

(COLEMAN SIGNS SIX BILLS)

SAIPAN, APR. 21 (MNS)---SIX BILLS PASSED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN ITS RECENT REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN. THE BILLS WERE SIGNED FRIDAY, (APRIL 18). THREE OTHERS WERE VETOED, (SEE SEPARATE STORY).

THE SIGNED BILLS ARE:

-TO APPROPRIATE \$132,621 FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CONGRESS AND \$45,207 FROM THE TT SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE WHICH BEGINS APRIL 1, 1975 TO MARCH 31, 1975 AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING AND OPERATIONS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, (HB 6-4), PUBLIC LAW 6-49;

-TO CONVERT THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM'S OPERATING BUDGET TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FISCAL YEAR, (HB 6-118), PL 6-50;

-A BILL TO RAISE THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL EXPENSES OF EACH MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA BY \$1,000 FROM \$2,500 TO \$3,500, (HB 6-50), PL 6-51;

-A MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORDERLY AND PROTECTED DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL TO THE OUTER ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-84), PL 6-52;

-A BILL TO DECLAR JALUIT ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT AND ULITHI AIRSTRIP AND ANCHORAGE, YAP DISTRICT, OFFICIAL PORTS ON ENTRY, (HB 6-13), PL 6-53; AND:

TO APPROPRIATE \$50,000 TO SURVEY AND DESIGN ROADS, BRIDGES, AND CAUSEWAYS IN THE FAICHUK AREA, AND AUTHOPIZE THE SUM OF \$250,000 FOR CONSTRUCTING AND IMPROVING ROADS, BRIDGES AND CAUSEWAYS IN THE SAID AREA, (HB 6-93), PL 6-54.

(CHICOM VETOES SALARY BILL)

SAIPAN, APR. 21 (MNS)---DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN VETOED SUNDAY, (APRIL 20), A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR A NEW BASE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

IN DOING SO, THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER LISTED THREE "PARAMOUNT REASONS" FOR DISAPPROVING THE BILL. FIRST IS THE "ESCALATION OF IMPLEMENTATION COSTS" UNDER A SECTION OF THE BILL, BOTH IN THE AMOUNT OF INCREASE PROPOSED FOR EACH PAY LEVEL, AND FURTHER, "THE UNSUPPORTED EXPANSION OF SUCH INCREASE" INCLUDING PAY LEVELS ABOVE PL-15, HE STATED IN A LETTER TO SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIVO NAKAYAMA.

OTHER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL "COULD ONLY ADVERSELY AFFECT EMPLOYEE MORALE AND CHIFFLE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT," AND CERTAIN SECTIONS "SEEK TO LIMIT THE POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS" OF EXEMPT EXECUTIVE POSITIONS.

COLEMAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE CONGRESS FAILED TO ACCORD "TEMPORARY RELIEF" TO THE LOCAL HIRE SITUATION.

ANOTHER CONCERN WHICH COLEMAN POINTED OUT TO NAKAYAMA IS THE ESTIMATED \$1.5 MILLION COST FOR UNBUDGETED WITHIN-GRADE INCREASES FOR FY 1976 FOR MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES AND \$3.6 MILLION FOR RECLASSIFICATION OF TEACHERS AND RELATED POSITIONS. ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE TOTAL COSTS IN BASE PAYROLL WOULD RANGE FROM \$2.5 TO \$3.7 MILLION.

COLEMAN ALSO REMINDED NAKAYAMA OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE ON SALARIES AND THE RISING COST-OF-LIVING IN THE TT WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS THAT WORKED TO FORMULATE AND RECOMMEND THE MINIMUM WAGE FOR THE TT.

".... HAD THE CONGRESS NOT ADDED CERTAIN SECTIONS, EVEN WHAT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE JOINT TASK FORCE... WE PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO EFFECT THIS DISAPPROVAL ACTION," COLEMAN STATED IN HIS LETTER.

THE OTHER THREE MEASURES VETOED BY COLEMAN WERE A BILL TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE ON MICRONESIAN CLAIMS (HB S-144); A MEASURE TO DELINEATE THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TT GOVERNMENT, (HB S-161); AND A BILL TO ALLOW STUDENTS ON TT SCHOLARSHIPS TO RECEIVE ROOM AND BOARD AT THE DISTRICT CENTERS WHILE ON TRAVEL STATUS TO AND FROM THE INSTITUTIONS ACCEPTING THEM, (HB S-45).

REGARDING A BILL TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE ON MICRONESIAN CLAIMS, COLEMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE POWER "TO LEGISLATE IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS RESTS WITH SOVEREIGN NATIONS."

SINCE THE TT IS NOT A SOVEREIGN NATION, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO ENACT A MEASURE AS PROPOSED BY THIS LEGISLATION. THE POWER RESTS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER.

CONCERNING A BILL TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO RECEIVE ROOM AND BOARD AT DISTRICT CENTERS WHILE GOING TO AND FROM SCHOOLS, COLEMAN STATED THAT SOME DISTRICTS ARE ALREADY PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH SUCH SERVICES. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY HICOM, THE GOVERNMENT "CANNOT INSTITUTE THIS PROGRAM ON A FORMAL BASIS AT THIS TIME IN VIEW OF THE CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF ADEQUATE FUNDING."

IN A MESSAGE TO HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY REGARDING A BILL TO DELINEATE THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, COLEMAN REASONED THAT IT IS "IMPROPER" TO IDENTIFY A FISHING AUTHORITY AS A "POLICY MAKING BODY" AS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERY AND MARINE RESOURCES.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROGRAM MUST BE WELL COORDINATED AND WE FEEL THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH MUST CONTINUE TO PERFORM THIS COORDINATION AND PROVIDE DIRECTIONS SUBJECT TO GENERAL GUIDELINES SUGGESTED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA," THE LETTER READS. "WE CANNOT SEE TRANSFERRING THIS RESPONSIBILITY AT THIS TIME TO THESE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES;" COLEMAN CONCLUDED.

(TT LINK TO IATSCA)

SAIPAN, APR. 21 (MNS)--- A NEW RADIO TELETYPEWRITER CIRCUIT CONNECTS THE TRUST TERRITORY MAJOR DELAY/CONTROL STATION IN SAIPAN WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S INTERNATIONAL AERONAUTICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SWITCHING CENTER (IATSC), IN HONOLULU. TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS VICTORINO T. BOPJA ANNOUNCED COMMISSIONING OF THE 100-WORDS-PER-MINUTE SERVICE CHANNEL ON MONDAY, (APRIL 21).

THE IMPORTANT NEW LINK OPERATES VIA TROPOSCATTER FROM SAIPAN TO GUAM, THEN BY CABLE TO HONOLULU. IT WILL BE USED PRIMARILY AS A DEDICATED AERONAUTICAL TRAFFIC COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL BUT WILL ALSO CARRY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGES BETWEEN TRUST TERRITORY WEATHER STATIONS AND THE N.W.S. PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS AT HONOLULU, BOPJA SAID.

THE NEW CIRCUIT WILL IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THE FAA, AND FOR ALL USERS SERVED THROUGH FAA/TT CHANNELS, BY PROVIDING INSTANT ACCESS TO A DIRECT CHANNEL BETWEEN SAIPAN AND HONOLULU, BOPJA ADDED.

RAPID, RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TRUST TERRITORY STATIONS AND THE HONOLULU FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AFTER APRIL 24TH, WHEN THE HONOLULU CENTER WILL ASSUME CONTROL OF ALL AIR TRAFFIC IN THE TRUST TERRITORY AREA (EXCEPT WITHIN 250 MILES OF GUAM). IT WILL DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED ON TRUST TERRITORY COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS WHO WILL BECOME THE SOURCE OF MUCH OF

THE INFORMATION ON WHICH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IS BASED, THE
COMMUNICATION CHIEF STRESSED.

(LUZAMA PROMOTED)

SAIPAN, APR. 21 (MNS)--- ALEX P. LUZAMA, A PONAPEAN WHO IS STATIONED ON SAIPAN FOR AIR MICRONESIA, HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO REGIONAL SERVICE SUPERVISOR, ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY CONTINENTAL AIR MICRONESIA THIS WEEK.

FILLING HIS VACATED POST IS LARRY YOSHIDA, WHO WAS TRANSFERRED FROM HIS POST ON GUAM AS SUPERVISOR OF TERMINAL OPERATIONS.

IN HIS NEW POSITION, LUZAMA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION AND TRAINING OF STATION PERSONNEL AT TINIAN, ROTA, YAP, AND KOFOR, PALAU. HE WILL BE WORKING OUT OF AIR MIKE'S GENERAL OFFICES IN SAIPAN AS A STAFF MEMBER OF THE AIRLINE'S CUSTOMER SERVICE DIVISION.

LUZAMA HAS BEEN WITH AIR MIKE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1963. HIS PROMOTION PLACES HIM IN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF MANAGEMENT ATTAINED BY A MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEE SINCE INCEPTION OF AIRLINE SERVICE TO GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY IN MAY 1963.

GENE HASSINGA, MANAGER OF CUSTOMER SERVICES, SAID LUZAMA'S PROMOTION IS A STEP TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE CARRIER'S COMMITMENT TO TRAIN AND DEVELOP LOCALLY HIRED EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS PHASES OF AIRLINE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT.

(PALAU: FIRST TO PLAN ITS REEF FISHERIES)

PALAU, APRIL 21 (MNS)--- PALAU HAS FINALIZED A MASTER PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR REEF FISHERIES.

THE MASTER PLAN, WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE PALAU FEDERATION OF FISHING ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY AT THE COST OF \$3,000 WAS PREPARED BY GLOBAL ASSOCIATES OF GUAM LAST JANUARY. THE PLAN WAS PRESENTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN FEBRUARY.

THE PLAN SUPPORTS THE CONTENTION OF THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY THAT A SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN PALAU DEPENDS ON ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL FREEZE AND STORAGE FACILITIES IN KOFOR AND SATELLITE FACILITIES IN ANGAUP AND PELELIU IN SOUTHERN PALAU AND OLLEI IN NORTHERN PALAU. THERE IS ANOTHER SATELLITE FACILITY PRESENTLY BEING ESTABLISHED IN NGEFENLENGUI IN WESTERN PALAU. THE SATELLITE FACILITIES ARE BEING PLANNED FOR THE AREAS OF PALAU WHERE REEF FISH STILL ABOUNDS.

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