

(JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---THE FOLLOWING IS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE EIGHTH ROUND OF THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS HEADED BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN, (JCFS) AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION, HEADED BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS.

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND ITS JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS MET WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS ON SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, ON MAY 28 THROUGH JUNE 1, 1976. ON JUNE 2, 1976, THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS MET IN PLENARY SESSION. THE WORKING SESSIONS AND THE PLENARY SESSION CONSTITUTED THE EIGHTH ROUND OF TALKS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE CAROLINE AND THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND ITS JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS REAFFIRMED THEIR POSITION THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PROCEED TOWARD THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S DESIRED OBJECTIVE, A COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND A FUTURE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA. IN WORKING SESSIONS, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA-JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS LEADERSHIP AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE REVIEWED THE OCTOBER 1974 DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. SUGGESTED ALTERATIONS TO THAT DRAFT WERE THEN PRESENTED TO THE FULL JCFS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. THROUGHOUT THIS REVIEW PROCESS, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND ITS JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS REPORTED TO THE FULL JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE NEW COMMISSION ON FUTURE STATUS AND TRANSITION, AND ALSO CONSULTED WITH SEVERAL LEADERS FROM THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS AND MICRONESIAN MEMBERS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION.

DURING THIS REVIEW PROCESS BOTH SIDES CONFIRMED OLD UNDERSTANDINGS AND REACHED NEW UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. THESE AGREEMENTS CONFIRMED THAT:

- SOVEREIGNTY RESIDES IN THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.
- THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAVE THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.
- THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WILL GOVERN THEMSELVES UNDER THEIR OWN LAWS AND UNDER THEIR OWN ELECTED GOVERNMENT. THAT GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND AUTHORITY OVER THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MICRONESIA. THAT ALL LAND IN MICRONESIA BELONGS TO AND IS TO BE CONTROLLED BY MICRONESIANS.
- THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, THROUGH AN EXERCISE OF THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, WILL VEST IN THE UNITED STATES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND AUTHORITY OVER THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MATTERS OF MICRONESIA.
- THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EXISTED AND CONTINUES TO EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.
- THE CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA WILL BE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGES OF A NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THEM FREEDOM OF TRAVEL, RESIDENCE, AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.
- THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MICRONESIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING CLOSE AND REGULAR CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MICRONESIA WILL HAVE A SIMILAR RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
- DISPUTES RELATING TO THE INTERPRETATION OR APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPACT WILL BE RESOLVED BY GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS AND IF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT RESULT IN A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, THE MATTER MAY BE SUBMITTED TO EITHER THE UNITED STATES' COURTS OR TO ARBITRATION FOR RESOLUTION.

- THE COMPACT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN A PLEBISCITE SO THAT THEY CAN EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THAT THE COMPACT WILL BE APPROVED BY MICRONESIA IF AT LEAST 55 PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING IN THE PLEBISCITE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE COMPACT, INCLUDING A MAJORITY IN AT LEAST FOUR OF THE SIX STATES OF MICRONESIA.

- THE COMPACT MAY BE AMENDED OR TERMINATED AT ANY TIME BY MUTUAL CONSENT. THAT AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS FOLLOWING ITS ENTRY INTO FORCE, THE COMPACT MAY ALSO BE TERMINATED UNILATERALLY BY EITHER PARTY. AFTER THAT PERIOD OF TIME, THE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA MAY TERMINATE THE COMPACT UNILATERALLY IF A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAS BEEN TAKEN IN WHICH AT LEAST 55 PERCENT OF THE VOTE SHALL FAVOR TERMINATION IN AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF THE STATES OF MICRONESIA.

ONLY ONE SINGLE AREA REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE COMPACT IS PUT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND SUBMITTED TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN A PLEBISCITE. THIS ONE AND ONLY AREA IS AN IMPORTANT ONE TO BOTH MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES. MICRONESIA'S GREAT AND LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING MICRONESIAN OCEAN RESOURCES FOR THE FULL ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IS RECOGNIZED AND SHARED BY THE UNITED STATES. LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS OF COURSE HAVE GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE AND THE UNITED STATES HAS WORLD-WIDE INTERESTS WHICH ALSO MUST BE KEPT IN MIND.

THE TALKS RELATING TO MICRONESIA'S MARINE RESOURCES AND THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WERE HIGHLY USEFUL. AREAS IN NEED OF FURTHER EXPLORATION WERE IDENTIFIED AND ARE BEING GIVEN IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT FURTHER EXCHANGES BETWEEN EXPERTS REPRESENTING BOTH PARTIES ON THIS COMPLEX MATTER WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE AGREEMENTS REACHED WERE PUBLICLY CONFIRMED IN A PLENARY SESSION AT WHICH TIME THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FORMALLY REVIEWED THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND INDICATED THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE COMPACT'S LANGUAGE BY INITIALLING EACH OF THE COMPACT'S TWELVE TITLES AND THREE ANNEXES.

BOTH DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THESE TALKS WERE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN ARRIVING AT FULL AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR A FUTURE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CLOSE AND ENDURING RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD THE RESOLUTION OF MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, AFTER MANY YEARS OF HARD WORK, NOW IS IN SIGHT.

(JOHNSTON ADDRESSES MOC GRADUATES)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS) --- "THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER (MOC) IS TRULY AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF WHICH WE CAN ALL BE VERY PROUD. ITS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT IN ITS SEVEN YEARS OF OPERATION IS AN OUTSTANDING ONE IN EVERY RESPECT."

THOSE WERE THE WORDS OF TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON IN ADDRESSING THE 1976 SPRING GRADUATES OF MOC ON TUESDAY, (JUNE 1) IN KOROR.

HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON NOTED THAT AN UPDATED STUDY OF MOC REVEALED THAT OF THE 495 GRADUATES FROM ALL SIX DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA ALMOST 76 PERCENT OF THOSE AVAILABLE FOR WORK WERE EMPLOYED AND TRAINED IN A RELATED FIELD. HE SAID THIS IS A RECORD OF WHICH ANY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ANYWHERE COULD BE PROUD, BUT, HE ADDED, "WE MUST LOOK BEYOND THIS RECORD INTO THE FUTURE --- THE PERIOD IN TIME WHICH IS OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS 1976 GRADUATING CLASS."

JOHNSTON REMINDED THE GRADUATES THAT 196 OF THOSE WHO GRADUATED EARLIER HAVE FOUND JOBS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT -- BY FAR THE LARGEST SINGLE EMPLOYER OF MOC GRADUATES. "THIS IS FINE," JOHNSTON POINTED OUT, "BUT THE LOGICAL QUESTION IS CAN OR WILL THIS TREND CONTINUE? THE ANSWER IS A VERY EMPHATIC NO."

THE IT HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS THESE PAST FEW MONTHS, AS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE IT ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE DISCUSSED THE FIRST DRAFT SUGGESTION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MICRONESIA THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF IT EMPLOYEES MUST BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. "INCREASED EFFORT" MUST BE DEVOTED TO DEVELOPING MORE JOB-CREATING BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE ADDED.

JOHNSTON, WHO WILL BE LEAVING THIS MONTH FOR HIS NEW POST AT PATA, ALSO SAID THAT THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE DONE TOWARD BUILDING A VIABLE PRIVATE ECONOMY WHICH CAN SUPPORT EVEN A "REDUCED-SIZE" GOVERNMENT IN THE POST TRUSTEESHIP ERA.

"OPPORTUNITIES SEEM ABUNDANT AND SKILLS ARE ADEQUATE" FOR THOSE MOC GRADUATES WHO SHOULD CONSIDER USING THEIR TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT, SUGGESTED JOHNSTON.

IN CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SAID: "AS YOU LEAVE HERE TODAY, YOU ENTER THE MICRONESIAN PART OF THIS OUTSIDE WORLD AT PROBABLY THE MOST DYNAMIC AND CHALLENGING TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THIS AREA. THE CHALLENGE IS MOST DEFINITELY THERE, SHAPING A NEW MICRONESIA - A SELF-GOVERNMENT AND EVENTUALLY A SELF-SUSTAINING MICRONESIA. I FEEL SURE THAT YOU AS MOC'S NEWER GRADUATES WILL BE EQUAL TO IT."

OTHER EVENTS THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE 7TH GRADUATION EXERCISE WERE: A SPEECH BY STUDENT SPEAKER KIPER LIPPWE OF TRUK DISTRICT AND PRESENTATION OF HONORS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS. HONOR STUDENT FROM AGRICULTURE WAS JOHN YUGTAMAG FROM YAP; AUTO BODY REPAIR AND PAINTING, RDECHOR TKOEL OF PALAU; RESTAF MANKIDREB OF THE MARSHALLS FOR AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR; SALTER BORONG FROM PONAPE FOR CARPENTRY AND ALSO CITIZENSHIP AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RECORD AND OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP; MS. NEIBOR MILNE FROM THE MARSHALLS FOR CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN; ALFONSO MAUWELIPIE FROM YAP FOR COOKERY; SILVERIO KAPILEO FROM THE MARIANAS FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND DIESEL MECHANIC; KALEB NGRITMAB FROM PALAU FOR MASONRY; MS. ROSERY HARUO FROM PALAU FOR SECRETARIAL SCIENCE; AND ISIDORO ILEMALONG ALSO FROM PALAU FOR SMALL ENGINE REPAIR.

SOME 103 STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED THIS YEAR AT MOC, MAKING A TOTAL OF 562 SINCE THAT INSTITUTION OPENED IN 1969.

#### (JOHNSTON TOURS PALAU)

KOROR, JUNE 3 (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON PAID HIS LAST VISIT TO NGEREMLENGUI MUNICIPALITY THE WESTERN SIDE OF BABELTHUAP ISLAND IN PALAU DISTRICT TUESDAY (JUNE 1). LATER THAT EVENING, JOHNSTON ADDRESS THE SPRING GRADUATES OF MOC (SEE PRECEDING STORY).

JOHNSTON WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH CHIEF YUTAKA GIBBONS, ACTING REKLAI EUSEVIO TERMEIET, CONGRESSMAN POLYCARP BASILIUS AND DAVID SHAY, DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS., ACCORDING TO PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRIDOL.

IN A BRIEF MEETING WITH THE CHIEF AND PEOPLE OF NGEREMLENGUI, THE HICOM WAS REQUESTED TO HAVE THE ICE-MAKING PLANT REPAIRED SO THAT IT CAN BE USED FOR FISH STORAGE. THE OTHER REQUEST WAS TO IMPROVE THE ELECTRICAL POWER TO THAT MUNICIPALITY.

JOHNSTON STATED THAT HE WILL REQUEST THE PROPER GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS TO TRY AND SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THAT MUNICIPALITY.

CHIEF NGIRTURONG OTAOR THANKED THE HICOM ON BEHALF OF THE 16 TRADITIONAL CHIEFS OF PALAU FOR HIS "TREMENDOUS HELP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS" DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO THEIR LONG-SOUGHT REQUEST TO HAVE VOTING POWER IN THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WHICH WAS GRANTED. "YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR US, THE PALAUANS AND MICRONESIANS COULD NOT FORGET YOU. WHAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR US WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED BY THE PEOPLE OF PALAU AND MICRONESIA FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS TO COME."

BEFORE HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AND HIS PARTY DEPARTED FOR KOROR THEY WERE HOSTED WITH A LUNCHEON BY THE PEOPLE OF NGEREMLENGUI.

(PLANS DISCUSSED FOR REVIVING TT TOURISM)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---A SERIES OF MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD ON SAIPAN DURING THE PAST WEEK TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR REVIVING MICRONESIA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY, CURRENTLY IN A SLUMP AS A RESULT OF TYPHOON PAMELA.

BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISM OFFICIALS FROM THE MARIANAS AND TT GOVERNMENTS MET TO DISCUSS THE BEST MEANS OF REACHING MICRONESIA'S MAJOR MARKET IN JAPAN.

AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS CONCERN THAT WHEN GUAM WAS TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TOURISTS, THIS ACTION ALSO EFFECTIVELY SHUT OFF VISITORS TO THE ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA WHICH HAD LITTLE OR NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THEIR TOURISM FACILITIES.

THE HOTELS OF MOEN ISLAND IN TRUK ARE OPERATING NORMALLY FOLLOWING A SEVERE LASHING BY THE WIND AND RAIN OF PAMELA. PALAU, SWEEPED BY TYPHOON MARIE TWO MONTHS AGO, IS BACK TO NORMAL. ON SAIPAN, WHICH SUSTAINED ONLY MINOR DAMAGE FROM PAMELA, HOTELS AND OTHER TOURISM FACILITIES WERE NEVER OUT OF OPERATION.

ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF TOURISM, ALL DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THE MARIANAS, ARE OPEN TO VISITORS AND ARE OFFERING THEIR FULL TOURISM PACKAGES.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY EARLY NEXT WEEK, A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION WILL BE COMPLETED TO REASSURE POTENTIAL VISITORS FROM JAPAN THAT MICRONESIA STILL IS THE SAME DESIRABLE VACATION RETREAT, UNSPOILED BY MAN OR TYPHOON.

(INCOME TAX REFUNDS ISSUED)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF OF THE REVENUE DIVISION, JESUS P. MAFNAS, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE 1975 INCOME TAX REFUND CHECKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED, FRIDAY, JUNE 4. MAFNAS ADVISED ALL EMPLOYERS TO PICK UP THEIR EMPLOYEES' CHECKS FROM THE DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICERS.

ACCORDING TO MAFNAS, MANY EMPLOYEES ENTITLED TO TAX REFUNDS WILL NOT RECEIVE REFUND CHECKS BECAUSE THEIR EMPLOYERS FAILED TO FILE THEIR WAGE AND TAX STATEMENTS THIS YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. HE SAID THESE EMPLOYEES SHOULD REQUEST THEIR EMPLOYERS TO FILE THEIR WAGE AND INCOME STATEMENTS SO THAT CHECKS MAY BE PROCESSED.

MAFNAS IS URGING THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO RECEIVE NO REFUND CHECKS TO WRITE TO THE HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF THE REVENUE DIVISION INDICATING THEIR FULL NAMES, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, NAME OF EMPLOYERS, AND PERIODS OF EMPLOYMENT.

HE INDICATED THAT FAILURE ON THE PART OF EMPLOYERS TO FILE WAGE AND INCOME STATEMENTS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES IS A VIOLATION OF SECTION 254, SUB-SECTION (2) OF TITLE 77 OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE. THIS PARTICULAR SECTION, HE ADDED, DIRECTS EVERY EMPLOYER TO FILE EMPLOYEES' WAGE AND TAX STATEMENTS. "SUBSECTION (3) OF THE SAME SECTION STATES THAT ANY EMPLOYER WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE PROVISIONS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN THE CHAPTER," MAFNAS STATED. UPON RECEIPT AND VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES' COMPLAINTS, HE ADDED, LEGAL ACTIONS WILL DEFINITELY BE TAKEN TO CORRECT THE SITUATION.

MAFNAS SAID THAT UNDER THE INCOME TAX LAW, AS AMENDED, EMPLOYEES WHOSE GROSS ANNUAL WAGES AND SALARIES ARE \$5,000.00 PER YEAR AND ABOVE DURING TAX YEAR 1976 WILL NOT RECEIVE THEIR REFUND CHECKS. HE POINTED OUT THAT APPROXIMATELY 8,000 TO 9,000 EMPLOYEES ARE AFFECTED BY THIS AMENDMENT TO THE TAX LAW. ACCORDING TO MAFNAS, THOSE EMPLOYEES WHOSE COMPUTED REFUNDS ARE LESS THAN ONE DOLLAR AND NON-MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ENTITLED TO A TAX REFUND UNDER THE LAW WILL NOT RECEIVE THEIR INCOME TAX REFUND CHECKS FRIDAY (JUNE 4), BECAUSE OF A COMPLICATION INVOLVED IN PROCESSING THE CHECKS. THEY WILL RECEIVE THEM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 11), MAFNAS SAID.