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CONGRESS COMPLETES ACTION ON MARIANAS COVENANT)
WASHINGTON, MARCH 12 (MNS) ---THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 12, SAIPAN
TIME, VOTED TO APPROVE THE SENATE VARSION OF THE MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH COVENANT, ACCORDING TO WORD RECEIVED ON
SAIPAN. THE HOUSE ACTION COMPLETES LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL
OF THE COVENANT.

THE MARIANAS COMMONHEALTH COVENANT JOINT RESOLUTION NOW GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. IT REMAINS FOR A MINIMUM OF FIVE WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT SIGNS IT.

PRESENTLY, THERE ARE NINE MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON TO WITNESS THE SIGNING OF THE COVENANT, THEY ARE: SEN. PEDRO TENORIO, EDWARD PANGELINAN, VICENTE N. SANTOS, SANTIAGO MAGOFNA, MANUEL SABLAN, JOSE R. CRUZ, BENJAMIN MANGLONA, MANUEL MUNA, AND DANIEL MUNA.

AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT POLITICAL LEADERS ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE NEXT WEEK FOR WASHINGTON. THEY WILL REPRESENT THE FOLLOWING BODIES: ONE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA; ONE FROM THE MARIANAS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA; THREE FROM THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA.

(SALII, SILK REPLY TO AMB. WILLIAMS)
SAIPAN, MARCH 12 (MNS)---THE FOLLOWING IS A RESPONSE
TO U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS! LETTER OF
MARCH 8, FROM SEN. LAZARUS SALII AND REP. EKPAP SILK,
CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
JOINT COMMITTEE ON FURURE STATUS.

"THE JOINT COMMITTEE REGRETS THAT THE O'S. HAS CONCLUDED THAT FREE ASSOCIATION AS ENVISAGED BY THE COMPACT IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATUS CALLED FOR BY THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

"WHILE THE CONSTITUTION MAY BE INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR INTERPRETATION OF FREE ASSICIATION, IT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OURS, OR WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS AS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE AT HANA, KOROR, BARBER'S POINT, AND HONOLULU, FURTHER, IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT THE AGREEMENT WHICH EMBODIES OUR FUTURE

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RELATIONSHIP SHOULD SPEAK FOR ITSELF. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PRECONCEIVED DEFINITIONS AS TO THE NATURE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP.

PRAGMATIC APPROACH. SINCE THE KOROR TALKS, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE; HE HOPE THAT YOUR POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. I AM CERTAIN THAT WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES, HE CAN PRESERVE MOST OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN MADE BY US AND AMEND THE EXISTING DRAFT AGREEMENT TO DEFINE OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP.

"WE ARE ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER LETTER DID NOT INCLUDED YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND COMPACT, AS YOU INDICATED IN YOUR EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE, OR YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR PROPOSALS AND OUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, WHICH WE PROVIDED TO YOU IN GOOD FAITH IN THE BELIEF THAT AN EARLY EXCHANG OF POSITION PAPERS WOULD FACILITATE PROGRESS AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN US. IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, YOUR COMMENTS ON OUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, AND YOUR CONCERETE PROPOSALS, WE FEAR THAT THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN US WILL RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE WASTE OF TIME OF BOTH SIDES.

"FINALLY, LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE HAVE BEEN READY TO MEET WITH YOU SINCE NOVEMBER OF 1975, JUST AS THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMPLETED ITS WORK. WE PROPOSED A MEETING DURING THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHEN THE AVAILABILITY OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND THE FULL JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE FACILITATED OUR PROGRESS. WITHOUT THE UNNECESSARY EXPENSE INVOLVED IN AN AFTER-SESSION MEETING.

"UNFORTUNATELY, ANY SUCH MEETING WAS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO YOUR OTHER PRIORITY COMMITMENTS. WE NOW REITERATE THAT WE ARE READY TO MEET WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR PROVIDING US WITH YOUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, COMMENTS ON OUR CROSS-ANALYSIS, AND RESPONSES TO THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN OUR PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPACT. WE SUGGEST THAT SUCH A MEETING BE HELD IN SAIPAN, AS SOON

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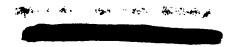
AS POSSIBLE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR EARLY REPLY."
(UN VISITING MISSION IN PALAU)

KUROR, MARCH 12 (MNS) --- THE 1976 UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION, HEADED BY MR. JAMES MURRAY CHAIRMAN, FROM UNITED KINGDOM ARRIVED IN PALAU WEDNESDAY (MARCH 12) AND WAS MET BY PALAUAN DIGNITATIES INCLUDING THE PALAU DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, THOMAS O. REMENGESAU AND SOME OF HIS KEY STAFF MEMBERS, HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL AND REKLAI TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER PALAU HIGH CHIEFS, MEMBERS OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE AND PALAU JUDICIARY?

THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION HAD LUNCH WITH PALAUAN DIGNITARIES HOSTED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR AT THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL WHERE THEIR ITINERARY WAS FINALIZED TO ACCOMODATE THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION. BEING TIRED FROM A RATHER LONG JOURNEY, THE MISSION SPENT THE WHOLE AFTERNOON RELAXING AT PALAU'S FAMOUS ROCK ISLANDS, AND LATER ATTENDED A DINNER RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, PALAU LEGISLATURE, THE JUDICIARY AND THE PEOPLE OF PALAU DURING THE EVENING.

THE MISSION'S FIRST MEETING WAS WITH THE PALAU TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND ELECTED MAGISTRATES OF EACH MUNICIPALITY IN PALAU DISTRICT, WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE ON-GOING MAGISTRATE'S CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN KOROR.

THE DISCUSSION ON PALAU'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS DOMINATED THE MEETING'S ACTIVITIES FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS. DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE



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TOR: 1214543 MAR 76

MICRUNESIA. AS INDICATED IN AMBASSADOR'S LETTER DATED MARCH 6. 1970 TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. CHAIRMAN MURRAY FURTHER NOTED THAT THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WILL DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF MICRONESIAN UNITY WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. REGARDLESS OF THE DESIRES OF THE PALAUAN LEADERS TO BE

REGARDLESS OF THE DESIRES OF THE PALAUAN LEADERS TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE REST OF THE FIVE DISTRICTS, IT HAS CLEARLY SHUWN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE MISSION THAT THE BEST POLICY FOR MICRONESIA IS TO HAVE THE FIVE REMAINING DISTRICTS UNITED AS ONE POLITICAL ENTITY. THIS PROMPTED A REQUEST FROM HIGH CHIEF, IBEDUL YUTAKA GIBBON, IN WHICH HE ASKED, "I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THIS MISSION TO SEE TO IT THAT THE DOOR WILL STAY OPEN, AS IT WAS FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, FOR THOSE DISTRICTS WHO MAY WISH TO SEEK A SEPARATE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS WITH THE UNITED STATES."

THE MISSION WILL MEET WITH ALL HIGH SCHOOLS STUDENTS, MEMBERS OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE AND THE SAVE PALAU ORGANIZATION FRIDAY AFTERNOON (MARCH 12). IT IS NOTED IN THE ITINERARY THAT THE MISSION WILL DIVIDE INTO TWO GROUPS AND VISIT THE WEST COAST AND EAST COAST OF BABELTHUAP SIMULTANEOUSLY ON SATURDAY (MARCH 13). ON SUNDAY (MARCH 14) THE GROUP WILL UNITE AGAIN AND TRAVEL TO ANGUAR AND PELELIU. THIS IS A PART OF THE MISSION TORU TO VISIT VARIOUS VILLAGES AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT PALAU. (JUDGE KABUA ACQUITTED)

SAIPAN, MARCH 12 (MNS)---KABUA KABUA, A PARAMOUNT CHIEF OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT COURT, WAS ACQUITTED WEDNESDAY (MARCH 10) OF INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER IN THE SEPTEMBER DEATH OF HIS WIFE.

TRUST TERRITORY ASSOCIATE JUSTIC ARVIN H. BROWN MADE THE RULING AFTER A WEEK-LONG TRIAL, ACCORDING TO FRIDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

KIYOKO KABUA, 44, ALLEGEDLY WAS ASSUALTED DURING A DOMESTIC ARGUMENT SEPTEMBER 19 ON KWAJALEIN AND SHE DIED IN TRIPLER MILITARY HOSPITAL IN HONOLULU SEPTEMBER 24 OF CEREBRAL HEMMORHAGE DUE TO TRAUMA, THE DAILY NEWS STORY STATED.

KABUA REPORTEDLY TOOK HIS WIFE TO THE KWAJALEIN NAVAL HOSPITAL THE MORNING AFTER THEIR ARGUMENT. HERE SHE REMAINED FOR THREE DAYS BEFORE BEING FLOWN TO HAWAII.

Secretary to the second