

(U. N. HEARING CONTINUES)

NEW YORK, MAY 29 (MNS)---THE SECOND DAY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HEARINGS WHICH WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO HEARING ORAL PETITIONS DID NOT PRODUCE THE ANTICIPATED FIREWORKS. UNEXPECTEDLY THE LEADING OPPONENT OF THE MARIANAS COVENANT DID NOT APPEAR AT THE SESSION TO TESTIFY AS SCHEDULED. THE ONLY PETITIONER SPEAKING IN OPPOSITION TO THE COVENANT WAS MARTIN SAN NICOLAS, 21, AN INSTRUCTOR OF ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AT TINIAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. IN ADDITION TO SAN NICOLAS WHO WAS REPRESENTING THE CONFERENCE ON A NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC, THERE WAS A DELEGATION FROM SAIPAN COMPRISED OF MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND OTHER PROPONENTS OF THE PROPOSED MARIANAS COVENANT INCLUDING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN, SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO, SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA, DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS AND JOSE R. CRUZ. A THIRD PETITIONER VALERIO PEDRO OF ANGAUR, PALAU, MADE A REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THAT ISLAND FOR LABOR PERFORMED IN MINING PHOSPHATE DURING THE GERMAN, JAPANESE AND AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS FOR WHICH THEY RECEIVED LITTLE OR NO COMPENSATION.

SAN NICOLAS. IN HIS PETITION SAID THAT HIS OPPOSITION TO THE COVENANT WAS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE PLANNED USE OF TINIAN BY THE UNITED STATES MILITARY UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL. SPEAKING CLEARLY AND EMOTIONALLY, SAN NICOLAS SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TINIAN WERE OPPOSED TO THE USE OF TINIAN AS IN HIS WORDS, A "MILITARY COLONY." HE ACCUSED THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION OF NEVER INFORMING THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITARY INSTALLATION ON THE ISLAND. HE CALLED THE PROPOSED COVENANT ILLEGAL BECAUSE THERE HAS BEEN NO OBJECTIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION, HE SAID. CALLING IT A CRIME, SAN NICOLAS URGED THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO TAKE THE MATTER BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

PRECEDING SAN NICOLAS TO THE MICROPHONE WERE THE PROPONENTS OF THE COVENANT. LEADING OFF WAS PANGELINAN WHO REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE MPSC AND REVIEWED EACH SECTION OF THE COVENANT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL. HE CALLED THE CREATION OF THE STATUS COMMISSION "THE CULMINATION OF 20 YEARS OF EXPRESSION BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO JOIN WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN A RELATIONSHIP THAT IS BEST SUITED TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR ISLAND."

PANGELINAN WAS FOLLOWED BY DR. FRANCISCO PALACIOS OF THE TERRITORIAL PARTY. DR. PALACIOS SPOKE PRIMARILY ABOUT THE POLITICAL EDUCATION EFFORT IN THE MARIANAS CONCERNING THE COVENANT. HE SAID THAT AT ONE TIME HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THEY PROCEED SLOWLY WITH THE COVENANT BECAUSE THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WERE NOT BEING SUPPLIED WITH SUFFICIENT EDUCATIONAL AND BACKGROUND MATERIAL TO MAKE AN INTELLIGENT DECISION. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE MPSC, THE OPPONENTS OF THE COVENANT, AND THE PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER IS "COMPREHENSIVE AND FULLY ADEQUATE."

DR. PALACIOS ENDED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT HE HOPES THERE WILL BE AN OVERWHELMING VOTE IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

HE SAID, "IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT DURING THIS AGE OF MAJOR POWERS WITHIN THE WORLD THAT A SMALL ISLAND GROUP WITH A POPULATION OF ONLY 14,000 PEOPLE WILL HAVE THE

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RARE PRIVILEGE OF DETERMINING FOR THEMSELVES THROUGH A FREE VOTE ITS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS."

THE NEXT PETITIONER TO SPEAK WAS JOSE CRUZ OF TINIAN. HE TOOK UP THE MATTER OF LEASE LAND ON TINIAN FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES AS OUTLINED IN THE COVENANT. SAID CRUZ, "WE RECOGNIZED THAT AS A MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL FAMILY, THE MARIANAS WILL HAVE CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN MEETING ITS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS." CRUZ SAID THAT THE PEOPLE FROM THE MARIANAS WELL UNDERSTAND THAT POINT, AND THAT THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN RECOGNIZE THAT THE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS THAT COME WITH CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES ENTAIL CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS. CRUZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION LAST WEEK SPECIFICALLY REMINDING THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD THAT "THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN SUPPORT AND WANT UNITED STATES COMMONWEALTH STATUS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

FOLLOWING CRUZ WAS SENATOR BORJA OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. DURING HIS BRIEF REMARKS, SENATOR BORJA STATED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS DO NOT DESIRE THE SAME POLITICAL STATUS AS IS PRESENTLY BEING PURSUED BY THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. HE SAID, "WE DESIRE TO SEPARATE OURSELVES POLITICALLY FROM THE UNOFFICIAL ENTITY WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. WE DESIRE TO BECOME A PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN A CLOSE AND PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP, AND WE DESIRE TO MAKE THIS DECISION OURSELVES IN A FREE AND FAIR PLEBISCITE IN THE EXERCISE OF OUR INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION. SENATOR BORJA CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "WE RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OUR FELLOW MICRONESIANS TO CHOOSE ANY POLITICAL STATUS WHICH SUITS THEIR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS. WE BELIEVE AND EXPECT THAT THEY WILL RESPECT OUR INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO CHOOSE."

THE FINAL SPEAKER FOR THE PRO-COVENANT DELEGATION WAS SENATOR TENORIO, A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION. HE EMPHASIZED IN HIS WORDS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WISH TO HAVE AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE A POLITICAL STATUS OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING. RECOGNIZING OPPOSITION TO THE COVENANT, SENATOR TENORIO SAID THAT THOSE WHO "ASSERT THAT THE MARIANAS CANNOT CHOOSE A POLITICAL STATUS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE OTHER DISTRICTS IGNORE BOTH HISTORY AND LEGAL PRINCIPLE." HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DECISION TO "LUMP TOGETHER ALL SIX DISTRICTS AS A SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT WAS NEVER AGREED TO BY ANY ONE OR ALL OF THE DISTRICTS." HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POLITICAL UNITY OF MICRONESIA MIGHT BE A DESIREABLE GOAL IN THE ABSTRACT BUT IT HAS NO PRACTICAL BASIS BECAUSE THERE ARE IN HIS WORDS "IMPORTANT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MARIANAS AND OTHER DISTRICTS IN MICRONESIA." THESE DIFFERENCES, HE SAID, HAVE LED TO THE DESIRE OF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. IN HIS SUMMATION, SENATOR TENORIO MADE TWO BASIC POINTS. FIRST, HE STATED THAT NO POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE MARIANAS AND NO PORTION OF THE POPULATION IS OPPOSED TO THE COVENANT OR TO THE COMMONWEALTH. OPPOSITION COMES, HE SAID ONLY TO SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE COVENANT, AND HE ADDED THAT THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE COVENANT WILL HAVE THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AT THE BALLOT BOX.

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FOLLOWING THE ORAL PETITIONS, THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL THE AFTERNOON. AT THAT TIME, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, AND THE SOVIET UNION WENT TO THE PETITIONERS ASKING SPECIFIC

DETAILS OF THEIR PRESENTATIONS. THE QUESTIONS WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN THE MARIANAS SHOULD THE COVENANT BE PASSED.

THURSDAY, MAY 29, NEW YORK TIME THE MEMBERS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WILL EXAMINE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND WILL BE QUESTIONING UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES IN DETAIL ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

(INTERIOR PLANS TT INVESTIGATION)

WASHINGTON, MAY 29 (MNS)---THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT HAS NOTIFIED CONGRESS THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS ORGANIZING A "TASK FORCE ON THE TRUST TERRITORY (TT) OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS" TO CARRY OUT THE DEEPER INVESTIGATION OF U.S. PROGRAMS IN MICRONESIA REQUESTED BY THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE THREE MONTHS AGO, ACCORDING TO GANNETT NEWS SERVICE STORY OUT OF WASHINGTON.

"THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE WIDE-RANGING DUTIES AND WILL BE MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OFFICE OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND OFFICES OF AUDIT AND INVESTIGATION," EMMETT M. RICE, FORMER ACTING DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIES. SAID IN A MAY 8 LETTER TO SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., MADE PUBLIC THIS WEEK.

RICE SAID FRED M. ZEDER, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, WILL HEAD THE FORCE AND MAKE HIS FIRST TRIP TO THE ISLANDS IN HIS NEW JOB LATE THIS MONTH. RICE IS EXPECTED TO BE ZEDER'S DEPUTY. OTHER AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALSO MAY JOIN THE EFFORT TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION IN MICRONESIA, RICE WROTE JACKSON.

SIX AREAS THE TASK FORCE IS TO LOOK INTO, RICE SAID, ARE: CAPITAL-IMPROVEMENT OR PUBLIC-WORKS PROGRAM; PLANS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OF PUBLIC-WORKS PROJECTS; CONTRACTING PROCEDURES; ACQUISITION OF EXCESS FOREIGN PROPERTY, INCLUDING SURPLUS U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT; RECORD KEEPING AND MONEY-MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND METHODS OF TRAINING MICRONESIANS TO MANAGE THEIR GOVERNMENT.

THE TASK FORCE IS A RESPONSE FROM INTERIOR TO THE REQUEST MADE IN MID-FEBRUARY AT SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE "OVERSIGHT" HEARINGS INTO TT OPERATIONS.

SEN. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, (D-LA), ASKED THE DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH ITS OWN INVESTIGATION INTO PROBLEMS THE COMMITTEE PINPOINTED IN ITS COMPREHENSIVE REPORT THAT WAS CRITICAL OF U.S. ADMINISTRATION IN THE ISLANDS.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

- THE SENATE PASSED ROUTINELY AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT THE BILL TO INCREASE THE BUDGET CEILING FOR THE TT FROM \$60 MILLION TO \$75 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING \$1.5 MILLION FOR TRANSITION MONEY IN THE EVENT NORTHERN MARIANAS VOTERS AGREE NEXT MONTH TO HAVE THEIR AREA BECOME A U.S. COMMONWEALTH.

- THE BILL AUTHORIZING \$3 MILLION IN AN EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI FOR THE YEARS THEIR ISLANDS WERE SUBJECTED TO NUCLEAR TESTING CLEARED THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE AND SEEMS LIKELY TO PASS THE SENATE. THE HOUSE ALREADY HAS APPROVED IT.

- THE HOUSE INTERIOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE TT BUDGET CEILING TO \$80 MILLION IN THE COMING FISCAL YEAR AND \$80 MILLION FOR FISCAL 1977. THE ACTION, TAKEN WEDNESDAY, (MAY 21), INCLUDES AND \$8 MILLION AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE. EXPECTED TO BE BUILT

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ON PONAPE. THIS WOULD BRING THIS FISCAL 1976 AUTHORIZATION TO \$88 MILLION.

- MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE ILLEGAL ADVISER WERE LOBBYING IN CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERIOR OFFICES FOR COMPENSATING ACTION TO REPAY THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK FOR CLAIMS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE SUFFERED DURING NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE MARSHALLS AFTER WORLD WAR II.
- OTHER MICRONESIAN OFFICIALS WERE VISITING CONGRESS TO URGE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION TO PROVIDE ENOUGH MONEY FOR FULL PAYMENT OF WAR CLAIMS BY FAMILIES IN THE ISLANDS WHO SUFFERED FROM DEATHS AND DAMAGES TO THEIR PROPERTY DURING WORLD WAR II.

(TINIEN COUNCIL CONDEMNS MAYOR)

SAIPAN, MAY 29 (MNS)---A RESOLUTION "CONDEMNING" TINIEN MAYOR FELIPE C. MENDIOLA "FOR HIS IRRESPONSIBLE PERSONAL INTEREST, SELFISHNESS, AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST" WAS ADOPTED BY THE TINIEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL THIS WEEK.

THE RESOLUTION CHARGED THAT MAYOR MENDIOLA IS "DEEPLY INVOLVED" IN A BUSINESS VENTURE WITH JAPANESE INTERESTS ON SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIEN AND THAT MENDIOLA IS USING THE "GOOD NAME" OF HIS OFFICE TO "CONFUSE AND AGITATE PUBLIC ORDER TO OPPOSE U.S. COMMONWEALTH POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE PEOPLE OF TINIEN..."

THE RESOLUTION, INTRODUCED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, PASSED THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ADVISING THE "WHOLE WORLD" THAT THE PEOPLE OF TINIEN SUPPORT COMMONWEALTH TYPE OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT JOSE R. CRUZ AND BERNARD V. HOPFSCHNEIDER ARE THE ONLY "AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES" OF TINIEN ON ALL POLITICAL STATUS MATTERS.

FURTHER, THE RESOLUTION STATED THAT NO OTHER PERSON OR PERSONS, "INCLUDING TINIEN MAYOR FELIPE C. MENDIOLA," ARE AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE RESOLUTION PASSED THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY.

(DR. VADAKAN ON SAIPAN)

SAIPAN, MAY 29 (MNS)---DR. VINYU VICHIT-VADAKAN, DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING IN BANGKOK, THAILAND, IS ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK WORKING WITH ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MEMBERS IN DEVELOPING AN OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY FOR MICRONESIA.

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE, ACCORDING TO DR. VADAKAN, WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL PLANNING OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY MARCH OF 1976.

DR. VADAKAN WILL ALSO SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL OFFICE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

IN ITS LAST SESSION, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA INTRODUCED A BILL WHICH CALLS FOR A "FORMULATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY FOR MICRONESIA." THE MEASURE WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 23 ON SAIPAN.