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CONTWELVE PASS INFO FOR AMB WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DOIA OSN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA FOR PAC, ISL, MONTHLY
(PALAU SEPARATION GIVEN "GO AHEAD" SIGNAL)

SAIPAN, FEB. 17 (KNS)---THE PALAU DELEGATION TO THE
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS BEEN GIVEN THE "GO AHEAD"
SIGNAL FROM THE PALAU LEGISLATURE ON THE SECESSION ISSUE.
LAST WEEK, THE PALAU LEGISLATORS MET IN A CLOSED
MEETING WITH PALAUAN RESIDENTS ON SAIPAN TO APPRAISE

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THEM OF THEIR MOVE TO SEPARATE PALAU DISTRICT FROM THE
OTHER DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. THOSE WHO ATTENDED THAT
MEETING VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO SUPPORT THE MOVE.
IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS
BE DISPATCHED TO PALAU TO INFORM THE PALAU LEGISLATURE
OF THE ACTION BEING TAKEN ON SAIPAN. SENATOR ROMAN
TMEIUCHL WAS ALSO ASKED TO CALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PALAU
LEGISLATURE FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

THAT SUPPORT CAME TUESDAY (FEB. 17) IN THE FORM OF
A TELEGRAM SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PALAU DELEGATION
TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ISIDORO RUDIMCH, THE SPEAKER
OF THE LEGISLATURE, SADANG SILKAT, SAID IN HIS MESSAGE
THAT THE MESSAGE AND EXPRESSION CONVEYED TO LEGISLATURE
BY CONGRESSMAN BASILIUS AND SENATOR OLIKONG WERE WELL
TAKEN AND HE IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF THEM AS WILL BE TOLD
TO YOU BY CONGRESSMAN BASILIUS.

"PALAU LEGISLATURE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF
SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THIS
LEGISLATURE WILL FOREVER BE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS POSITION.
PALAU LEGISLATURE AGAIN GIVES YOU ITS WORD AND PROMISES

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THAT IT WILL ALWAYS BACK YOU UP 100 PERCENT. DETAILED
LETTER WITH POSITION PAPER AND A COPY OF A RESOLUTION IN
SUPPORT OF SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE MAILED AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE."

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IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, PALAU CONGRESSMAN KUNIRO NAKAMURA WARNED OF THE IMMINENT SECESSION OF PALAU IF IT WAS NOT CHOSEN AS THE CAPITAL SITE FOR MICRONESIA. HE REPEATED THE OFFER MADE BY HIS DISTRICT OF FREE LAND AND PALAU'S PROXIMITY TO ASIA AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS WHICH PUT PALAU DISTRICT AS THE "GREATEST POTENTIAL" SITE FOR THE FUTURE CAPITAL.

THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES TODAY (FEB. 17) DEFERRED ACTION ON A BILL MAKING PONAPE DISTRICT THE PERMANENT SITE FOR THE CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

2 (HOUSE POSTPONES ACTION ON FUTURE CAPITAL SITE BILL)

SAIPAN, FEB. 17 (MNS)---THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TUESDAY (FEB. 17) POSTPONED ACTION ON A MEASURE WHICH WOULD DESIGNATE PALIKIR AREA IN PONAPE DISTRICT AS THE SITE OF THE PERMANENT CAPITAL

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OF MICRONESIA. AT THE SAME TIME, THE BILL WOULD PROVIDE \$200,000 FOR PERFORMING THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND MASTER PLANS NECESSARY FOR LOCATING THE PERMANENT CAPITAL. THE MEASURE WAS UP FOR FIRST READING. (SR 6-277). IT WAS APPROVED LAST WEEK BY THE SENATE.

ACCORDING TO ONE CONGRESSMAN, THE BILL WAS POSTPONED "INDEFINITELY."

THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEADED BY TRUK REP. RAYMOND SETIK, RECOMMENDED PASSAGE OF THE BILL BECAUSE IF THE SITE IS SELECTED DURING THIS SESSION, PRELIMINARY REQUESTS CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE U.S. CONGRESS IN MARCH FOR FUNDING THE ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING WORK.

SETIK'S COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THROUGH AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, HAD MADE A "FIRM COMMITMENT" TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO BUILD THE NEW CAPITAL. ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE, ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING WORK ALONE WILL COST BETWEEN ONE AND TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

REP. KUNIRO NAKAMURA OF PALAU, A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, SUBMITTED A MINORITY REPORT. HE SAID THAT THE

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DECISION ON THE RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL TO ANOTHER DISTRICT MUST BE MADE "PROPERLY." "WE ARE RUSHING INTO THIS MATTER AND MAKING A DECISION BASED ON OBSOLETE INFORMATION," NAKAMURA POINTED OUT.

THE REPORT MADE IN 1971 BY THE CONGRESS JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING WHICH RECOMMENDED PALIKIR AREA AS THE "MOST SUITABLE SITE" IS NOW "OUTDATED AND INADEQUATE," THE PALAU CONGRESSMAN MAINTAINED.

NAKAMURA RECOMMENDED THAT ACTION ON THE BILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL A NEW STUDY OF THE POSSIBLE SITES IS COMPLETED. FURTHER, THE DECISION TO MOVE THE CAPITAL "SHOULD NOT" BE MADE ONLY BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA BUT RATHER BY THE THREE BRANCHES OF THE TI GOVERNMENT, NAKAMURA SAID IN HIS REPORT.

NAKAMURA SAID THE CONGRESS SHOULD CREATE A "COMMISSION" COMPOSED OF MEMBERS FROM THE CONGRESS, AND THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES. THE COMMISSION WOULD MAKE AN "IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION" THAT WOULD NOT BE "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED..." NAKAMURA ADDED.

RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FROM EVERY DISTRICT

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BUT THE MARSHALLS, ASKING TO BE THE SITE OF THE FUTURE CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA. ALL OF THE RESOLUTIONS ARE STILL PENDING IN THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$25,000 FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK (HB 6-349) WAS APPROVED ON SECOND READING AND SENT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. FIVE MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST THE BILL. THEY WERE: REP. SASAUC HAROD AND CHIRU ALBERT OF TRUK; REPTO MOSES AND EDGAR EDWARDS OF PONAPE; AND JOHN MASLELGAM OF YAP.

THE BILL ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR \$1 MILLION TO BE USED FOR ROTH LOANS AND OPERATING EXPENSES. THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, CUT THAT DOWN TO \$25,000 BECAUSE "THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO PROVIDE

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THESE FUNDS AT THIS TIME."

"FURTHER, THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPAL TO TRANSFER THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND APPROPRIATED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS TO THE MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK," THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE INDICATED.

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INTELLIGENCE CENTER PACIFIC (IPAC)
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COMCBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
NAVFACENGCOMHQ ALEXANDRIA VA
CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

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FCOEA LGA KIRKLAND AFB NM
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AMEMB CANBERRA AS
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ACCORDING TO REP. RAYMOND SETIK, THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE OPERATING EXPENSES SHOULD BE "MORE THAN SUFFICIENT" TO LAST THE BANK UNTIL THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. MORE INFORMATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME ON THE STATUS OF THE TRANSFER OF THE EDLF ACCOUNTS AND A BETTER ASSESSMENT COULD BE MADE OF THE NEED TO FULLY FUND THE OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE BANK, THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT.

A JOINT RESOLUTION DERELECTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AT THE SATAWAN SUBDISTRICT CENTER AND SATAWAN HIGH SCHOOL (H.JR 6-15) WAS ADOPTED.

IN THE SENATE SESSION FOUR BILLS PASSED FINAL READING AND WERE SENT TO THE LOWER HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION. THE MEASURES WOULD: REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO SUBMIT A MONTHLY REPORT ON STATUS OF FUNDS TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND TO PROVIDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR PERSONS WHO MISUSE CONGRESSIONAL FUNDS (SB 6-330); PERMIT A PERSON TO BE CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTING CRIMES AND DECREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY TO WHICH A PERSON MAY BE SENTENCED FOR CONVICTED OF AN ATTEMPT TO ONE-HALF OF THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES TO WHICH A PERSON WHO ACTUALLY COMMITTED THE CRIME WOULD BE SUBJECT (SB 6-231), SD1); EXEMPT SEAMEN FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM (HB 6-157, HD1); AND AUTHORIZE THE LAND COMMISSION TO CORRECT ERRORS MADE IN THE CERTIFICATES OF TITLE TO LAND IT USES (SB 6-236, SD1).

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION, 6-85, REQUESTING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AMEND THE MICRONESIAN

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CLAIMS ACT OF 1971 TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS AND TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION, PERMITTING THE COMMISSION TO PROCESS CLAIMS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED OR WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTIVELY

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FILED WITH THE TT GOVERNMENT OR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF THE COMMISSION WAS ALSO ADOPTED IN THE SENATE.

(MARIANAS DELEGATION OFF TO WASHINGTON)

3 SAIPAN, FEB. 17 (MNS)--- A DELEGATION OF NINE MARIANAS POLITICAL LEADERS LEFT SAIPAN SUNDAY (FEB. 15) TO LOBBY FOR PASSAGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

THE SENATE HAS SCHEDULED ACTION ON A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT ON THURSDAY (FEB. 19), ACCORDING TO A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON SAIPAN.

EDWARD PANGFLINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, SAID THIS WEEK HE IS "VERY OPTIMISTIC" THAT THE SENATE WILL PASS THE COVENANT RESOLUTION.

IF THE SENATE PASSES IT, IT WILL GO A HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, SINCE THE SENATE DELETED A RIDER

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TO THE BILL ON WAR CLAIMS AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

THE RESOLUTION THEN WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO THE HOUSE FOR FINAL APPROVAL BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SIGNS IT.

A SECRETARIAL ORDER SEPARATING THE MARIANAS DISTRICT FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY AFTER THE PRESIDENT SIGNS THE COVENANT.

4 (HAWAII - TT DISTRICT SATELLITE EXCHANGE PLANNED)

SAIPAN, FEB. 17 (MNS)--- A DISCUSSION BETWEEN MICRONESIAN STUDENTS AT THE EAST-WEST CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, AND DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICIALS IN PONAPE AND PALAU IS PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISCUSSION FROM THE TWO DISTRICTS WILL BE "PATCHED IN" TO THE PEACESAT SATELLITE THROUGH THE SAIPAN TERMINAL LOCATED IN BROADCAST CENTER, CAPITOL HILL.

TAKING PART IN THE EXCHANGE FROM HONOLULU WILL BE DR. BURTON JANO OF PONAPE, AND, FROM PALAU, VIRGINIA WONG AND SALVADORE KATOSANG. PONAPE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, PAUL GALLEN, WILL BE SPEAKING FROM THAT DISTRICT. A SPEAKER FROM PALAU HAS NOT YET BEEN DESIGNATED.

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THE TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR SATURDAY'S EXCHANGE WILL BE DIRECTIONS IN CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING A MICRONESIAN STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

IF THIS FIRST "TEST" EXCHANGE WORKS OUT WELL, FUTURE EXCHANGES INVOLVING ALL SIX DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY ARE PLANNED, ACCORDING TO GEORGE CALLISON, SAIPAN TERMINAL MANAGER FOR PEACESAT. DETAILS OF THE EXCHANGES, INCLUDING PROPOSED TOPICS OF DISCUSSION, ARE BEING WORKED OUT BY FLOYD TAKEUCHI, A FELLOW AT THE EAST-WEST CENTER'S COMMUNICATIONS INSTITUTE.

A BRIEF TEST OF THE SYSTEM WAS HELD ON TUESDAY (FEB. 17) DURING WHICH CONVERSATIONS WERE SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT BETWEEN SAIPAN, PALAU, HONOLULU, AND THE COOK ISLANDS.

"ONLY THROUGH THE WILLING COOPERATION OF THE TT COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION IS THIS SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS POSSIBLE," CALLISON COMMENTED.

"THEIR TECHNICIANS HAVE INSTALLED THE PHONE PATCH EQUIPMENT, AND DIVISION CHIEF, VIC BORJA, HAS ARRANGED

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EVERYTHING SO THAT SUCCESS OF THE EXPERIMENT SEEMS ASSURED," HE ADDED.

"AT THE VERY LEAST, LINKING HAWAII WITH ONE OR MORE DISTRICT CENTERS OF THE TT, THROUGH A COMBINATION OF RADIO-TELEPHONE AND SATELLITE, PROMISES TO BE AN EXCITING COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIMENT FOR MICRONESIA," CALLISON CONCLUDED.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MANGEFEL SUBMITS TRANSITION REPORT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 17 (COM)---FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF THE MARIANAS TRANSITION REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES YESTERDAY, SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL TODAY (FEB. 17) PRESENTED TO THE SENATE THE SAME DOCUMENT CONTAINING THE BASIC AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS AD

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HOC COMMITTEE AND THE CONGRESS'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON
MARIANAS TRANSITION.

LIKE REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SPITK, SENATOR JOHN
MANGEFEL LISTED THE BASIC AGREEMENTS REACHED ON ISSUES NOW
HELD BY MARIANAS OR IT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES; MOVEMENT OF
GOODS BETWEEN DISTRICTS; CONTROL OVER THE HEADQUARTERS

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AMEMB CANBERRA AS
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CENTRAL REPAIR SHOP; CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976; U.S. GRANT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1976 AND 1977; THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARIANAS AND TT GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND PROCEDURES ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAWS CONCERNING THE TWO AREAS; AND LAND USE OF THE "CAPITAL DISTRICT".

SENATOR MANGEFEL NOTED THE TWO AREAS WHERE BOTH SIDES AGREED TO DISAGREE. THEY ARE ON TAXATION AND DIVISION OF FULF FUNDS. THESE TWO AREAS, ACCORDING TO

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MANGEFEL, REQUIRE MORE STUDY AND DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS.

IN BRIEF REMARKS PRESENTING THE REPORT, MANGEFEL SAID HE CANNOT PREFACE HIS REMARKS WITH THE USUAL PLEASANT PHRASES AS "IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE..." "I AM HONORED TO PRESENT..." OR "I AM DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE..." OR ANY OTHER COMBINATION. HE SAID HE IS "HAPPY", "DELIGHTED", OR "HONORED" TO PRESENT THE REPORT.

MANGEFEL SAID "IT IS PERHAPS MY UNFORTUNATE FORTUNE THAT UNHAPPILY I HAVE TO PRESENT TO THE SENATE A REPORT OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON MARIANAS TRANSITION."

THE YAP SENATOR SAID HIS "UNHAPPINESS" LIES NOT IN WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS; BUT RATHER "WHAT THE REPORT SIGNIFIES -- THE IDEA OF MOVING CLOSER TO THE DAY OF RECKONING -- THE DAY WHEN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT WILL NO LONGER BE A PART OF MICRONESIA."

"UNHAPPILY, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IS HAPPILY ALL I HAVE TO SAY," CONCLUDED MANGEFEL.

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(BILLS OFFERED ON TUESDAY, THE 37TH DAY OF COM SESSION)

SAIPAN, FEB. 17 (MNS)--THE FOLLOWING BILLS ARE OFFERED TUESDAY IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA: TO PROHIBIT NUNCITIZENS AND FOREIGN VESSELS

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TO ENGAGE IN COMMERCIAL FISHING WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL FISHERIES ZONE OF THE TT BY SEINING PROCESS, BY USE OF NETS OR OTHER NETTING CONTRIVANCES IN CATCHING OF TUNA AND SKIPJACK AND IMPOSE PENALTIES THEREFOR, (SB 6-358); TO EXTEND THE LAPSING DATE OF FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF NAVIGATION LIGHTS IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (SR 6-359); AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURE, (HB 6-531).

TEN APPROPRIATION BILLS WERE SUBMITTED. THEY WOULD APPROPRIATE \$110,000 TO DEFRAY THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES, (HB 6-534) (SR 6-361); \$40,000 TO COVER THE COSTS OF PROVIDING TRAINING OF 12 MICRONESIANS AT THE ASIAN VEGETABLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN TAIWAN, (HB 6-533) AND (SB 6-362); \$405,000 TO FUND A PAY INCREASE FOR SEAMEN EMPLOYED BY THE TT GOVERNMENT, (HB 6-536) AND (SR 6-364); \$95,000 TO REPAIR

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THE MS KAN ANNIM, (HB 6-535) AND (SB 6-360); \$60,000 TO ACQUIRE, REPAIR AND TOW A BARGE FROM PONAPE TO EBEYE TO BE USED AS A FLOATING DOCK, (HB 6-532) AND (SB 6-363).

THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE TO: REQUEST AIR MICRONESIA TO REVIEW AND REDUCE ITS TARIFFS IN THE TT (HJR 6-178); DIRECT THE HOUSE AND SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO INVESTIGATE THE COST OF WATER SERVICE IN MAJURO, (HJR 6-179); RESPECT OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF RESOURCES WITHIN THE MARINE SPACE OF MICRONESIA, (HJR 6-180); REQUEST THE HICOM TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS AND EQUIPMENT SUFFICIENT TO INCREASE THE POWER OUTPUT OF THE BROADCAST STATIONS IN THE MARSHALLS, YAP AND PALAU DISTRICTS TO ENABLE THEM TO REACH ALL INHABITED ISLANDS IN THOSE DISTRICTS, (SJR 6-92); REQUEST THE HICOM AND ALL DISTRICTS TO RELIEVE CURRENT ESG STAFF PERSONNEL OF THEIR NORMAL OFFICIAL DUTIES AND DETAIL SUCH PERSONNEL TO WORK FULL TIME ON THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE REFERENDUM ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA IS HELD (SJR 6-93); REQUEST THE HICOM TO GIVE POLITICAL

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EDUCATION THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRIORITY AND TO SEEK NEW FUNDS,
OR REPROGRAM EXISTING TT FUNDS TO CONDUCT POLITICAL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS, (SJR 6-95); EXPRESS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS
TO RELOCATE AND EXPAND THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA
AND REQUESTS THE U.S. CONGRESS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY, (SJR 6-96); REQUEST THE HICOM
TO UNDERTAKE A GENERAL REVIEW OF ALL FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR
WHICH THE TT IS ELIGIBLE TO DETERMINE IF FUNDS CAN BE
SECURED FROM ANY OF THESE SOURCES TO PROMOTE AND OTHERWISE
CARRY ON AN ACTIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE TT,
(SJR 6-97); REQUEST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE WAR
CLAIMS PAYMENT AND FURTHER REQUEST THE U.S. CONGRESS TO
APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO PAY CLAIMANTS IN FULL,
(SJR 6-98); AND ESTABLISH A TAX STUDY COMMISSION TO
RECOMMEND A TAX STRUCTURE TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTH CONGRESS,
(SJR 6-99).

(COM 5TH WEEK SUMMARY)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 17 (COM RELEASE)---TWO MAJOR ISSUES, -
MEASURE TO CREATE A MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE AND JOINT

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RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. SENATE TO TAKE "PROMPT AND
FAVORABLE" ACTION ON THE MARIANAS COVENANT DOMINATED THE
MEETINGS OF BOTH HOUSES LAST WEEK AS THE CONGRESS CONCLUDED ITS
FIFTH WEEK OF ITS CURRENT FIFTY-DAY SESSION.

THE FIRST MEASURE, A SENATE BILL, WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE
A "LIAISON" OFFICE BETWEEN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND OTHER FEDERAL
AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE SENATE GAVE BOTH ITS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL WITHOUT
MUCH DISCUSSION.

BUT WHEN THE MEASURE CAME TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION WAS POSTPONE ONCE WHEN REPRESENTATIVES
LAMBERT AAFIN OF TRUK OFFERED A MAJOR AMENDMENT. AAFIN
PROPOSED TO HAVE THE "LIAISON" OFFICER ELECTED AT A NATIONAL
ELECTION AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE

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IN WASHINGTON.

THE AAFIN AMENDMENT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE THE INTENTION OF THE MEASURE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THAT THE "LIAISON" OFFICER BE APPOINTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESTA.

AAFIN'S AMENDMENT SPARKED LIVELY DISCUSSION AMONGST MEMBERS WHEN THE MEASURE CAME UP FOR FINAL READING, WITH SOME MAINTAINING

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SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

PACNAVACENGCOR PEARL HARBOR HI
SAMTEL VANDENBERG AFB CA
FCDNA LGA KIRKLAND AFB NM
CDRUSAGO MAKIMINATO JAPAN//TIPI-LNO//
AMEMB CANBERRA AS
RUFHKO /AMEMB TOKYO JA
CDRBMBSCOM HUNTSVILLE AL//BMD SC-RO//
COMCOGARD MARSE GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS

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THE ORIGINAL INTENTION OF THE MEASURE WHILE OTHERS FEEL IT MUST BE DONE IN THE MANNER PROPOSED BY AAFIN.

SPEAKING AGAINST THE AAFIN AMENDMENT, CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK OF THE MARSHALLS SAID A "LIAISON OFFICER" DOESN'T REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR OR THE U.S. CONGRESS. HE CITED HIS DISTRICT'S EXPENDITURE ON TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON WHICH RUN AS HIGH AS \$70,000 A YEAR.

ANOTHER MEMBER, CONGRESSMAN LUKE TMAN OF YAP, SPOKE AGAINST THE AMENDMENT SAYING THAT IN 1968, CONGRESS TRIED TO SET UP AN

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OFFICE IN WASHINGTON WHICH WAS OBJECTED BY INTERIOR AND THE ADMINISTRATION. HE SAID THE CREATION OF SUCH AN OFFICE WOULD, IN HIS WORDS, "CIRCUMVENT" INTERIOR'S OBJECTION. HE INDICATED THAT IF THE AAFIN AMENDMENT IS INCLUDED IN THE MEASURE, THE HICOM WOULD REJECT THE BILL.

REP. AAFIN DEFENDED HIS PROPOSED AMENDMENT. HE SAID IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT A NATIONAL ELECTION IN MICRONESIA BE CONDUCTED. HE NOTED THAT THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WASN'T ABLE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE, AND ASKED: "WHY NOT GIVE THE PEOPLE A TRY?" THE PERSON ELECTED WOULD BE REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA INSTEAD OF JUST THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AAFIN SAID.

AFTER THE DISCUSSION, THE HOUSE VOTED TO APPROVE AAFIN'S AMENDMENT. AND BECAUSE THE MEASURE CAME FROM THE SENATE, IT HAD TO BE SENT BACK TO THE SENATE FOR THEIR CONCURRENCE.

LATER IN THE WEEK, THE SENATE CONSIDERED THE HOUSE AMENDMENT AND REJECTED IT.

SENATOR BAILEY OLTER OF PONAPE, WHOSE COMMITTEE (WAYS AND MEANS) STUDIED THE MEASURE SAID: "THE WHOLE IDEA WAS TO HAVE SOMEBODY IN WASHINGTON WHO WOULD REPRESENT THE CONGRESS OF

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MICRONESIA AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE."

"THERE IS NO INDIVIDUAL MICRONESIAN WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE. SUCH A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WASHINGTON OFFICE SHOULD NOT BE ELECTED

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AT THIS TIME," OLTER POINTED OUT.

TRUK'S SENATOR NICK BOSSY HAD A DIFFERENT VIEW AND SUPPORTED REP. AAFIN'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT. HE SAID IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT "WE TEST OUR DESIRE FOR MICRONESIAN UNITY" BY CONDUCTING A NATIONAL ELECTION THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA."

IN VIEW OF THE CONTROVERSY OVER WHETHER MICRONESIA SHOULD HAVE AN APPOINTED "LIAISON" OFFICER IN WASHINGTON OR WHETHER SUCH A PERSON OUGHT TO BE ELECTED AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN A NATIONAL ELECTION, THE MEASURE HAD TO BE ASSIGNED TO A SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. THE SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIST OF MEMBERS FROM BOTH HOUSES WHOSE JOB WILL BE TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO VERSIONS OF THE MEASURE.

THE CONGRESS, LAST WEEK, ADOPTED A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. SENATE TO TAKE "PROMPT AND FAVORABLE" ACTION ON THE MARIANAS COVENANT. THE MEASURE WAS APPROVED IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, BUT NOT WITHOUT

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OPPOSITION.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE MEMBERS HAD A HEALTHY DISCUSSION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION. SOME MEMBERS INDICATED THAT IN THE PAST, THE CONGRESS WAS TOLD NOT TO "MEDDLE" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE MARIANAS. SOME SAY IT IS HOPELESS FOR CONGRESS TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE DESIRE OF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE, WHILE MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES PLEADED FOR THE ADOPTION OF SUCH A RESOLUTION.

FLOOR LEADER LUKE TMAN, AN ADVOCATE OF MICRONESIAN SOLIDARITY, SPOKE AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF SUCH A RESOLUTION. HE SAID:

"WHILE THE PEOPLE OF YAP RESPECT THE DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO SEEK A SEPARATE STATUS FROM THE REST OF MICRONESIA, WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE A PART OF THAT DECISION MAKING PROCESS FOR SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS.

TMAN NOTED THAT THE MARIANAS DECIDED TO HOLD SEPARATE TALKS WITH THE U.S. WITH NUMEROUS ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS FROM ITS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TELLING CONGRESS THAT "WE HAD NO BUSINESS TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR NEGOTIATIONS..." HE DECLARED:

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"IT WOULD SEEM QUITE PARADOXICAL AT THIS POINT IN TIME FOR THIS CONGRESS TO ENDORSE THE PASSAGE OF THIS COVENANT."

PALAU'S CONGRESSMAN ISIDORO RUDIMCH ALSO SPOKE AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION. HE SAID:

"THE MOVEMENT THAT THE MARIANAS HAD CHOSEN ALMOST KNOCKED OUT THE LIGHT OF HOPE OF UNITY FOR MICRONESIA. THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE HAD 'CONDEMNED' THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR INJECTING ITSELF INTO THE ISSUES OF THE COVENANT."

HE SAID THE CONGRESS "SHOULD REFRAIN AT THIS POINT FROM SAYING WHETHER IT (CONGRESS) IS FOR OR AGAINST THE COVENANT." HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN SILENT ON THE ISSUE. "IT MUST RETAIN THAT SILENCE."

RUDIM'S PALAU COLLEAGUE, REP. KUINIWO NAKAMURA HAD A DIFFERENT VIEW AND SUPPORTED THE RESOLUTION. HE SAID THE MAJORITY OF THE PALAU DELEGATION ENDORSES THE MOVEMENT OF THE MARIANAS. HE DECLARED:

"ANY ACTION ON THE PART OF THE CONGRESS AT THIS TIME TO TRY TO KEEP THE MARIANAS FROM THE REST OF THE DISTRICTS WILL BE MEANINGLESS. WE SHOULD GIVE THEM SUPPORT. WE HAVE BEEN SILENT. AND SILENCE MEANS CONCURRENCE."

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MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES OSCAR RASA AND HERMAN R. GUERRERO ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION. THEY SAID THE MARIANAS NEEDS THE BLESSINGS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND ANY SUPPORT FROM IT (COM) WOULD BE "HIGHLY APPRECIATED AND COMMENDED" BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS.

FOLLOWING A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, THE HOUSE ADOPTED THE JOINT RESOLUTION AND SENT IT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

WHEN THE RESOLUTION CAME TO THE FLOOR FOR ACTION, THE SENATE WANTED IT FILED IN FAVOR OF THEIR VERSION. BUT AFTER A BRIEF DEBATE, IT ADOPTED THE HOUSE VERSION.

AS THE CONGRESS ENTERED ITS THIRD TO THE LAST WEEK OF THE CURRENT SESSION, COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN BUSY HOLDING HEARINGS ON IMPORTANT MEASURES. THE SENATE, IN AN EFFORT TO TAKE CARE

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OF BUSINESS EARLY IN THE SESSION, HAS BEGUN MEETIN TWICE
A DAY, ONCE IN THE MORNING AND LATER IN THE AFTERNOON. IN
BOTH HOUSES, MEASURES UP FOR FINAL READING HAVE INCREASED,
AND FINALLY, LAST WEEK SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP
DELIVERED BRIEF REMARKS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CURRENT SESSION.
MANGEFEL NOTED THAT IN THE PAST YEARS, SOME SESSIONS WERE

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P 170905Z FEB 75 ZNZ-1
FM HICOMTERPACTS SAIPAN MARIANA ISLANDS
TO ALDISTADS TERPACIS
TT LNO GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
TT LNO KWAJALEIN MARSHALL ISLANDS
COMNAVMARIANAS GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
CINCPACREP GUAM/TIPI GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
INTELLIGENCE CENTER PACIFIC (IPAC)
NAVINSERVO GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS

COMTWELVE SAN FRANCISCO CA
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
JCS WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CGEMFPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI
COMCBPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
NAVFACENSGUONH ALEXANDRIA VA
CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI

PACNAVFACENSGOM PEARL HARBOR HI
SAMTEC VANDENBERG AFB CA
FCDNA LGA KIRKLAND AFB NM
CURUSAGO MAKHTINATO JAPAN//TTPT-1AR//
AMEMB CANBERRA AS
RUEHKO /AMEMB TOKYO JA
CURBHMSCOM HUNTSVILLE AL//BMD SCORD//
COMCOGARD PARSF GUAM MARIANA ISLANDS

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GIVEN NAMES, LIKE "SUMMER OF DEFECTION" OR "SUMMER OF DISSENT," AND HE SAID HE WAS THINKING OF NAMING THE CURRENT SESSION "SPRING OF HARD WORK."

THE YAP SENATOR SAID THAT AFTER COMPARING THE PROGRESS OF THE CURRENT SESSION WITH PAST SESSIONS, "IN ALL HONESTY" HE WAS FORCED TO MAKE THE CURRENT SESSION THE "SPRING OF DO-NOTHING."

SENATOR WANGFEL, NOTED FOR HIS ABILITY TO TEMPER EVEN THE MOST HEATED DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDED: "THIS IS THE END OF

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MY SPEECH. MAY I REQUEST THAT WE DO NOT CLAP FOR THERE IS NOTHING TO CLAP ABOUT.'

DESPITE HIS REQUEST, HOWEVER, THERE WAS A LOUD ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE AND THE SENATE MEMBERS. AND PERHAPS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS REMARKS AS NOTED BY FLOOR LEADER AMBILUS TENST, THE SENATE DECIDED TO RECONVENE AT 5 P.M. THAT EVENING.

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