

1975

File

(GILBERTESE MAN SURVIVES SIX-MONTHS OF DEAL AT SEA)

TRUK, MAY 19 (MNS)---A 23-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS WAS RESCUED OFF PULUSUK ISLAND, TRUK DISTRICT IN A SMALL OUTRIGGER CANOE BY A JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL AFTER HE HAD DRIFTED IN THE OPEN SEA FOR SIX MONTHS.

THE MAN-TANGANE ITAIA-IS REPORTED IN GOOD CONDITION AT MOEN HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY TRUK DISTRICT IMMIGRATION OFFICER NOTARO MELTARD, ITAIA SAID HE AND HIS UNCLE, TEANG ABE AND HIS COUSIN, LEBWEDWE APIKITAU, LEFT THE GILBERT ISLANDS ON DECEMBER 20, 1974. THEY HAD PLANNED ON SPENDING THEIR CHRISTMAS EVE ON TARAWA ATOLL.

SHORTLY AFTER THEY SAILED, THEY BEGAN TO ENCOUNTER ROUGH SEAS AND A HEAVEY STORM WHICH DESTROYED THEIR SAIL AND MAST. THEY THEN BEGAN DRIFTING AIMLESSLY. BY MID-JANUARY, THE FOOD THEY HAD ON BOARD RAN OUT.

HIS COUSIN, APIKITAU JUMPED OFF THE CANOE AFTER REPEATED COMPLAINTS OF THIRST AND HUNGER AND A DESIRE TO REACH LAND, ITAIA SAID. HIS UNCLE ABE, BEGAN COMPLAINING OF HUNGER AND DIED SHORTLY.

HIS BODY REMAINED ON BOARD FOR SEVERAL DAYS UNTIL IT BEGAN TO DECOMPOSE. ITAIA THEN MANAGED TO PUSH THE BODY OFF THE CANOE. HE HIMSELF WAS VERY SICK AND HUNGRY.

HE SAID HE CONTINUED DRIFTING UNTIL A JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL SPOTTED HIM ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 18TH. HE WAS PICKED UP AND BROUGHT TO PULUSUK ISLAND, 183 MILES EAST OF MOEN ISLAND, TRUK DISTRICT CENTER.

A TT GOVERNMENT VESSEL, THE M/V RAN ANNIM WHICH HAPPENED TO BE PASSING NEARBY ON HER REGULAR FIELD TRIP SERVICES, WAS ADVISED TO PICK UP ITAIA AND BROUGHT HIM TO MOEN MAY 8TH WHERE HE IS RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT.

DR. XIOSI ANIOL, ACTING DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, SAID ITAIA IS NOW PHYSICALLY FIT TO RETURN TO GILBERT ISLANDS. HE IS NOW AWAITING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS TRIP. TRUK HOSPITAL HAS AGREED TO PAY FOR THE MEDICAL COST AND HIS TRAVEL BACK TO HIS HOME ISLAND, MELTARD SAID.

(MARIANAS OFFICIALS CRITICAL OF ADA'S BAN ON SLOT MACHINES)

SAIPAN, MAY 19 (MNS)---A PETITION SIGNED BY SEVERAL OF MARIANAS ELECTED OFFICIALS ASKING RECONSIDERATION OF MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA HAS BEEN SENT TO DISTAD ADA AND HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON.

COMPLAINING OF ADA'S ACTION TO PROHIBIT SLOT MACHINES, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1976, "WITHOUT CONSULTATION" OF ELECTED OFFICIALS, THE PETITION ASKED ADA TO "RECONSIDER AND RESCIND" THE APRIL 27 AMENDMENT.

THE PETITION, CIRCULATED BY DISTRICT LEGISLATOR MANUEL D. MUNA, STATED ADA'S ACTION IS "TANTAMOUNT TO AN INSULT TO THE INTEGRITY AND CONFIDENCE PLACED UPON THE ELECTED OFFICIALS BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN.

"IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS AND TO AVOID DISCORD AND DISTRUST BETWEEN RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT LEVELS, IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPORTANT THAT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR EXERCISE DUE COURTESY TO CONSULT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN AND TO RESPECT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SAIPAN LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION AND TO MAKE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCES DULY ENACTED BY SAID LEGISLATURE," THE PETITION STATED.

EXPLAINING THAT THE TAXES GENERATED FROM SLOT MACHINES HAVE AMOUNTED TO \$190,800, THE PETITION POINTED OUT THAT

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SAIPAN NEEDED THE AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE LICENSING SLOT MACHINES SO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AND OTHER NEEDED SERVICES WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

THE PETITION FURTHER CRITICIZED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S AD HOC GAMBLING COMMITTEE, WHICH RECOMMENDED SLOT MACHINES BE OUTLAWED, AND SAID THE COMMITTEE CONSISTED MOSTLY OF U.S. CITIZENS, WHO DO NOT REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF SAIPAN.

THE PETITION WAS SIGNED BY MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. ALL MEMBERS OF THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SIGNED THE PETITION. ALL BUT TWO OF THE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SIGNED. THE TWO ARE SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO AND REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR C. BASA.

(5,324 REGISTERED FOR PLEBISCITE)

SAIPAN, MAY 19 (MNS)---SOME 5,324 RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE JUNE 17 COMMONWEALTH PLEBISCITE AS OF FRIDAY (MAY 16), ACCORDING TO N. NEIHAN CRALEY, JR., ASSISTANT TO THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER.

CRALEY SAID THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER REGISTERED REPRESENTS THE ISLANDS OF SAIPAN, ROTA, TIVIAN, AGFIKAN, PAGAN AND ALANAGAN. RESULTS FROM THE NORTHERN ISLANDS WERE RECEIVED MONDAY MORNING WHEN A PRIVATE FISHING VESSEL, THE M/V TIPI-I ARRIVED AT SAIPAN'S CHARLIE DOCK.

CRALEY ADDED THAT THE NUMBER OF VOTERS WILL INCREASE SOME 200-300 AS ABSENTEE REGISTRATIONS ARE COUNTED. REGISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THE DEADLINE FOR ABSENTEE REGISTRATION FORMS TO BE RECEIVED IS MAY 31.

THE 5324 IS THE "GROSS LIST" MEANING NONE OF THOSE REGISTERED HAS BEEN STRICKEN OUT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CHALLENGES THAT HAVE BEEN FILED.

THE VOTER-REGISTRATION BOARD WILL TAKE ACTION ON ALL CHALLENGES RECEIVED TO DATE, BY FRIDAY, MAY 23RD. THE BOARD'S DECISION CAN BE APPEALED.

THREE JUDGES HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO THE SPECIAL PLEBISCITE APPELLATE COURT TO HEAR APPEALS FROM THE BOARD'S RULING. THEY ARE CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD W. BURNETT, ASSOCIATE JUSTICES DONALD C. WILLIAMS AND ROBERT A. HEFNER.

ACCORDING TO CRALEY, DURING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM) GENERAL ELECTION IN 1974, OF THE 6211 REGISTERED, 4,853 VOTED IN THE MARIANAS, ABOUT 1400 LESS UNDER THE COM REGULAR LISTS.

ABOUT 5762 PEOPLE REGISTERED FOR THE LAST DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ELECTIONS.

CRALEY SAID THE REGISTRATION FOR THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE IS COMING "PRETTY CLOSE" TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REGISTRATION FOR THE 1974 ELECTION. HE ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 90-95 PERCENT OF THE MARIANAS RESIDENTS WILL BE REGISTERED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

(WAR CLAIMS DELEGATION LEFT FOR WASHINGTON)

SAIPAN, MAY 19 (MNS)---MARIANAS LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT VICENTE N. SANTOS, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAR CLAIM REPARATIONS, DEPARTED SAIPAN SUNDAY (MAY 18) FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. WHERE HE WILL HEAD A DELEGATION IN HOLDING A SERIES OF MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ON THE MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FROM THE MARIANAS LEGISLATURE.

PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, PRESIDENT SANTOS HELD MEETINGS ON SAIPAN CONCERNING THE 16 PERCENT THAT IS PRESENTLY BEING

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PAID THE PEOPLE ON THEIR WAR CLAIMS. HIS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON WILL FOCUS ON THE PAYMENT OF THE WAR CLAIMS AND TO SEEK FUNDS FROM THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCREASE THE PAYMENTS TO THE PEOPLE ON THEIR WAR CLAIMS.

ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT SANTOS TO WASHINGTON IS SPEAKER OF THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL VICENTE T. CARACHO AND LEGISLATORS SANTOS OLKONG, BAULES SECHELONG AND SHIRO KYOTA OF PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, AND WILLIAMS B. NABORS, LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON REPARATION.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAR REPARATIONS REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF THE MARIANAS AND PALAU IN SEEKING COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES, DEATHS, INJURIES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II.

THE DELEGATION PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON ABOUT 10 DAYS.