

(BURTON ON COVENANT) 1975

FILE

SAIPAN, MAY 22 (MNS)---U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP BURTON (D-CALIF) OFFERED TO CLARIFIED WHAT HE CALLED "ERRONEOUS STATEMENTS" BEING MADE ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT.

IN A MAY 16 LETTER TO MARIANAS SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO, BURTON EXPRESSED "STRONG DETERMINATION THAT THE PLEBISCITE ON THE COVENANT BE A FREE AND OPEN EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE, UNINTERFERRED WITH AND UNINFLUENCED BY OUTSIDE FORCES..."

BURTON, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, STATED THAT HE WILL "SUPPORT AND RESPECT," THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS AS EXPRESSED BY THE PLEBISCITE. "THIS PLEDGE INCLUDES, OF COURSE, SUPPORT OF THE COVENANT IF IT IS APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS," BURTON WROTE.

WITH RESPECT TO RESTRICTING AMERICAN ABILITY TO PURCHASE LAND IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, BURTON SAID THIS PROVISION "WILL NOT BE CHANGED BY THE CONGRESS."

HE FURTHER TOLD SENATOR TENORIO THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, NOT THE U.S. CONGRESS THAT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE COVENANT. "ANY SUGGESTION THAT I OR ANY MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS WOULD NEGOTIATE FOR THE AMERICAN SIDE IN THE EVENT THE COVENANT IS APPROVED, IS CONTRARY TO FACT," HE POINTED OUT.

THE CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN ASSURED TENORIO THAT THE CONGRESS "WILL NOT ALTER THE COVENANT," BUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WILL BE A TOTAL ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THE COVENANT AS NEGOTIATED BY THE U.S. AND MARIANAS NEGOTIATORS.

(PALACIOS STATEMENT ON COVENANT)

SAIPAN, MAY 22 (MNS)---THE MARIANAS TERRITORIAL PARTY IS "OFFICIALLY ENDORSING" THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT, ACCORDING TO DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED WEDNESDAY, (MAY 21), PALACIOS STATED THAT THE PARTY "BY CONSENSUS," HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT TO ENDORSE THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THE TERRITORIAL PARTY PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT TO ENDORSE THE COVANT WAS REACHED AFTER THE LEADERSHIP EVALUATED VARIOUS OPINIONS OF THE PARTY MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT COMMONWEALTH STATUS IS "THE BEST POLITICAL STATUS" FOR THE MARIANAS AMONG THE ALTERNATIVES OF FREE ASSOCIATION, INDEPENDENCE OR STATUS QUO.

PALACIOS URGED PARTY MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE PARTY AND ENDORSE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

(COCONUT PROCESSING SEMINAR ENDS)

SAIPAN, MAY 22 (MNS)---THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE COCONUT PROCESSING SEMINAR WHICH WAS HELD IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES,

RETURNED TO THE TRUST TERRITORY THIS WEEK.

THE TWO-WEEK SEMINAR WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER AND THE ASIAN COCONUT COMMUNITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE PHILIPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY AND THE UNITED COCONUT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES FINANCED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

ACCORDING TO JESS GUERRERO, WHO ATTENDED THE SEMINAR REPRESENTING THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AS AN OBSERVER, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MICRONESIA WAS INVITED TO OBSERVE THE SEMINAR.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR WERE TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS FOR COCONUT PRODUCTS, GAIN A BETTER APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MODERN MARKETING AND SALES PROMOTION TECHNIQUES AND THEREBY INCREASE THE AWARENESS IN THE COCONUT PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE VALIDITY OF CONCERTED AND JOINT STRATEGIES, AND ACTION THROUGH APPROPRIATE PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE FACE OF COMPETITION FROM SUBSTITUTES.

ALSO, THE SEMINAR ASSESSED THE SCOPE FOR UNDERTAKING END USE RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, EXCHANGED EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE TO FORMULATE GUIDELINES FOR THE PLANNING OF PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS, CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE MACHINERY AND MEASURES WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO UNDERTAKE MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND EVALUATED AND APPRAISED THE PROBLEMS AREAS RELATED TO THE MARKETING OF COCONUT PRODUCTS, SUCH AS THE DISTRIBUTION CHAIN, STORAGE, SHIPPING TARIFF, AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS, QUALITY REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER.

THE SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY PARTICIPANTS FROM SEVEN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ASIAN COCONUT COMMUNITY AND OBSERVERS FROM THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES.

FIVE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS/LECTURES AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN COCONUT COMMUNITY, COMPRISE THE SEMINAR STAFF.