

(PALAU TO SEEK COMMONWEALTH STATUS?)

YORO, APRIL 27 (MNS) <sup>Palau</sup> ~~THREE~~ THREE KEY MEMBERS OF THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE HAVE INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION THIS WEEK SEEKING SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS ON PALAU'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS BASED UPON AN AGREEMENT "SIMILAR IN NATURE TO THE COVENANT OF THE COMMONWEALTH BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NORTHERN MARIANAS."

THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED BY LEGISLATORS JOHN O. NGIRAKED, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PALAU DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; VICE-SPEAKER JOSHUA KOSHIBA AND FLOOR LEADER JOHNSON TORIBIONG.

THE RESOLUTION DECLARES THAT "IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTESHIP AGREEMENT AND THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MICRONESIA, THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS HAS BECOME PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST CRUCIAL QUESTION FACING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PALAU DISTRICT AND MICRONESIA AS A WHOLE..."

THE RESOLUTION CHARGES THAT OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF PALAU DISTRICT HAVE "LOST THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE PRACTICAL ABILITY OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT THE INTERESTS AND POLITICAL ASPIRATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PALAU DISTRICT IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

THE RESOLUTION NOTED THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR A "UNITED MICRONESIA" AS ENVISIONED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION HAVE GROWN MORE AND MORE "DISMAL, AND THE TREND APPEARS TO BE IRREVERSABLE, IN LIGHT OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE APPARENT STALEMATE INTO WHICH THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FALLEN, THE FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION... AND THE FUNDAMENTAL CONFLICT BETWEEN SAID DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THE PRINCIPLES OF LOOSE FEDERATION WHICH CONSTITUTE THE BASIC POLITICAL POSITION OF THE PEOPLE OF PALAU DISTRICT WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA, AS EXPRESSED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THIS LEGISLATURE AND THIS DISTRICT DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION."

THE RESOLUTION ~~POINTED OUT THAT THE POLITICAL~~ CIRCUMSTANCES IN MICRONESIA TODAY OFFER "NO OTHER PROMISING RECOURSE" FOR THE PEOPLE OF PALAU BUT TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES THEIR OWN POLITICAL STATUS.

IN REVIEWING THE PAST POLITICAL EVENTS THAT HAVE LED TO THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN MICRONESIA, THE RESOLUTION STATES THAT IT APPEARS THAT THE ONLY FEASIBLE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS PROSPECT WHICH OFFERS A PROMISE OF PROGRESS AND ADVANCEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF PALAU DISTRICT AT THIS POINT IS A CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES SIMILAR IN NATURE TO THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

THE RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THE U. S. GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PALAU POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF "ESTABLISHING A CLOSE ASSOCIATION" BETWEEN PALAU AND THE U. S.

THE RESOLUTION IS A BI-PARTISAN MEASURE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES.

(SUPERPORT COMPLEX APPROVED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 27 (MNS)---THE PALAU LEGISLATURE LAST WEEK ~~OVERWHELMINGLY~~ APPROVED A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE SUPERPORT CONCEPT FOR PALAU.

PALAU LEGISLATURE RESOLUTION NO. 675 CALLS UPON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTION, AND EXECUTION OF PLANS TO BUILD AN "ENERGY-INDUSTRY-COMPLEX" TO BE LOCATED IN PALAU DISTRICT. THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY A VOTE OF 21 TO 4, AND A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION WAS PERSONALLY DELIVERED LAST WEEK TO DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS FRED ZEDER ON SAIPAN BY A DELEGATION FROM THE PALAU LEGISLATURE.

(IMPORT TAX RESOLUTION THROWN BACK TO COMMITTEE)

SAIPAN, APRIL 27 (MNS)---A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE MARIANAS LEGISLATURE'S "DISSATISFACTION" OVER A SECTION IN THE SECRETARIAA ORDER WHICH PROVIDES THAT 50 PERCENT OF THE IMPORT TAXES COLLECTED IN THE MARIANAS WILL REMAIN WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FOR EXPENDITURE BY THAT BODY WAS SENT BACK TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE MONDAY (APRIL 26) AFTER HEATED DEBATE AMONG THE MEMBERS.

SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE "USELESS" OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AS IT IS. HE URGED THAT THE LEGISLATURE BE MORE "DIPLOMATIC" WHEN ASKING THAT THE 50 PERCENT MARIANAS-GENERATED REVENUE BE SENT BACK TO THE MARIANAS.

SENATOR DANNY T. MUNA, AUTHOR OF THE RESOLUTION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION, LED THE GROUP OPPOSING RECOMMITTING THE RESOLUTION BACK TO HIS COMMITTEE. HE ADDED THAT THIS IS ONE WAY TO SHOW THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT THAT THEY ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE 50 PERCENT IMPORT TAX DECISION. "LET'S QUIT BEATING AROUND THE BUSH IF WE WANT TO TELL MR. ZEDER THAT WE ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE 50 PERCENT REVENUE DIVISION. LET'S TELL HIM HERE AND NOW." HIS COMMENTS DREW SUPPORT FROM SENATOR OSCAR RASA, WHO ASKED THAT THE LEGISLATURE TAKE A POSITION ON THE ISSUE.

LAST WEEK THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS FRED M. ZEDER AND HIS AIDE JIM BERG, DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTED THAT THE LEGISLATURE "NOT PASS" THE RESOLUTION BECAUSE THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO THE ISSUE. PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION, ZEDER TOLD THE LEGISLATURE, WOULD BE "AN ACT OF FUTILITY" ADDING THAT THE LEGISLATURE "SHOULD AVOID CONFLICT" WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

ZEDER FURTHER SAID THAT HE DOES NOT "BELIEVE THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT WOULD CHANGE ITS POSITION."

THE RESOLUTION EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSED AGAIN ON THURSDAY (APRIL 29) OF THIS WEEK.

(JAPANESE WOMEN'S COLLEGE OFFER SCHOLARSHIP FOR IT STUDENTS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 27 (MNS)---THE SHIKOKU WOMEN'S COLLEGE IN JAPAN HAS MADE A FORMAL OFFER TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOUR FEMALE MICRONESIAN STUDENTS BEGINNING IN OCTOBER 1976, ACCORDING TO WORK RECEIVED ON SAIPAN FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO.

THE COLLEGE IS A FAIRLY LARGE AND WELL-REGARDED INSTITUTION LOCATED IN TOKUSHIMA CITY ON THE ISLANDS OF SHIKOKU. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY SPOKESMAN, THE SCHOLARSHIP OFFER WAS EXTENDED BY THE COLLEGE UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF DAISUKE AKITA, VICE-SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE OF DIET WHO VISITED VARIOUS MICRONESIAN DISTRICT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE COLLEGE PROPOSES THAT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BE SELECTED BY THE JAPANESE CONSULATE GENERAL HEADQUARTERED ON GUAM. IT REQUIRES THAT THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS BE AT LEAST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND BE TO SOME EXTENT PROFICIENT IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

ACCORDING TO THE OFFER, THE STUDENTS WOULD INITIALLY BE ADMITTED AS AUDITORS AND, AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ONE SEMESTER'S STUDY, WOULD CONTINUE AS REGULAR JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR TWO YEARS.

THE INSTITUTION WILL BEAR FULL TUITION AND FEES TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY \$1,167 FOR EACH STUDENT PLUS \$33 DOLLARS MONTHLY ALLOWANCE. THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT WILL NEED TO PAY \$700 PER YEAR SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPORT.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY URGED IT EDUCATION OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FURTHER WITH THE JAPANESE CONSULATE GENERAL. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE SCHOLARSHIP OFFER WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AS SOON AS THE PLANS ARE FINALIZED.

(YAP LEGISLATURE CONVENES)

COLONIA, APRIL 27 (MNS)---THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE FOURTH YAP DISTRICT LEGISLATURE CONVENED MONDAY MORNING (APRIL 26) AT 10 A.M. FOR A 30-DAY SESSION, REPORTED WILLIE GORONGFEL, YAP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER. GORONGFEL REPORTED THAT THE LEGISLATURE QUICKLY ADOPTED TWO RESOLUTIONS: ONW APPOINTING SUS GUWAATHAG AS SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND THE OTHER NAMING CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ATTORNEY DANA SMITH AS A TEMPORARY LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL.

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR TO PLACE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1977 BUDGET THE SUM OF \$100,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DOCK FUEL AND WATER TANK AND OTHER RELATED FACILITIES ON WOLEAI ATOLL AND TO MAKE OTHER BUDGETARY ALLOWANCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ATOLL AS A SUBDISTRICT CENTER WAS THE ONLY MEASURE INTRODUCED MONDAY MORNING. THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED BY LEGISLATOR WILLIAM YAGMAI WHO IS REPRESENTING WOLEAI ATOLL IN THE LEGISLATURE.

YAP DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR EDMUND GILMAR IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER HIS "STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE" AT A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

(NOTE TO ALL EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: PLEASE TREAT THE FOLLOWING ITEM AS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR USE THROUGH FRIDAY, MAY 7)

(HUD TO ACCEPT 50 TT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 27 (MNS)---WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT THAT INTERESTED PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE PARTIES MAY SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIFTY UNITS OF HOUSING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY UNDER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS SECTION 8 HOUSING ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM.

PROPOSALS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY PRIVATE OWNERS OR PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY (PHA) OWNERS BY PHAS IN COMBINATION WITH PRIVATE OWNERS FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS NOT EXCEEDING A TOTAL OF 50 UNITS. THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS: MARIANAS - 20 UNITS, PALAU - 10 UNITS, TRUK 5 UNITS, PONAPE - 10 UNITS, MASHALLS - 5 UNITS.

PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE HONOLULU INSURING OFFICE BY 2:00 P.M. ON MAY 26, 1976. THE ADDRESS IS: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, P.O. BOX 3377, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801.

DETAILED INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN A DEVELOPER'S PACKET WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION LOCATED IN SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MR. WILLIAM ALLEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION, TELEPHONE NUMBER 9335 OR 9328."