

1975

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(AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS BRIEFS U.S. CONGRESS SUBCOMMITTEE)
WASHINGTON, APR. 29 (MNS)---IN A PREPARED ORAL BRIEFING
IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 14, AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS,
THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN
STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, DESCRIBED FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES THE COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE
UNITED STATES, SIGNED ON SAIPAN ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975.

WILLIAMS NOTED THAT IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS A DETERMINED
EFFORT WAS MADE TO SATISFY THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IN SEEKING FULL INTERNAL
SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
AMERICAN CONSTITUTION, WHILE GIVING FULL WEIGHT TO VIEWS OF
MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS.

MANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT REFLECT THE ADVICE
AND WISHES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THE
APPLICABILITY OF THE U.S. LAWS TO THE NEW COMMONWEALTH. THE
AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT SINCE THE COVENANT IN ITS FINAL FORM
WAS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR EITHER APPROVAL OR
DISAPPROVAL BUT NOT AMENDMENT, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT
THE U.S. SIDE MAKES SURE THAT ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION SHOULD
NOT BE CONTRARY TO KNOWN CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL
SUBCOMMITTEE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, WAS TO REPORT ON THE FINAL
ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS AND TO BRIEF THEM ABOUT THE PLEBISCITE,
NOW FIXED FOR JUNE 17. AFTER THE DECEMBER NEGOTIATING SESSION
IF WAS NECESSARY, HE NOTED, TO REVIEW CERTAIN TENTATIVELY
AGREED PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT WITH THE U.S. CONGRESS
AND FOLLOWING THESE CONSULTATIONS THE U.S. WAS ABLE TO

ELIMINATE ITS REMAINING RESERVATIONS. WHEN THE NEGOTIATORS
MET AGAIN IN FEBRUARY, THERE WERE A FEW MINOR TECHNICAL
CHANGES PREPARED BY THE MPSC, AND THE PROPOSAL FOR A BICAMERAL
LEGISLATURE FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH WITH EQUAL
REPRESENTATION FROM EACH CHARTERED MUNICIPALITY IN ONE HOUSE.
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THESE PROPOSALS.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS EMPHASIZED THAT THE CALL TO NEGOTIATE
A SEPARATE STATUS FOR THE MARIANAS CAME FROM THE PEOPLE OF THAT
DISTRICT AND THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. THEIR DESIRE FOR
POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES, FIRST EXPRESSED IN 1950,
HAS BEEN REPEATED OVER THE YEARS THROUGH RESOLUTIONS, REFERENDUMS
AND REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS.

THE U.S. NEGOTIATOR DESCRIBED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE THE
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COVENANT, NOTING THAT IF THE CONGRESS APPROVES
THE COVENANT, IT WILL VOLUNTARILY LIMIT ITS PLENARY POWERS TO
AMEND CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS OF THE COVENANT UNLESS
CONSENTED TO BY THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS. THE FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS ARE: THE BASIC POLITICAL
RELATIONSHIP, THE RIGHT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT, THE RIGHT TO
U.S. CITIZENSHIP, THE SECTION DEALING WITH THE APPLICABILITY
OF BASIC PROVISIONS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS, AND PROTECTION AGAINST ALIENATION OF LAND.

THE AMBASSADOR SAID "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TAKES
MOST SERIOUSLY ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY
TO SEE THAT A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL PLEBISCITE IS HELD ON THE
COVENANT." HE TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
MR. ERWIN CANHAM AS PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER. HIS DUTIES WILL BE

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TO SUPERVISE THE PLEBISCITE AND CARRY OUT AN IMPARTIAL PLEBISCITE EDUCATION PROGRAM. WILLIAMS TOLD THE SUBCOMMITTEE ABOUT THE FORM OF THE VOTE ON THE COVENANT, NOTING THAT THE DRAFTING WAS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION. THIS FORM OF VOTE WAS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS THAT A "NO" VOTE MEANS THAT THE MARIANAS WOULD BE FREE TO SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE STATUS IN CONCERT WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS.

IN CONCLUDING, THE AMBASSADOR VOICED HIS SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ATTENTION AND TIME HE HAS GIVEN THESE TALKS. AND FOR HIS ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

(HICOM SIGNS AIRPORT AUTHORITY BILL)

SAIPAN, APRIL 29 (MNS)---A BILL TO CREATE A MARIANA ISLANDS AIRPORT AUTHORITY (HB 6-290) HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON. THE BILL, NOW PUBLIC LAW 6-58, SETS UP AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY OF THE TT GOVERNMENT WITH BROAD AUTHORITY TO MANAGE, OPERATE AND REGULATE ALL AIRPORTS LOCATED WITHIN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT.

THE LAW ESTABLISHES AN AIRPORT FUND INTO WHICH ALL AIRPORT FEES AND CHARGES LEVIED MAY BE DEPOSITED AND EXPENDED.

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, HOWEVER, WILL STILL OVERSEE THE SAFETY AND FEDERAL FUNDING ASPECTS OF THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT AS PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED UNDER THE TT CODE.

THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WILL BE GOVERNED BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSISTING OF SEVEN MEMBERS WHO WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE.

JOHNSTON ALSO SIGNED A MEASURE TO PERMIT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF MICRONESIA TO SELECT ITS CHAIRMAN AND INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE CONGRESS FROM TWO TO THREE, (HB 6-240). THE BILL ALSO PROHIBITS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD FROM BEING AN OFFICER OF THE BANK, EXCEPT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE BANK IS AUTOMATICALLY AN EX OFFICIO MEMBER WITHOUT A VOTE. THE BILL IS NOW PUBLIC LAW 6-57.

WITH THE SIGNING OF THE TWO BILLS, THE HICOM COMPLETED ACTION ON ALL OF THE BILLS PASSED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

OF THE 68 BILLS PASSED, 58 WERE SIGNED INTO LAW, ONE BECAME LAW WITHOUT THE HICOM'S SIGNATURE AND 10 WERE DISAPPROVED.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(CONGRESS OBJECTS ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES IN TT)

SAIPAN, APRIL 29 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEADERSHIP THIS WEEK TOLD THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY "SHOULD NOT BE USED AS GUARANTINE AREA" FOR EVACUEES AND REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM.

IN A DISPATCH TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP SAID THEY HAVE "MOST SERIOUS RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF VIETNAM EVACUEES AND REFUGEES BY THE TT GOVERNMENT."

THE LEADERSHIP INDICATED THAT WHILE THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, THEY HAVE "EXTREME CONCERNS WITH CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER" IN AS FAR AS THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE IS CONCERNED.

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THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FROM A HEALTH STANDPOINT, ANY INFLUX OF EVACUEES AND REFUGEES MAY RESULT IN THE INTRODUCTION OF "EXOTIC DISEASE AS HAS HAPPENED PERIODICALLY THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF MICRONESIAN HISTORY."

THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY IS "UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL TO MEET ITS OWN NEEDS AND THE INFLUX OF EVACUEES WOULD STRAIN THE SYSTEM BEYOND ITS LIMITS." ADDITIONALLY, THE LEADERSHIP NOTED THAT ANY ENTRY OF EVEN A SMALL NUMBER OF EVACUEES WOULD HAVE "SERIOUS AND ADVERSE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES TO MICRONESIA UNLIKE THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS THE MEANS AND ABILITY TO ACCEPT LARGE NUMBERS OF EVACUEES."

THE LEADERSHIP ALSO NOTED THAT THE "FIRST OBLIGATION OF THE TT GOVERNMENT MUST BE TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE." THEY URGED THAT NO FURTHER EVACUEES BE ADMITED INTO MICRONESIA AND THAT THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY HERE "RESUME TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

(BORJA, TAREO APPOINTED TO TT BOARD OF ED.)

SAIPAN, APRIL 29 (MNS)---DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN RECENTLY APPOINTED TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE MICRONESIA BOARD OF EDUCATION. ANOTHER ACTION WAS THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MANUEL SOUND FROM TRUK TO THE SAME BOARD.

MS. MARY TAREO OF THE MARSHALLS PRESENTLY A TEACHER AT ASSUMPTION SCHOOL IN MAJURO, WAS APPOINTED TO A TERM OF TWO YEARS TO FILL THE TERM OF MRS. CARMEN BIGLER WHO IS NEWLY ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. MS. TAREO IS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE GRADUATE FROM MARY ROGER COLLEGE, MARYKNOLL, NEW YORK. MS. TAREO WILL REPRESENT THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT ON THE MICRONESIA BOARD.

JESUS C. BORJA WAS APPOINTED TO A THREE YEAR TERM OF MEMBERSHIP AS REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARIANAS DISTRICT. HE REPLACES SENATOR PEDRO TENORIO WHO WAS RECENTLY ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. BORJA GRADUATED FROM GEORGETOWN LAW SCHOOL IN 1974 AND HAS THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE. HE IS PRESENTLY AN ATTORNEY WITH THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION IN SAIPAN. HE IS ALSO LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MICRONESIA BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN SAIPAN MAY 19-23.

(JAPAN CONSULATE TO OPEN ON GUAM)

SAIPAN, APR. 29 (MNS)---JAMES M. SHINTAKU HONORARY CONSUL FOR JAPAN ON GUAM HAS ADVISED THAT THE FULL-FLEDGED JAPAN CONSULATE IN GUAM WILL BE OPENED ON JULY 1, 1975, ACCORDING TO A PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CONSUL-GENERAL FOR GUAM HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

HONORARY CONSUL SHINTAKU WILL CONTINUE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE JAPAN CONSULATE IN AN ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ROLE. THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE CONSULATE ALSO HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED, AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE HONORARY CONSULATE IS LOCATED IN THE TUMON SANDS PLAZA IN TUMON, GUAM.

ONE OF THE MAJOR IMPACTS OF THE OPENING OF THE OFFICIAL JAPAN CONSULATE AT GUAM IS THAT JAPAN VISAS WILL BE ISSUED DIRECTLY AT GUAM, ELIMINATING THE PRESENT REQUIREMENTS THAT VISA APPLICATIONS BE SENT TO THE CONSULATE IN HONOLULU.

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