

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(CON LEADERSHIP ACCEPTS HICOM'S PROPOSAL) 1975

SAIPAN, MAY 21 (CONGRESS RELEASED)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEADERSHIP HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSAL FOR AN EIGHT-DAY SPECIAL SESSION CONVENING ON JUNE 23. IT WAS ANNOUNCED HERE THIS WEEK.

THE LEADERSHIP HAD ORIGINALLY REQUESTED FOR A TEN-DAY SESSION, WHERE CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO LEGISLATION THAT WAS VETOED RECENTLY BY THE HICOM, SUCH AS THE MICRONESIAN SALARY ACT, AMONG OTHER MEASURES.

THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP ALSO DECIDED NOT TO CONSIDER MEASURES IN THE ORIGINAL SESSION REQUEST RELATED TO THE ISSUE OF FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. THE LEADERSHIP FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING MARIANAS JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE, THE MICRONESIAN-WIDE REFERENDUM ON JULY 8, AND THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ON JULY 12, THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO DEAL WITH FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS ISSUES AT A LATER DATE.

CONCERNING MEASURES THAT WERE VETOED BY THE HICOM, MOST IMPORTANTLY THE MICRONESIAN SALARY ACT, THE LEADERSHIP ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT A NEW SALARY ACT PROPOSAL PRIOR TO THE JUNE 23 SESSION. THEY ALSO ASKED THAT MEASURES AFFECTING THE UPCOMING JULY 12 MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BE INCLUDED IN THE CALL FOR A SPECIAL SESSION. THEY ARE: SENATE BILL NO. 6-185 REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DELEGATION; PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 6-30 TO ALLOW REVERSION OF DISTRICT DELEGATION FUNDS TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON RATHER THAN TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA; A REVIEW OF PUBLIC LAW 5-60 REGARDING THE DURATION, QUORUM, AND SITE OF THE MICRONESIAN CONCON, AMONG OTHERS.

DURING LAST WEEK'S MEETING, THE LEADERSHIP WAS ALSO BRIEFED REGARDING IMPORTANT CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. SENATOR LAZARUS SALTU AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY DISCUSSED RECENTLY CONCLUDED LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO RECONVENE IN FEBRUARY 1976 TO FINALIZE ITS WORK.

HOUSE VICE-SPEAKER EKPAP SILK DISCUSSED WITH THE LEADERSHIP HIS RECENT TRIP TO NEW CALEDONIA WHERE HE ATTENDED MEETINGS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. THE NEXT SPC CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU THIS COMING SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO SILK.

THE LEADERSHIP ALSO HEARD FROM THE CONGRESS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING, CHAIRMAN RAY SETIK CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON HEARINGS BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS. HE ALSO BRIEFED THE LEADERSHIP ON BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROPOSALS, THE ISSUE OF MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS AND RECENT GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL WHO ATTENDED THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) BRIEFED THE LEADERSHIP REGARDING THE RESULT OF THE MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI, INDIA. HE SAID AN IMPORTANT CONTACT WAS MADE WITH AN OFFICIAL OF ESCAP'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON OFFSHORE PROSPECTING (CCOP).

ON A RELATED MATTER, THE LEADERSHIP ALSO RECEIVED BRIEFINGS REGARDING THE RECENT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK. THE LEADERSHIP ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HANS SCHMID, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PACIFIC; AND WITH ROBERT TRUSK, A DEVELOPMENT PLANNING ADVISOR FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

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HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK.

THE TWO-DAY MEETING WAS CONCLUDED WITH AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE MARIANAS' PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER ERWIN CASHAM, REGARDING THE GENERAL ISSUE OF THE SCHEDULED JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT.

(COVENANT CONCILIATION FAILS)

SAIPAN, MAY 21 (MNS)---AN ATTEMPT TO CONCILIATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CAROLINIANS AND CHAMORROS ON COMMONWEALTH COVENANT ISSUES HAS FAILED, ACCORDING TO WEDNESDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

THE DAILY NEWS STORY STATED THAT THE PRO-COVENANT MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC) AND LEADERS AND ANTICOVENANT UNITED CAROLINIAN ASSOCIATION (UCA) LEADERS MET LAST WEEK IN GARAPAN MEETINGHOUSE--AND AGREED "IN PRINCIPAL" TO WRITTEN GUIDELINES.

BUT THE ACCORD WAS NEVER FINALIZED.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE "IS MOMENTOUS" AND "INVOLVES MANY COMPLEX ISSUES," THE AGREEMENT STATED THAT THE PARTIES TO THE DOCUMENT WOULD "ASSIST IN CARRYING ON THE MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN UNDERSTANDING THE MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES INVOLVED SO THAT PEOPLE CAN MAKE AN INTELLIGENT DECISION UNAFFECTED BY IRRELEVANT PERSONALITY CONSIDERATIONS."

THE AGREEMENT DEFINED "AN IRRELEVANT PERSONAL ATTACK" AS A WRITTEN OR ORAL STATEMENT THAT REFLECTS UPON "THE PERSONAL MORALITY, INTEGRITY OR INTELLIGENCE" OF A PARTICULAR PERSON OR "UPON THAT OF THE PERSON'S FAMILY OR FRIENDS AND WHICH HAS NO, OR ONLY MARGINAL, BEARING UPON THE ACCURACY OF PARTICULAR STATEMENTS, IDEAS OR POSITIONS CONCERNING ISSUES IN THE COVENANT."

ABEL R. OLOPAI, UCA SPOKESMAN, TOLD THE GUAM NEWSPAPER THIS WEEK THAT "THE FACT THEY (MPSC) DON'T WANT TO SIT DOWN AND GET INTO AN AGREEMENT GIVES US THE IMPRESSION THEY WANT TO CONTINUE IRRELEVANT PERSONAL ATTACKS.

"IT INDICATES THEY DON'T HAVE A VERY STRONG POSITION IN TERMS OF SUPPORTING THE COVENANT," HE ADDED.

EDWARD PANGELINAN, MPSC CHAIRMAN, RESPONDED THAT "IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET PEOPLE TOGETHER DURING THIS BUSY TIME OF VOTER REGISTRATION, AND NOW CHALLENGES ARE GOING TO BE COMING UP.

"THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE AGREEMENT," HE MAINTAINED.

SAYING THAT HE NEVER MADE PERSONAL ATTACKS, PANGELINAN SAID THE AGREEMENT WAS "VERY RIDICULOUS" TO SOME MPSC MEMBERS.

"WE'RE MATURE INDIVIDUALS," PANGELINAN CONTENDED. "IT FREE PRESS AND MICRONESIAN INDEPENDENT (IT WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS) DON'T PARTICIPATE, IT'S USELESS ANYWAY" TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, HE SAID.

"THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UCA AND MPSC, BUT ALL PEOPLE INVOLVED IN PERSONAL ATTACKS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE AT THE MEETING," PANGELINAN POINTED OUT.

THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT, NEVER SIGNED, ALSO PROVIDED FOR PRIOR CLEARANCE OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS BY A REVIEWER, ACCORDING TO THE DAILY NEWS.

(TT STUDENTS RECEIVE UOG DEGREES)

SAIPAN, MAY 21 (MNS)---TWENTY MICRONESIAN STUDENTS WERE AMONG THE 155 STUDENTS TO COMPLETE THEIR COLLEGE CAREER BY RECEIVING DEGREES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM (UOG) SATURDAY (MAY 17).

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ACCORDING TO TRUST TERRITORY (TT) SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER
HERMAN R. GUERRERO, GRADUATION CEREMONIES WERE HELD AT THE
AGANA CATHEDRAL, GUAM.

TWO STUDENTS RECEIVE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS) DEGREES,
TWO ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (A.A) DEGREES AND THE REST BACHELOR
OF ARTS (BA) DEGREES.

THEY ARE: ELIZABETH TORRES AND DELFINA VILLAGOMEZ
(MARIANAS), A.S. IN NURSING; KRESKO BILLY, (TRUK, A.A. IN
CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY; EDWARD M. DIAZ, (MARIANAS),
A.A. IN POLICE SCIENCE.

THE OTHERS WERE: FROM THE MARIANAS, GEORGE F. CANACHO,
BA IN SOCIOLOGY; GERALD M. CALVO, BA, PSYCHOLOGY; OSCAR T.
QUITUGUA, BA, SOCIOLOGY; HENRY B. FANGELINAN, BA, SECONDARY
EDUCATION; JUAL L. BABAUTA, BA, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND
FRANCISCO R. AGULTO, BA, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

FROM TRUK: RUFINA J. WINTER, BA, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION;
DANIEL L. SUDA, BA, SPECIAL EDUCATION; SIGFRIT S. RAIN,
PSYCHOLOGY, AND BINASIOUS JOSEPH, BA, PSYCHOLOGY.

FROM YAP: JOAN P. L. REITER, BA, SOCIOLOGY; ELIZABETH M.
RUMTIN, BA, SOCIOLOGY; AND FIDELA C. ATGIL, BA, ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION.

FROM PALAU: FAIK UHERBELAU, BA, SECONDARY EDUCATION/
SOCIOLOGY; AND HARRY H. RENGILL, BA, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

FROM PONAPE: PERNIS K. DIAPOLUS, BA, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

(TT PERSONNEL BOARD MEETING)

SAIPAN, MAY 21 (MNS)---MEMBERS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY
PERSONNEL BOARD ARE CURRENTLY MEETING ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK.

ACCORDING TO J. BOYD MACKENZIE, THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN,
DR. JACK HELKENA WAS RE-ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

TOPICS FOR THE THREE-DAY MEETING INCLUDING GOVERNMENT
HOUSING POLICY AND VARIOUS EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES.

MEMBERS OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD IN ADDITION TO
MACKENZIE AND DR. HELKENA ARE FELIX RABAU LIMAN, SAIPAN
AND MS. KYOSO RENGILL, PALAU.

THE BOARD IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ITS HEARINGS
THURSDAY AFTERNOON (MAY 22).