

(RUSSIA DEPLORES MARIANAS SEPARATION) 1975

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., JUNE 3 (RNS)---IVAN MEKLESSA, SOVIET UNION DELEGATE TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, SAID MONDAY (JUNE 2) THAT THE SOVIET UNION OPPOSES AND "CONDENS" THE SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT THE FUTURE STATUS OF MICRONESIA CAN ONLY BE DEALT WITH BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THEREFORE THE SOVIET UNION PROTESTS AGAINST THE SENDING OF AN OBSERVATION TEAM TO SAIPAN TO OVERSEE THE PLEBISCITE.

IN HIS GENERAL REMARKS, MEKLESSA NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER FACISM AND JAPANESE MILITARISM WHICH HE SAID, BROUGHT FREEDOM TO MANY COUNTRIES AND MARKED THE DOWNFALL OF COLONIAL SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

MEKLESSA SAID THAT THE DIRECT COLONY SYSTEM HAS DISAPPEARED, A SYSTEM, WHICH HE SAID, FOSTERED THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION.

HE NOTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE EMPIRE HAS BEEN BROUGHT DOWN, ELIMINATING THE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIZATION.

MEKLESSA REMARKED THAT DURING THE LAST 30 YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR II CONSIDERABLE CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED, ESPECIALLY IN THE TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN THE UNITED NATIONS. HE SAID THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN THE GRANTING OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE.

IN THE CASE OF THE ELEVEN ORIGINAL TRUSTEESHIPS, MEKLESSA REMARKED, ONLY TWO REMAIN; THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC AND PAPUA-NEW GUINEA, THE LATTER OF WHICH IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF INDEPENDENCE.

AFTER REVIEWING THE HISTORICAL PROGRESS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM, MEKLESSA SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD "POINT OUT WITH REGRET" THAT THE GOAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA IS FAR FROM BEING ACHIEVED.

THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE PLAN FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT WAS MOVING AT A VERY SLOW PACE AND HE PLACED THE BLAME ON THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, THE UNITED STATES, FOR ACTIONS WHICH WERE CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY TRYING TO CONVERT MICRONESIA INTO WHAT HE CALLED A "MILITARY DEPOT."

MEKLESSA CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS DISCONTENT ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLES OF MICRONESIA AND QUOTED AT LENGTH FROM THE PRESENTATION BY CONGRESSMAN SETIK OF TRUK DISTRICT, WHO SAID IN HIS OPENING REMARKS THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY PROGRESS, ONLY STEPS BACKWARD IN THE RESOLUTION OF MICRONESIA'S FUTURE STATUS.

MEKLESSA ALSO QUOTED SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL OF THE MARSHALLS IN WHICH HE (SEN. KENDALL) ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF PRESSING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANAS "FOR ITS OWN SELFISH MOTIVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE INTEREST, WELFARE, AND PERHAPS UNITY OF THE REMAINDER OF MICRONESIA."

MEKLESSA THEN STATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION REGRETTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA WERE INTERRUPTED AND THAT THE PLAN TO WHAT HE CALLED "DISMEMBER MICRONESIA" IS BEING PURSUED WITH GREAT SPEED, WITHOUT PROPER TRANSITION OF POWER AND STEPS TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA.

THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION RECOGNIZES THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PUT AN END TO THE TRUSTEESHIP AND PLACE THEMSELVES INTO A SELF-GOVERNING STATE.

HE URGED THAT THE MICRONESIANS BE GIVEN THE POWER TO RUN THEIR AFFAIRS AND NOTED THAT THEY HAVE MADE ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARD

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THAT END BUT THEY HAVE MET WITH RESISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

HE SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN FULL POWER IN FOREIGN RELATIONS AND FOREIGN TRADE AND HAVE CLAIMED EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY BASES IN MICRONESIA.

MEKLESSA DECIDED THE UNITED STATES FOR LINKING A SECURITY AGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSED COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

MEKLESSA CHARGED THAT WHILE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS ATTEMPTED TO CONCLUDE THE RELATIONSHIP, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED CONDITIONS WHICH WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUED TO HOLD SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANAS.

HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION FEELS THAT THIS EFFORT TO DISMEMBER MICRONESIA IS IN OPPOSITION TO THE WISHES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET UNION CANNOT ACCEPT THIS ACTION.

MEKLESSA STATED FIRMLY THAT "WE PROTEST AGAINST THE IDEA OF SENDING A SPECIAL MISSION TO THE MARIANAS TO OBSERVE THE PLEBISCITE."

LATER, QUOTING FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION, HE SAID THAT ANY EFFORTS TO IMPAIR MICRONESIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER. HE REITERATED THAT ANY PLANS BY THE UNITED STATES TO DISMEMBER THE TRUST TERRITORY RUNS COUNTER TO THE WILL OF THE MICRONESIAN CITIZENS.

MEKLESSA THEN QUOTED FROM SEVERAL CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA RESOLUTIONS WHICH OPPOSED SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS AND SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION STATES "IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS ITS IRREVOCABLE OPPOSITION AND CONDEMNATION OF THE SEPARATION."

HE QUOTED FROM THE MARIANAS COVENANT REGARDING MILITARY LEASELANDS AND SAID THAT THAT PARTICULAR CLAUSE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE PENTAGON TO TRANSFORM THE ISLAND OF TINIAN INTO A MILITARY BASE FOR NAVAL AND AIR FORCE PURPOSES.

MEKLESSA SAID THAT THIS PROPOSAL RUNS COUNTER TO THE PURPOSE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. HE CHARGED THE UNITED STATES IS ACTING WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND ON AN UNEQUAL FOOTING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

HE CHARGED THAT UNITED STATES WITH ATTEMPTING TO GAIN PERPETUAL CONTROL OVER THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. HE THEN STATED THAT THE U.S.S.R. WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THE MARIANAS IN PARTICULAR CAN ONLY BE DEALT WITH BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 83.

MEKLESSA SAID THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SHOULD BE "CONGRATULATED" FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND A JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS.

HE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL POWERS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED AND THAT IT IS IN HIS WORDS, "ONLY A CONSULTATIVE AND ADVISORY BODY."

HE SAID THEIR DELIBERATIONS MUST HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER VETTED TEN BILLS PASSED ON THE LAST SESSION.

WHILE NOTING AMBASSADOR BARBARA WHITE'S STATEMENT THAT THE TRUSTEESHIP WOULD END IN 1981, MEKLESSA SAID THAT THE TRANSFER TO SELF-GOVERNMENT MUST BE ACHIEVED BY REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE DEPLORED THE FACT THAT THE EXECUTIVE POWER WAS NOT IN THE HANDS OF MICRONESIANS BUT CONTINUED TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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MEKLESSA CONCEDED WHILE THE APPOINTMENT OF INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL IS SIGNIFICANT, NEVERTHELESS THE SITUATION IS STILL UNSATISFACTORY.

HE SAID THAT IN KEY POSTS "WE STILL FIND AMERICANS." HE CLAIMED THAT WHEN MICRONESIANS ARE APPOINTED, THEY ARE NOT BROUGHT INTO THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES MUST GIVE PRIORITY IN PLACING MICRONESIANS IN KEY ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS.

MEKLESSA SAID HE AGREED WITH THE STATEMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVE SETIK AND SENATOR KENDALL AND THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE CONTINUED DEPENDENCE BY MICRONESIA ON SUBSIDIES PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES.

HE CHARGED THAT QUALIFIED WORKERS HAVE NOT BEEN TRAINED, THAT LAND DISTRIBUTION HAS NOT BEEN SETTLED, THAT FOREIGN TRADE IS STILL UNBALANCED, THAT THE PRICE OF EXPORTS HAVE BEEN FLUCTUATING, THAT DEVELOPMENT IS UNEQUALLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICTS AND THAT MICRONESIA IS SUFFERING FROM INFLATION. HE CLAIMED THAT ALL THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE MORE ACUTE IF THE MARIANAS ARE SEPARATED.

MEKLESSA SAID THAT DESPITE THE PLANS FOR AN IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE, THE EFFECTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEMONSTRATED. HE CALLED FOR A WELL THOUGHT OUT LONG TERM PLAN FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND, HE REFERRED ONCE AGAIN TO THE STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL ADVISORS KENDALL AND SETIK. HE CLAIMED THAT 80 PERCENT OF ALL THE LANDS IN MICRONESIA WERE HELD BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND IN HIS WORDS "STEPS HAVE NOT YET BEEN TAKEN TO RETURN THESE LANDS."

HE PLACED THE BLAME ON THE UNITED STATES FOR OPPOSING THE WISHES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. HE SAID THAT THIS MATTER HAS TAKEN TOO MUCH TIME AND THAT THE LAND SHOULD BE RETURNED.

MEKLESSA SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE THE TRUSTEESHIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES TO ADOPT ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS, A PLAN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE TRUST TERRITORY AND TO SEE TO IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THAT MICRONESIA ACHIEVES SELF-GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE.

MEKLESSA CONCLUDED BY SAYING IT WAS THE VIEW OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION THAT "DETENTE" HAS HELPED RELIEVE INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND CREATE FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERING SYSTEMS. AND THEREFORE ALL VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND POLICIES FOR THE FULL INDEPENDENCE OF COLONIAL PEOPLE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

DURING TUESDAY'S SESSION, NEW YORK TIME, AMBASSADOR WHITE OF THE UNITED STATES, HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, AND SPECIAL ADVISORS SETIK AND KENDALL OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL BE MAKING THEIR CLOSING STATEMENTS.

STILL TO BE CONSIDERED IS THE MATTER OF SENDING A UNITED NATIONS OBSERVATION TEAM TO THE MARIANAS TO OVERSEE THE PLEBISCITE ON JUNE 17.

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(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(GUERRERO DEMANDS FULL DISCLOSURE)

SAIPAN, JUNE 2 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO DEMANDED THE TRUST TERRITORY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE THIS WEEK TO MAKE "FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE" REGARDING NEWS REPORTS THAT IT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS JAMES WHEELER HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DISPENSARY CONTRACTOR, D.R.

SKINKAID, GIVING THE COMPANY FULL CONTRACT PRICE FOR ERECTING ONLY HALF OF THE 33 DISPENSARIES ORIGINALLY PROPOSED.

IN A LETTER TO TT ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD MIYAMOTO, GUERRERO SAID: "THIS REVELATION IS AMAZING AND WARRANTS A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITIES OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.

"SECRETING INFORMATION YOU WILL GATHER OR THAT IS NOW IN YOUR POSSESSION ONLY SERVES TO COVER UP THIS INCIDENT AND PROTECT PARTIES WHO MAY BE GUILTY OF WRONG DOING OR, AT LEAST, INCOMPETENCE," GUERRERO'S LETTER CONTINUED.

HE SAID "DEBACLES OF THIS MAGNITUDE WILL EFFECT THE FUTURE ABILITY OF THE TT GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN MUCH-NEEDED SPECIAL GRANT FUNDS FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS."

GUERRERO NOTED THAT IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., INFORMED DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL MAMORU NAKAMURA THAT FEDERAL FUNDS WOULD NOT PAY THE FULL COST OF THE CONTRACT IF ONLY HALF THE NUMBER OF DISPENSARIES ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

"IF THIS RESULTS," GUERRERO STATED, "THE TT GOVERNMENT OR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MAY BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE COST FOR THIS MISTAKE."

HE INDICATED THAT AT NO TIME WAS THE CONGRESS EVER INFORMED THAT THE CONTRACTOR WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT OR WAS THERE ANY MENTION OF THE "PROGRAM OR ITS DIFFICULTIES."

CONGRESSMAN GUERRERO CONCLUDED THAT A FULL REPORT PREPARED BY THE AG'S OFFICE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.