

(VIETNAMESE TO STAY TEMPORARILY) 1975

SAIPAN, APRIL 28 (MNS)---APPROXIMATELY 56 VIETNAMESE EVACUEES, ARRIVED SAIPAN ON A PAN AM CHARTER FLIGHT SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT SATURDAY (APRIL 26).

ACCORDING TO MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO ADA AND DEPUTY DISTAD DAN AKIMOTO, THE VIETNAMESE EVACUEES WILL STAY ON SAIPAN TEMPORARILY UNTIL THEIR PAPERS TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES ARE COMPLETED.

DURING THEIR STAY ON SAIPAN, THE EVACUEES WILL STAY AT THE SAIPAN CONTINENTAL HOTEL. THE MARIANAS DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES WILL CONDUCT THOROUGH MEDICAL CHECK-UPS OF THE EVACUEES AND WILL PREPARE FOR THEIR EVENTUAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES. DEPUTY DISTAD AKIMOTO SAID CAREFUL QUARANTINE AND CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT.

DISTAD ADA AND AKIMOTO EMPHASIZED THAT NO DEFINITE PLANS HAVE BEEN MADE REGARDING FURTHER EVACUATIONS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO SAIPAN. THEY SAID SEVERAL INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE US GOVERNMENT AS TO THE CAPABILITY OF THE TT, AS A WHOLE, TO TAKE IN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TEMPORARILY. THEY ADDED THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS OF CAPABILITIES SUCH AS A BROAD CENSUS OF FAMILIES WHO MAY BE WILLING TO TAKE IN REFUGEES.

DISTAD ADA STATED THERE WILL BE CLOSE COORDINATION OF PLANNING AND DECISION WITH LOCAL LEADERSHIP, SUCH AS THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE MAYORS INVOLVED.

CONCERNING ADOPTION OF THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN, ADA AND AKIMOTO SAID THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY OF THE CHILDREN BEING AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION.

ACCORDING TO DISTAD ADA, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WILL BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS. DUE TO THE SUDDENNESS OF THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN FAMILIES, DEPENDENTS AND REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, MATTERS ARE VERY INDEFINITE, AND AT TIMES. CONFUSED. ADA SAID.

(IENSI EXPLAINS REFERENDUM BILL)

SAIPAN, APR. 28 (MNS)---"WE'VE BEEN TALKING TOO LONG. IT'S TIME TO GET A CONSENSUS OF THE PEOPLE," SAID PONAPE SENATOR AMBILOS IENSI IN AN INTERVIEW ON SAIPAN LAST WEEK.

THE AUTHOR OF THE REFERENDUM BILL THAT HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW, IENSI DESCRIBED THE BACKGROUND OF THE REFERENDUM AS BEING THE RESULT OF THE FEELING THAT "PERHAPS THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND PEOPLE WERE NOT SUPPORTING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS."

SENATOR IENSI EMPHASIZED THAT THE VOTE WILL NOT BE BINDING. IT WOULD BE USED TO ADVISE CONGRESS ON WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT AND COULD ALSO BE USED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AS A GUIDELINE FOR SOME CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS THAT MAY ARISE IN THE CONVENTION.

ASKED WHY STATE HOOD WAS PLACED ON THE BALLOT, IENSI ANSWERED THAT IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN 1967 AND REJECTED BY THE CONGRESS ALONG WITH OTHER ALTERNATIVES. HE FELT THAT IT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BALLOT TO GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHANCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT SHOULD BE KEPT OR REJECTED. IENSI NOTED THAT SELECTION OF STATEHOOD IN THE VOTE WOULD ONLY INDICATE PREFERENCES TO THE CONGRESS AND WOULD NOT NECESSARILY FORCE THE U.S. TO OFFER THAT ALTERNATIVE.

IN EXPLAINING THE ROLE OF THE CONGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE PONAPEAN LAWMAKER INDICATED THAT IF THE PEOPLE VOTED AGAINST UNITY. THEN THE CONGRESS MIGHT HAVE TO DISSOLVE THE JOINT

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COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND FORM A NEW GROUP, PERHAPS INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S.

NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH MANY LEADERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION, IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND IN THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES HAVE SPOKEN AGAINST UNITY RECENTLY, IEHSI ADDED THAT THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR UNITY IN THEIR TWO MEETINGS HELD SO FAR.

CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SENATOR IEHSI STATED THAT SOME PEOPLE FEEL THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO CONTINUE THE PRESENT STATUS UNTIL ADEQUATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE. "HOWEVER, THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE PERMANENT," HE EMPHASIZED.

IEHSI MADE HIS REMARKS IN THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA."

(MARSHALLS OUTLAW SLOT MACHINES)

SAIPAN, APR. 28 (MNS)---A BILL TO "PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION, USE, SALE, PURCHASE, AND CONTROL OF SLOT MACHINES AND SIMILAR GAMBLING DEVICES" IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY MARSHALLS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM SATURDAY, (APRIL 19).

THE BILL, NOW DISTRICT LAW 22-1, PROVIDE THAT "NO PERSON, NATURAL OR CORPORATE, SHALL USE, SELL, PURCHASE, OR CONTROL, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, ANY SLOT MACHINE OR ANY SIMILAR MECHANICAL APPLIANCE OR DEVICE BY WHICH MONEY OR ANY OTHER THING OF VALUE IS STAKED AND WON OR LOST BY THE OPERATION."

THE BILL DOES NOT INCLUDE CARDS, DICE, BINGO, GUEST GAMES, RAFFLES AND OTHER SIMILAR GAMES OF CHANCE COMMONLY PRACTICED IN THE MARSHALLS.

A ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT AND A \$1,000 FINE OR BOTH WILL BE IMPOSED ON ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES THE LAW.
(KEJU RELEASED IT STATISTICS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 28 (MNS)---COOPERATIVE/CREDIT UNION ADVISER BOBO KEJU HAS JUST RELEASED THE 1974 COOPERATIVE AND CREDIT UNION STATISTICS FOR THE TT.

ACCORDING TO KEJU, THE GROSS SALES IN 1974 FOR COOPERATIVES JUMPED TO \$10 MILLION FROM SEVEN MILLION IN 1973. MEMBERSHIP IN SOME SIXTY-THREE COOPERATIVES REMAINED STABLE NEAR 12,500 MEMBERS BUT TOTAL NET EARNINGS INCREASED 68 PERCENT TO \$780,934, KEJU SAID.

HE REPORTED THAT SOME 43 CREDIT UNIONS WITH ABOUT 11,600 MEMBERS NOW HAVE A TOTAL SAVINGS OF \$4 MILLION, AN AVERAGE SAVINGS OF \$338 PER MEMBER THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY.

KEJU SAID THESE SAME CREDIT UNIONS TURNED IN MORE THAN \$5 MILLION IN NEW LOANS IN 1974 WITH AN AVERAGE LOAN OF \$817. ALL TRUST TERRITORY CREDIT UNIONS ARE SHOWN TO HAVE LOANED OVER \$22 MILLION DURING THE LAST NINE YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS.

CHIEF OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, CHARLES N. SICARD, POINTED OUT THAT IN GENERAL THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS ORGANIZATION HAS STOOD THE INITIAL TEST OF TIME AND HAVE PROVEN THEIR WORKABLENESS IN MICRONESIA AS EVIDENCED BY THE STATISTICS. HE CREDITED THIS TO THE SIMILARITY OF TRADITIONAL ISLANDS GROUP WORK EFFORTS TO THAT OF THE TRUE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS DESIGN.

SICARD CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT COOPERATIVES PROGRAMS NEEDS ITS MOST EMPHASIS ON

MARINE RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND OTHER PRODUCTION AND
MARKETING ENDEAVORS TO ASSURE A MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMY.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(RASA LEFT FOR WASHINGTON)

SAIPAN, APRIL 28 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS
CONGRESSMAN OSCAR CRUZ RASA LEFT SAIPAN LAST WEEKEND FOR
WASHINGTON, D.C., WHERE HE PLANS TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF
THE U.S. CONGRESS TO DISCUSS THE COMMONWEALTH "COVENANT"
AGREEMENT WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE MARIANAS STATUS
COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. EXECUTIVE
BRANCH IN FEBRUARY.

RASA SAID BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT HE BELIEVES
MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL NOT AGREE TO CERTAIN
PARTS OF THE COVENANT, AND THEREFORE PARTS OF THE COVENANT
COULD EASILY BE REJECTED LATER ON, IF IT IS APPROVED IN
THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE. "IF THE U.S. CONGRESS REJECTS
PROVISIONS CONCERNING LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE MARIANAS,"
SAID RASA, "THE MARIANAS PEOPLE COULD FIND THEMSELVES UNDER
A PERMANENT COMMONWEALTH WHERE OTHER AMERICANS CAN NOT ONLY
IMMIGRATE AND OBTAIN BUSINESS LICENSES FREELY, BUT OWN LAND
ON TINIAN, ROTA, AND SAIPAN AS WELL."

RASA SAID THAT THE "ONLY WAY" THE RIGHTS OF THE
MARIANAS PEOPLE CAN BE PROTECTED CONCERNING LAND OWNERSHIP
AND OTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS IN THE COVENANT IS BY
MAKING SURE THAT THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS REVIEWS THE
COVENANT BEFORE THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE. "OTHERWISE," SAID
RASA, "THE COVENANT CAN POSSIBLY BE CHANGED AND AREAS THAT
WERE INTENDED TO PROTECT SENSITIVE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES
OF MARIANAS CITIZENS COULD BE REMOVED AFTER THE PLEBISCITE."

RASA POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS REMOVED PARTS
OF THE 1950 ORGANIC ACT OF GUAM THAT WERE INTENDED TO KEEP
"OTHER" AMERICANS FROM BUYING LAND ON GUAM. RASA SAID
TODAY ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF GUAM IS OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY
AMERICANS AND OTHER NON-GUAMINIANS.

RASA'S EXPENSES TO THE MAINLAND WERE PAID FOR BY
THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MINISTRIES OF NEW YORK.

(CSB MEETING).

SAIPAN, APR. 28 (MNS)---WILLIAM H. STEWART, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE COPRA
STABILIZATION BOARD ANNOUNCES THAT THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD WILL BE HELD ON SAIPAN THURSDAY,
(MAY 1).

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE IT RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE ROOM TO CONSIDER MATTERS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE IT.