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(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(CONGRESS LEADERSHIP REBUTS TENORIO'S CHARGES)

SAIPAN, APR. 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE RESPONDED TO A RECENT LETTER FROM SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO CRITICAL OF THEIR DECISION TO GIVE FUNDS FOR UNITY PURPOSES IN THE MARIANAS.

RECALLING CHARGES BY TENORIO CONCERNING THE INTEGRITY OF THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP, THE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER STATED THAT IF THE INTEGRITY AND HONOR OF ANYONE IS AT STAKE THEY ARE THOSE "OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH...HAS CONSCIOUSLY AND CONSISTENTLY TAKEN UNILATERAL ACTIONS TO UNDERMINE ELECTED AND TRADITIONAL MICRONESIAN AUTHORITY IN OUR ISLANDS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS."

THEIR REPLY WAS IN RESPONSE TO AN APRIL 3, 1975 LETTER BY THE MARIANAS SENATOR CHARGING THAT THE MONEY WAS TO BE USED FOR A POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE DISTRICT TO "UNDERMINE" THE MARIANAS COVENANT. TENORIO'S LETTER ALSO RECEIVED REPLIES FROM MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN OSCAR C. RASA AND JOSE P. NAFNAS WHICH REPUTED TENORIO'S CLAIMS.

IN THEIR JOINT LETTER, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIVO NAKAYAMA AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY QUOTED FROM A STATEMENT MADE BY THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE "QUESTION OF POLITICAL UNITY...IS BASICALLY ONE WHICH THE MICRONESIANS MUST RESOLVE FOR THEMSELVES."

THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT THE PUBLIC LAW WHICH APPROPRIATED THE UNITY MONEY ALLOWED THEM TO DISBURSE THE MONEY UPON REQUEST OF RESPONSIBLE GROUPS AND AT THEIR DISCRETION. THEY ALSO SENT A COPY OF THE PUBLIC LAW FOR TENORIO'S "INFORMATION AND USE," INDICATING THAT MONEY HAD BEEN USED FOR SEVERAL DIFFERENT UNITY PURPOSES, AND THAT FUNDS HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO OTHER DISTRICTS WITHOUT SIMILAR CRITICISMS.

"WE THEREFORE, FEEL THAT YOUR CHARGES ARE UNFORTUNATELY BASED ON EMOTION AND INSTINCT NOT ON FACTS AND REALITIES...AND IT IS APPARENT THAT ONLY THE SENSITIVE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE MARIANAS IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR REMARKS," THE LETTER READS.

THE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED "IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNFAIR TO DENY A PROPER REQUEST FROM CITIZENS OF YOUR DISTRICT, JUST AS YOU CLAIM IT IS UNFAIR TO HONOR SUCH A REQUEST."

SAYING THAT IN VIEW OF THE SENATOR'S ACTIONS AND APPROACHES IN THE PAST SESSION OF THE CONGRESS THEY WOULD HAVE EXPECTED A LETTER THAT WAS MORE "DIPLOMATIC IN ITS TONE, AND MICRONESIA IN ITS APPROACH" THEY WENT ON TO SAY:

"SUCH STATEMENTS AS ARE CONTAINED IN YOUR LETTER STYLING OUR ACTION AS "VIOLENT, DANGEROUS, AND COORDINATED SUBVERSIVE EFFORT TACTICALLY CAMOUFLAGED IN THE NAME OF UNITY", ARE NOT DESERVING OF A REPLY AS ARE MANY OF YOUR ERGOTROUGHAND UNBECOMING STATEMENTS."

PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA AND SPEAKER HENRY THEN INDICATED THAT THEIR ACTIONS WERE CONSISTENT WITH EXPRESSIONS OF THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, AND RESOLUTIONS BY THE CONGRESS AFFIRMING THAT IT WAS THE SOLE BARGAINING AGENT ON STATUS MATTERS, AND OPPOSING SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY DISTRICT BEFORE THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

RECALLING THAT TENORIO CHARGED THAT THEIR ACTIONS WERE A DISGRACE TO THE CONGRESS ON ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY AND IN VIOLATION OF THEIR OATHS OF OFFICE, THEY QUOTED FROM THE OATH WHICH ASKS IN PART IF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS "WILL LOYALLY DEFEND THE LAWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, SO HELP YOU GOD '2" UNDERLINING THE WORD "ALL" IN THEIR CITATION.

"WE BELIEVE WE HAVE UPHELD THE PRINCIPLES OF THAT OATH, AND THAT OUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT WITH THEM; OUR CONCERNS.

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HAVE SEEN, ARE NOW, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE--AS THEY MUST--FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE IN ALL OF THE DISTRICTS."

INDICATING THAT THEY REGRETTED BECAUSE OF LOCAL MARIANAS POLITICS HE HAD "MADE CERTAIN REPRESENTATIONS DISPARAGING THE HONOR AND INTEGRITY OF THE CONGRESS" ON ITS ANNIVERSARY, THEY SAID:

"IF ANYONE'S HONOR AND INTEGRITY ARE AT STAKE IN MICRONESIA TODAY, THEY ARE THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY HAS CONSCIOUSLY AND CONSISTENTLY TAKEN UNILATERAL ACTIONS TO UNDERMINE ELECTED AND TRADITIONAL MICRONESIAN AUTHORITY IN OUR ISLANDS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN VIOLATION OF ITS SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITIES... WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM."

SAYING THAT THEY BELIEVED HIS WAS A "SINCERE--BUT MISGUIDED--LETTER" THEY CONCLUDED BY OFFERING THE HOPE THAT "IN THE FUTURE WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK AND CONSULT TOGETHER AMICABLY WITH MUTUAL RESPECT ON MATTERS OF DISTRICT AND MICRONESIA WIDE INTEREST, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST ON OTHER MATTERS."

(BURTON TO AMEND CLAIMS BILL)

WASHINGTON, APRIL 16 (NNS)---AFTER HEARING REPORTS THAT NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDERS MAY BE RELUCTANT TO APPROVE THE COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. BECAUSE OF "SHODDY AND SLOW TREATMENT" BY THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION, REP. PHILIP BURTON, (D-CALIF.) PROMISED TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION TO PAY ALL CLAIMS IN FULL, ACCORDING TO WEDNESDAY'S (APRIL 16) PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

REP. HERMAN R. GUERRERO, TESTIFIED BEFORE BURTON'S HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIES AND SAID THERE ARE FEARS AMONG MARIANAS CITIZENS THAT SIGNING OF A COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT MIGHT MEAN CESSATION OF PAYMENTS.

"THE CLAIMS HAVE NOT BEEN MOVING AS RAPIDLY AS WE THOUGHT THEY SHOULD," GUERRERO SAID, AND "ON TOP OF THAT WE FOUND OUT THAT NOT ALL OF OUR CLAIMANTS WOULD GET ALL THEIR MONEY."

HERB RICE, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S OFFICE OF TERRITORIES, SAID THE PROCESSING OF CLAIMS IS "ON SCHEDULE" BUT ADDED THAT THE OFFICE SO FAR HAS PAID 10 PERCENT OF ADJUDICATED CLAIMS AND THAT THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY 40 PERCENT OF APPROVED CLAIMS.

HE ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD COST ABOUT \$75 MILLION IF THE COMMISSION PAID OUT ALL THE CLAIMS IT HAS ADJUDICATED, AND ONLY \$30 MILLION IS AUTHORIZED.

BURTON CALLED RICE'S STATEMENTS "OUTRAGEOUS" AND "VERY FOOLISH" THAT THE U.S. IS TAKING SO LONG TO PAY THE DEATH AND DAMAGE CLAIMS OF WORLD WAR II IN MICRONESIA, THE DAILY NEWS STORY INDICATED. HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE EXCUSE THAT THE JAPANESE INABILITY TO COME UP WITH ITS \$5 MILLION "IN KIND" FUNDS WAS ONE REASON FOR THE DELAY. BURTON PROMISED GUERRERO THAT TRUST TERRITOR LEGISLATION WOULD BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE WAR CLAIMS.

"I'M INDEBTED TO YOU FOR HAVING BROUGHT THIS TO MY ATTENTION," BURTON SAID TO GUERRERO.

BURTON EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD URGED THEN THAT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AND THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION EXPEDITE THE PAYMENT.

WHEN RICE EXPLAINED THAT PAYMENT OF 100 PERCENT OF ADJUDICATED CLAIMS IS UNUSUAL EVEN FOR THOSE IN EUROPE, BURTON BECAME ANGRIER.

"THAT'S JUST MARVELOUS, JUST MARVELOUS," HE SAID, "WE'VE NOT DONE WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE SOMEWHERE ELSE, SO WE'VE NOT

GOING TO DO IT NOW," ACCORDING TO THE GUAM NEWSPAPER.

BURTON ASSURED GUERRERO THAT HE (BURTON) WOULD SEE THAT LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE MORE MONEY FOR SUCH CLAIMS "GOT MOVIN." BURTON SAID IT IS NO WONDER SOME PEOPLE IN THE ISLANDS DISTRUST THE U.S. "IF WE DON'T APPEAR TO BE MEETIN OUR MORAL OBLIGATIONS AT 100 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR," BURTON ASKED, "HOW CAN WE BE EXPECTED TO DEEP OUR LEGAL COMMITMENTS?"

ELSEWHERE IN THE HEARING, BURTON STRESSED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IT CAN DO EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF TRYING TO "TILT" THE NORTHERN MARIANAS PLEBISCITE JUNE 17.

"TO ENSURE A FREE AND UNFETTERED EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE," BURTON SAID, HIS SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD "SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVE" THE ROLE OF AMERICANS AND OTHER NON-MICRONESIANS DURING THE PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN. HE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS TO KEEP TRACK OF ANY EXTRAORDINARY ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN IN NEWS MEDIA SERVING THE ISLANDS.

(CALL USER: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(RASA PRAISED BURTON)

SAIPAN, APR. 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)-- WELCOMING NEWS THAT U.S. CONGRESSMAN PHILIP BURTON HAS PROMISED TO AMEND WAR CLAIMS LEGISLATION TO PAY 100 PERCENT OF ALL MICRONESIA WAR CLAIMS, MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN OSCAR CRUZ RASA ISSUED A STATEMENT WEDNESDAY (APRIL 16) PRAISING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR ITS INTEREST IN THE LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS.

AT THE SAME TIME, RASA SAID THAT BURTON'S PLEDGE "CLEARLY PROVES THE NEED FOR THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATE" ON THE QUESTION OF MARIANAS STATUS, INSTEAD OF WITH AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, WHO REPRESENTS THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

EMPHASIZING THAT COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTERS IN THE PAST SAID THAT "NO MORE CHANGES COULD BE MADE IN THE COVENANT," RASA SAID, "THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS MUST REMEMBER THAT THOSE WHO SIGNED THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT DID SO IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY NEGOTIATED THE "BEST POSSIBLE" ARRANGEMENT WITH AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS. "CONGRESSMAN BURTON'S ACTIONS PROVE THIS IS NOT TRUE; BURTON HAS SHOWN US THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS CAN BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE MARIANAS, AND BURTON HAS SHOWN US THAT MORE CHANGES CAN INDEED BE MADE IN THE COVENANT." RASA SAID HE BELIEVES THE U.S. CONGRESS "SHOULD AND MUST REVIEW THE ENTIRE MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT BEFORE THE MARIANAS PEOPLE VOTE IN THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE SO THAT MORE IMPROVEMENT CAN POSSIBLY BE MADE," RASA SAID.

"WE HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE." SAID RASA, "WILLIAMS HAS DECEIVED THE MARIANAS PEOPLE AND OUR POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION BY TELLING US NO MORE IMPROVEMENTS ARE POSSIBLE. JUDGING FROM CONGRESSMAN BURTON'S STATEMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR ONE YEAR AGO URGING HIM TO EXPEDITE THESE CLAIMS."

SAID RASA, "I COULD SAY WILLIAMS HAS BEEN FOOLING BOTH SIDES THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION."

RASA NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MARIANAS VOTERS WILL STILL GO TO THE PLEBISCITE POLLS JUNE 17 WITH ONLY VERBAL ASSURANCES THAT WAR CLAIMS WILL BE PAID IN FULL.

"WE HAVE REASONS TO BE OPTIMISTIC," RASA SAID, "THIS MAYBE OUR CHOICE TO RENEGOTIATE, BUT MARIANAS VOTERS MUST REJECT THE COVENANT UNTIL THESE AND OTHER BADLY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS ARE GUARANTEED, IN WRITING, IN THE COVENANT."

RASA SAID THESE OTHER AREAS INCLUDE THE SUPREME POWER OVER

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LAND, AND LAWS, WHICH NOW WILL BE HELD BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER COMMONWEALTH, THE NEED FOR MINIMUM WAGES, FUTURE JOBS PREFERENCE, LAND PRICES, THE LACK OF MARIANAS REPRESENTATION IN THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE LACK OF GUARANTEED FUTURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND THE LACK OF SPECIFIC WRITTEN GUARANTEES IN THE COVENANT THAT CAROLINIANS RESIDING IN THE MARIANAS WILL BE PERMITTED TO PURCHASE LAND AFTER TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

(TENORIO CLARIFIES RASA, MAFNAS AND OLOPAI STATEMENTS)

SAIPAN, APR. 16(MNS)--- MARIANAS SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO TOLD MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT MICRONESIAN UNITY WILL NEVER BE FULFILLED FOR TWO REASONS: "THE MARIANAS PEOPLE DO NOT DESIRE UNITY, AND SECONDLY, THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR UNITY FELL IN THE HANDS OF THE WRONG PEOPLE..."

IN HIS LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, HE CHARGED THAT THOSE WHO RECEIVED FUNDS FOR UNITY RELATED PURPOSES AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE MARIANAS HAVE "SO FAR DEMONSTRATED THAT UNITY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY ALIENATING THE CAROLINIANS FROM THE CHAMORROS AND BY CONDUCTING POLITICAL EDUCATION AGAINST THE COVENANT."

"A BEST," TENORIO STATED, "THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL PROMOTE SEPARATISM WITH THE ULTIMATE DISRUPTION OF PEACEFUL, FRIENDLY, AND BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP THAT PRESENTLY PREVAILS IN THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN THE CAROLINIANS AND THE CHAMORROS."

HE WARNED THAT SHOULD ANY SOCIAL UPHEAVAL DEVELOP AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, "THERE IS NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO RELISH THE THOUGHT THAT UNITY CAN BE ACHIEVED BY A HANDFUL OF DOLLARS."

THE MARIANAS SENATOR ALSO CLARIFIED STATEMENTS BY ABEL R. OLOPAI IN HIS CAPACITY AS ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION (UCA), AND REPRESENTATIVES OSCAR C. RASA AND JOSE P. MAFNAS.

CONCERNING OLOPAI'S REMARKS THAT ONLY PERSON OF NORTHERN MARIANAS DESCENT WILL BE ABLE TO OWN LAND IF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS SHOULD APPROVE THE COVENANT, TENORIO STRESSED, "THE CAROLINIANS CERTAINLY FALL UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NORTHERN MARIANAS DESCENT **JUST LIKE THE CHAMORROS AND OTHERS.**"

"IF ANYTHING, THE CAROLINIANS SHOULD BE IN THE TOP CATEGORY OF MARIANAS DESCENT. AS, BY HISTORICAL FACT, THEY CAME TO THE MARIANAS BEFORE THE CHAMORROS," EXPLAINED SENATOR TENORIO.

QUOTING REPRESENTATIVES JOSE P. MAFNAS AND OSCAR C. RASA'S LETTER TO THE SAIPAN TEACHERS, SUPPORTING THEIR DESIRE TO GO ON STRIKE WHICH READS: "IF THE COVENANT FOR A MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH IS APPROVED, IT MUST BE POINTED OUT THAT ALL U.S. CITIZENS FROM GUAM, HAWAII, THE MAINLAND, AND THOSE NOW RESIDING AND WORKING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, WILL ENJOY THE SAME EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS WE RESIDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MARIANAS ENJOY... WE WILL NO LONGER ENJOY FIRST PREFERENCE FOR JOBS", THE FRESHMAN SENATOR CALLED THE STATEMENTS THE "MOST HILARIOUS" FROM "TWO SUPPOSEDLY WELL-INFORMED PUBLIC OFFICIALS."

HE EXPLAINED THAT PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT DEALING WITH CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY, PARTICULARLY RECIPROCAL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, WILL NOT APPLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING U.S. CONGRESS' APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT. **14159**

"RATHER," THE LETTER READS, "SUCH PROVISIONS WILL BE APPLICABLE ONLY AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MAY SEE FIT TO DRAG ON FOR FIVE YEARS OR INDEFINITELY."

TENGRIO CALLED FOR THE CONGRESS TO ACCOUNT FOR "EVERY SINGLE PENNY OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS SPENT FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE NAME OF UNITY."

CONCLUDING, HE STATED THAT HE WILL INFORM THE INTERIOR SECRETARY, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP OF THE NEED TO AUDIT THE BOOKS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO "INSURE THAT PUBLIC FUNDS ARE SPENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED LAWS AND REGULATIONS."

(CETA FUNDS SUBMITTED)

SAIPAN, APR. 16 (NRS)---THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS SUBMITTED A NOTIFICATION TO INCREASE THE ORIGINAL FUNDING BY \$37,139 FROM \$365,943 UNDER TITLE VI OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT (CETA). THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WILL BE USED TO CONTINUE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FOR THOSE NOW SERVING IN THIS OR ANOTHER PROGRAM. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 250 PERSONS CAN BE SERVED BY THE TOTAL GRANT.

REVISED ALLOCATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS: MARIANAS, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT CLASSROOM TRAINING, \$43,200; MARSHALLS, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, \$46,200; PALAU, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, 49,500; PONAPE, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, \$69,300; TRUK, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, \$66,00; YAP, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, \$33,00; HEADQUARTERS, PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, \$19,800; ADMINISTRATIONS, 35,943, FOR A TOTAL OF \$365,943.

THE GRANT MODIFICATION IS AVAILABLE FOR EXAMINATION AT THE HEADQUARTERS TRAINING DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND EACH DISTRICT PERSONNEL OFFICE ON REGULAR WORKING DAYS BETWEEN 7:30 TO 4:30.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION TO HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON ON SAIPAN, MARIANAS ISLANDS, 96950, OR WILLIAM J. HALLIGAN, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR MANPOWER, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, 450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, 94102.

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