90,000 FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-130), PUBLIC LAW 6-39;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$11,500 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HB 6-229); PUBLIC LAW 6-40;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$94,046 FOR THE COST OF MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES, (HB 6-19), PUBLIC LAW 6-41;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$112,500 TO DEFRAY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-159), PUBLIC 6-42;

-TO ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COMPENSATE MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION WHILE ENGAGED IN CARRYING OUT THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD, (HB 6-220) 14699
PUBLIC LAW 6-43;

-TO APPROPRIATE \$120,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN TRUK DISTRICT, (HB 6-274), PUBLIC LAW 6-44;

-TO ALLOW THE YAP HOUSING AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE THE FUNDS IT PRESENTLY HAS ON HAND DURING FISCAL YEAR 1975 AND TO PREVENT THESE FUNDS FROM REVERTING TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CONGRESS AT THE END OF FY '75, (HB 6-249), PUBLIC LAW 6-45;

-TO MAKE AMENDMENTS TO PL 40-71, TO MAKE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DOCK AT LUKAF VILLAGE, PATA MUNICIPALITY IN TRUK (HB6-256), PUBLIC LAW 6-46; AND

-TO APPROPRIATE \$150,000 FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMNT PROJECTS IN PONAPE DISTRICT, (HB 6-296), PUBLIC LAW 6-47.

(HICOM DISAPPROVES TWO BILLS)

SAIPAN, APR. 14 (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON DISAPPROVED TWO BILLS FRIDAY AFTERNOON, (APRIL 11), BUT SIGNED 20 OTHER INTO LAW (SEE PREVIOUS STORY).

THOSE VETOED WERE A BILL TO PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTY FORMERLY OWNED BY THE ANGAUR HOUSING AUTHORITY TO THE PALAU DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITY (SB 6-97), AND A BILL TO REQUIRE SUBMISSION OF CONTRACTS BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-120).

CONCERNING THE SUBMISSION OF CONTRACTS TO THE CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, IN A LETTER TO HOUSE SPEAKER BETWEL HENRY STATED THAT EXPERTS OR CONSULTANTS ARE RETAINED UNDER CONTRACTS EXECUTED BY A DEPARTMENT HEAD "WHOSE APPOINTMENT TO THAT POSITION IS SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT.

"SUCH A DEPARTMENT HEAD MUST BE FREE TO ADMINISTER HIS DEPARTMENT ACCORDING TO TRUST TERRITORY LAW WITHOUT FURTHER CONTROL OF PERSONNEL BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA," THE HICOM'S VETO MESSAGE READ.

FURTHERMORE, THE HICOM CONTINUES. THE LEGISLATION PROVIDES NO REASONABLE PROCEDURE. IF THE LEGISLATION IS ENACTED, EXPLAINS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, IT WOULD REQUIRE "EVERY DEPARTMENT, BOARD, OFFICE, AGENCY, OR OTHER DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA...FOR APPROVAL ALL CONTRACTS WHICH HAVE AS THEIR PUPOSE THR RETAINING OF EXPERTS OF CONSULTANTS."

REGARDING THE BILL TO PREVENT TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OF ANGAUR HOUSING AUTHORITY TO THE PALAU DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER STATED THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA " DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO LEGISLATE DISPOSAL OF THE ANGAUR TRUST FUND."

ACCORDING TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, "THE ASSETS OF THE ANGAUR AUTHORITY, WHETHER CASH, NOTES OR OTHER KIND, ARE TRUST ASSETS AND MUST REVERT BACK TO THE CORPUS OF THIS SAID TRUST, SUBJECT OF COURSE, TO ANY OFFSET CAUSED BY PAYMENT OF THE LIABILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY." HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FUNDS OF THE ANGAUR HOUSING AUTHORITY CAN BE ADMINISTERED ONLY IN ACCORDANCES WITH THE TERMS OF THE TRUST, THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE USE OF FUNDS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE TRUST FUND, AND BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AS A TRUSTEE.

(DISTAD REMENGESAU DELIVERS STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE)
PALAU, APR. 14 (MNS)---PALAU DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS O. REMENGESAU DELIVERED HIS STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE WEDNESDAY, (APRIL 9), TO THE FIFTH PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AT ITS EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION, PALAU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRIMIDOL REPORTS.

IN HIS MESSAGE, DISTAD REMENGESAU FIRST SPOKE ABOUT LAST YEAR' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS WELL AS AREAS OF CONCERN, ACCORDING

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TO NGIRNIDOL. REMENGESAU SAID THE SERVICES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RENDERED TO THE PEOPLE OF PALAU ARE ESSENTIAL. "YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN PROVIDING ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES TO OUR PEOPLE DURING THIS PAST YEAR," HE SAID. HE MENTIONED VARIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PALAU DISTRICT GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDE EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, AGRICULTURE, MARINE RESOURCES, ECONOMICS, SCHOOLS, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. "OUR MOST RECENT ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT PALAU WILL REQUIRE OVER \$45 MILLION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND SOME \$35 MILLION TO OPERATE OUR DISTRICT GOVERNMENT AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD. THIS MEANS WE NEED \$80 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE PALAU WITH A VIABLE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND A SLIGHTLY INCREASED LEVEL OF PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE EXPANDING PHYSICAL PLANT," REMENGESAU SAID "UNFORTUNATELY, THE FUNDING LEVELS PRESENTLY ANTICIPATED FOR THE PROPOSED FIVE YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD ARE WOEFULLY INADEQUATE TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THE PROPOSED \$80 MILLION IS DIFFICULT TO REACH, THE PALAU DISTAD SAID, "WE ARE FACED INSTEAD WITH THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY OF A SEVERE REDUCTION OF PUBLIC SERVICES BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 1977 AND CONTINUING DOWNWARD THEREAFTER." AS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED AND ESTIMATED \$13 MILLION WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DURING THIS PERIOD WHICH REPRESENTS ONLY ONE-THIRD OF OUR PROJECTED NEEDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, HE NOTED. "THIS FINANCIAL PICTURE, HE SAID, IS GRIM ENOUGH OF ITSELF BUT WHEN WE CONSIDER OUR CURRENT DESIRE FOR A MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE CONSEQUENT FURTHER REDUCTION OF OUTSIDE FUNDING, IT IS APPARENT THAT WE ARE HEADING FOR A VERY SERIOUS CRISIS." "WE ARE AT AN HISTORIC CROSSROAD IN THE HISTORY OF OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY WHICH WILL AFFECT THE LIVE NOT ONLY OF OUR GENERATION BUT THOSE OF OUR CHILD AND THEIR CHILDREN," HE ADDED

DISTAD REMENGESAU SAID OF A SELF-SUFFICIENT NATION, "FOR THE MOMENT, ASIDE FROM THE POLITICAL RHETORIC OF FREE ASSOCIATION, INDEPENDENCE, OF COMMONWEALTH, LET US ASK OURSELVES THOSE BASIC QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO WHAT OUR LIFE STYLE OR STANDARD OF LIVING SHOULD BE, WHAT MATERIAL THINGS DO WE WANT FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN? SHALL WE GO BACK TO THE WAYS OF OUR FOREFATHERS ON THE LAND AND SEA? I DOUBT THAT. ON THE OTHER EXTREME SHALL WE PROJECT OURSELVES ON A COURSE TO ACCELERATE OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH TO THAT OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY LEVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHICH WOULD MEAN CONSIDERABLE FOREIGN CAPITAL AND LABOR AND OPENING OF OUR LANDS TO THEM? NO, WE COULD NOT ABSORB THAT SHOCK EITHER. BUT IS THERE NOT A SUITABLE ANSWER IN BETWEEN...A COMPRISE?"

IN CONCLUDING HIS MESSAGE, DISTAD REMENGESAU SAID, "OUR BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT IF PALAU WERE TO BE TOTALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT WE WOULD NEED TO GENERATE SOME \$14 MILLION IN TAXES ANNUALLY. FROM A BASICALLY ECONOMIC STANDPOINT, WE SHOULD ACCEPT A REDUCTION IN OUTSIDE FUNDING ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CAN BE REPLACED BY LOCAL TAXES, IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST MINIMUM SERVICES," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS BUT OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS NOT KEPT PACE WITH OUR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. ANY MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL ENTAIL BRINGING IN SOME FOREIGN CAPITAL AND LABOR AS WE WIMPLY DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT ASSETS AND ALL THE

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NECESSARY MANPOWER TO COMPLETE THE TASK BEFORE US," HE ADDED.

"THERE CAN BE NO VIABLE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE WITHOUT AN ECONOMIC BASE OF SUFFICIENT SIZE TO GENERATE TAX REVENUES TO SUPPORT THAT GOVERNMENT. AND WITHOUT A VIABLE GOVERNMENT, WHAT THEN HAPPENS TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT?" REMENGESAU ASKED.

"WE BELIEVE THAT A REASSESSMENT OF OUR PRIORITIES IS IMPERATIVE AND TOWARD THAT END, MY ADMINISTRATION

PLEDGES ITS FULL SUPPORT IN WORKING WITH THIS LEGISLATURE TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL," HE ASSERTED.

(THE PALAU DISTRICT EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION GIVEN HIM IN THE PAST YEAR.

SPEAKER OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE ITELBANG LUII SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT SECRETARIAL ORDER 2969, REGARDING THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED WAR CLAIMS, THE KOROR-AIRAI BRIDGE, THE PALAU CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND BUDGET.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(UDUI CLARIFIES PONAPE RESOLUTION)

SAIPAN, APR. 14 (CONGRESS RELEASE) --- CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALES UDUI HAS ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT CORRECTING CERTAIN INFORMATION CONTAINED IN A UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL STORY WHICH APPEARED IN A RECENT ISSUE OF THE GUAN'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

UDUI COMMENTED ON AN APRIL 10, 1975 STORY WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE EIGHT OF THE NEWSPAPER CONCERNING A PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. TO HALT SEPARATE TALKS WITH THE MARIANA ISLANDS.

THE STORY INDICATED THAT THE MARIANAS "OPTED" TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY AFTER CONGRESS' REJECTION OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS FOR ALL OF THE TRUST TERRITORY IN 1969.

"IT WAS ONLY UNTIL THE U.S. IN 1972 AGREED TO SEPARATE TALKS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE ACTUALLY INITIATED," HE COMMENTED.

ONE PART OF THE STORY DESCRIBED "FREE ASSOCIATION" AS ONE IN WHICH THE "IT WOULD RECEIVE GRANTS AND PROTECTION FROM THE UNITED STATE, BUT COULD UNILATERALLY TERMINATE THE ASSOCIATION WITHOUT NOTICE AT ANY TIME.

"THIS IS NOT ACCURATE. UNDER THE PRESENT PROPOSED COMPACT, THE U.S. WOULD BE ALLOWED TO NEGOTIATE TO BUILD MILITARY BASES IN, AND HANDLE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE FOR MICRONESIA, AND MICRONESIA IN CONSIDERATION WOULD RECEIVE GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE. FURTHERMORE, THE AGREEMENT COULD ONLY BE MUTUALLY TERMINATED AFTER THE FIRST 15 YEARS. AND ONLY AFTER THAT PERIOD COULD IT BE UNILATERALLY TERMINATED," HE COMMENTED.

"THE U.S. HAS NOT REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL AS THE STORY INDICATED. THE U.S. WAS A PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED UP TO THIS PROPOSAL AND THE ONLY REJECTION I KNOW OF IS THAT BY THE CONGRESS RECENTLY IN REJECTING TITLE FOUR OF THE COMPACT DEALING WITH FINANCIAL MATTERS," UDUI SAID, ADDING THAT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS TITLE WILL BE RENEGOTIATED.

"WE WELCOME NEWS ABOUT MICRONESIA'S POLITICAL STATUS MATTERS," HE CONCLUDED, "BUT MOREOVER, WE WELCOME ACCURATE STORIES SO THAT BOTH THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA AND MICRONESIA CAN BE KEPT WELL-INFORMED ON THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION."