

(STAGE SET IN NEW YORK FOR UN MEETING)

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, JUNE 29 (MNS)---THE 43RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL BEGINS TOMORROW MORNING (JUNE 30, TRUST TERRITORY TIME) AND MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE IT MAY BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT YET IN REGARDS TO THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA.

THE FIRST SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO OPENING STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND TO REPORTS BY THE UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL'S VISITING MISSION PRESIDED OVER BY AMBASSADOR JAMES MURRAY OF GREAT BRITAIN, IS EXPECTED TO RELEASE THEIR REPORT OF THEIR 60-DAY VISIT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY THIS SPRING.

SOURCES INDICATE THAT IN THE REPORT, THE MISSION WILL DISCUSS THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DESIRE FOR MICRONESIAN UNITY AND THE RIGHT OF THE MICRONESIANS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN POLITICAL FUTURE EVEN IF IT MEANS SEPARATISM. THEY WILL SUGGEST THAT A REDRAFTING OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION TAKE PLACE DELEGATING MORE POWERS TO THE DISTRICTS AND URGE MORE INTENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS BEFORE ANY FUTURE PLEBISCITE. THE VISITING MISSION WILL RECOMMEND THAT ALL OPTIONS INCLUDING THAT OF INDEPENDENCE REMAIN OPEN TO MICRONESIA.

OPENING STATEMENTS TOMORROW (JUNE 30) WILL BE MADE BY AMBASSADOR ALBERT W. SCHERER JR, DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHO WILL BE REPRESENTING THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. HE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY PETER T. COLEMAN, ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

SPECIAL ADVISOR SENATOR TOSIWO NAKAYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S SENATE AND REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK OF TRUK WILL BE ALSO MAKE OPENING REMARKS DEALING WITH POLITICAL STATUS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS RESPECTIVELY.

LATER ON IN THE WEEK, PETITIONS WILL BE HEARD. A MODERATELY SIZED DELEGATION FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS ALREADY PRESENT IN NEW YORK. AND ANOTHER DELEGATION FROM PALAU DISTRICTS IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.

BOTH DELEGATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE A PLEA FOR SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

(STATUS LNO CLARIFIES U.S. POSITION ON IT'S FUTURE STATUS) SAIPAN, JUNE 29 (MNS)---AN INTERVIEW WITH TONY DEBRUM,

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC), WHICH APPEARED IN THE HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN ON JUNE 30, INCLUDED A NUMBER OF MISSTATEMENTS OF FACT, ACCORDING TO THE STATUS LIAISON OFFICE ON SAIPAN. THE LEAD PARAGRAPH REFERS TO A "U.S. BACKED PLAN FOR MICRONESIAN UNITY UNDER A NEW CONSTITUTION"; WHILE THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE UNITY OF THE CAROLINE AND MARSHALL ISLANDS, IT HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON ANY PARTICULAR CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

AS TO THE POSITION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, DEBRUM STATED THAT THEY "OVERWHELMINGLY" FAVOR INDEPENDENCE AS A SEPARATE STATE ONCE THE TRUSTEESHIP ENDS. HOWEVER, WITHIN THE PAST YEAR, IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA-SPONSORED NON-OFFICIAL REFERENDUM ON JULY 8, 1975, ONLY 3.2 PERCENT OF THE MARSHALLESE VOTING INDEPENDENCE, WHILE AS MANY MARSHALLESE FAVORED UNITY AS FAVORED SEPARATE STATUS. THAT REFERENDUM ALSO CASTS DOUBT ON DEBRUM'S STATEMENT THAT THE MARSHALLESE DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE CONGRESS TO NEGOTIATE THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS SINCE THERE WERE NEARLY AS MANY PEOPLE IN FAVOR OF THE CONGRESS' CONTINUING TO CARRY OUT THIS RESPONSIBILITY AS THERE WERE THOSE OPPOSED.

FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE MARSHALLESE DO NOT "OVERWHELMINGLY" FAVOR INDEPENDENCE CAN BE SEEN IN THE RECENT STATEMENTS OF THE "VOICE OF MARSHALLESE" WHO CLAIMED IN A RECENT DISPATCH TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF MARSHALLESE OPPOSE SEPARATION AND THAT SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE MARSHALLS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IS FAR FROM UNANIMOUS.

DEBRUM ALSO ADVANCED ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS IN SEEKING TO JUSTIFY THE MARSHALLESE SEPARATIST POSITION. HE MAINTAINED THAT FOR "EVERY TAX DOLLAR KEPT IN OUR DISTRICT, WE HAD TO GIVE UP TO 14 TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT." HOWEVER, IN FY 1975, UNDER THE REVENUE SHARING PLAN NOW IN EFFECT, THE RATION WAS SLIGHTLY UNDER FOUR TO ONE. THE ARGUMENT IS

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FURTHER WEAKENED BY THE FACT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE REVENUE COLLECTED ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS SPENT ON PROJECTS IN THE MARSHALLS AND ON TERRITORY-WIDE SERVICES FROM WHICH THE MARSHALLESE ALSO BENEFIT.

THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE MONEY COLLECTED IN TAXES IN THE MARSHALLS "COMES MOSTLY FROM KWAJALEIN" BUT DOES NOT MENTION THAT THIS IS PAID PREDOMINANTLY BY AMERICANS, NOT MARSHALLESE. LEAVING ASIDE THE MAJOR AMOUNTS PAID BY AMERICANS, THE TAXES PAID PER CAPITA AND THE RATIO OF TAXES COLLECTED TO AMOUNTS SPENT IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICTS ARE COMPARABLE TO THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT APPROVAL OF THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, JUST AS WAS APPROVAL OF THE COVENANT BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IN THE PLEBISCITE JUNE 17 A YEAR AGO.

(ESG CLARIFIES MISLEADING STATEMENTS)

SAIPAN, JUNE 29 (MNS)---THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, THROUGH ITS EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) PROGRAM, IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENSURING THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ARE GIVEN THE FACTS AND CORRECT INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE VARIOUS POLITICAL OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO THEM.

THE FINAL POLITICAL CHOICE IS LEFT ENTIRELY UP TO THE PEOPLE THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF THEIR VOTE IN A FREE PLEBISCITE OR REFERENDUM. THE TASK OF ESG IS TO HELP TO MAKE THAT CHOICE EASIER, NOT TO MAKE THE CHOICE FOR THEM. NOR IS IT THE RIGHT OR RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY GROUP TO TELL THE PEOPLE HOW TO VOTE. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN NOTED RECENTLY THAT THERE HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS MADE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY WHICH CONTAIN ERRONEOUS OR MISLEADING INFORMATION WHICH, IF NOT CORRECTED, COULD CONVINCE THE PEOPLE TO ACT IN A WAY WHICH THEY MIGHT REGRET LATER WHEN FULL FACTS ARE AVAILABLE.

TRUE POLITICAL EDUCATION WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY WHEN DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW AND OPINIONS ARE OUT IN THE OPEN FOR EVERYONE TO EXAMINE. WHEN ONLY ONE POINT OF VIEW OR OPINION IS AVAILABLE, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ESG PROGRAM HAS PREPARED SOME RESPONSES TO THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, PUBLISHED BY THE MPSC IN MAJURO, APRIL, 1976.

THESE RESPONSES ARE PRESENTED ONLY TO CLARIFY INACCURATE STATEMENTS AND NOT IN ANY WAY TO PRESENT A POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE TO POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE MPSC.

REGARDING THE DRAFT COMPACT, THE MARSHALLS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION'S INTERIM REPORT MADE THE FOLLOWING ASSERTIONS:

(1) THE COMPACT WILL BE SUPREME OVER STATE CONSTITUTION.

THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE IN THAT IN ANY FEDERAL SYSTEM A STATE CONSTITUTION CANNOT OVERRIDE THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCUMENTS DEFINING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

(2). THE NEW GOVERNMENT (GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA) WOULD HAVE NOT CONTROL OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE.

THE JUNE 1976 DRAFT VERSION OF THE COMPACT GIVES THE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA THE RIGHT OF CONSULTATION WITH THE U.S. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONSENT. TREATIES INVOLVING MICRONESIA PREDOMINANTLY OR EXCLUSIVELY CANNOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA. ANNEX A OF THE COMPACT LIST ACTIVITIES RELATING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA.

(3). THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE GREAT POWER TO TAKE AND HOLD LAND FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES, WHETHER OR NOT RELATED TO ITS NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.

THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE. THE U.S. MILITARY LAND NEEDS ARE SPELLED OUT IN ANNEX B OF THE DRAFT COMPACT. ANY FURTHER NEEDS WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED. LAND FOR SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY U.S. UNDER TERMS OF TITLE IV OF THE COMPACT (POST OFFICES, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. WEATHER SERVICE) WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO TURN OVER PUBLIC LANDS NOW HELD BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, TO LEGAL ENTITIES ESTABLISHED BY EACH DISTRICT.

THERE IS NO MENTION OF EMINENT DOMAIN EITHER IN THE COMPACT OR IN THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES.

THE FOURTH POINT RAISED IN THE MPSC'S INTERIM REPORT REGARDING THE DRAFT COMPACT STATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE CONTINUED USE OF THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN THROUGH THE NEW GOVERNMENTS.

THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE. ALL ADDITIONAL LAND NEEDS OF THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED THROUGH PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DISTRICTS (STATES) DIRECTLY CONCERNED. (COMPACT PARAGRAPH 303 (D)).

(5). NO MACHINERY WOULD EXIST FOR SOLVING DISPUTES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE. ARTICLE X DESCRIBES ELABORATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS (JUNE DRAFT TITLE X). THESE INCLUDE NEGOTIATION, ARBITRATION AND ACCESS TO U.S. COURTS.

(6). THERE WOULD BE NO ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR EITHER AMENDMENT OF THE COMPACT OR WITHDRAWAL FROM IT BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT OR ANY MEMBER STATE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE. THIS IS A VALUE JUDGEMENT BASED ON THE WORD "ADEQUATE." AMENDMENTS OR CHANGES CAN BE MADE AT ANY TIME BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE TWO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. TERMINATION WITHIN 15 YEARS BY MUTUAL CONSENT IS POSSIBLE AS IS UNILATERAL TERMINATION AFTER 15 YEARS BY FOLLOWING PRESCRIBED PROCEDURES IN THE COMPACT.

THE APPROVAL PROCESS PROVIDED IN THE COMPACT SAYS THAT THE COMPACT WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT IN ANY STATE VOTING 55 PERCENT OR MORE AGAINST IT. IN EFFECT, THAT STATE WOULD SEPARATE ITSELF FROM THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

THE INTERIM REPORT ALSO ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS WILL DISCUSS THAT AT A LATER DATE.

AT THIS TIME, IT IS HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WILL STUDY ALL OF THE INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND CRITICALLY SO THEY WILL BE BETTER PREPARED TO MAKE THEIR CHOICES. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND THE ESG PROGRAM RECOGNIZE THAT EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO HIS OR HER OWN OPINION ABOUT WHAT CHOICES THEY WANT TO MAKE IN THE CRITICAL DECISIONS AHEAD. HOWEVER, IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL BE MADE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF CORRECT AND FACTUAL INFORMATION.

(AUTHOR VISITING MICRONESIA)

SAIPAN, JUNE 29 (MNS)---AN ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT EAU CLAIRE WHO RECENTLY WROTE THE BOOK ENTITLED "THE FOLKTALES OF MICRONESIA" IS CURRENTLY VISITING THE TRUST TERRITORY GATHERING DATA TO INCLUDE IN HIS COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF THE MICRONESIAN FOLKTALES.

DR. ROGER MITCHELL ARRIVE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY WEDNESDAY (JUNE 23) AND WILL BE LEAVING ABOUT JULY 30.

PRESENTLY A GUGGEHEIM RESEARCH FELLOW FOR THE YEAR 1975-1976, DR. MITCHELL WILL BE VISITING ALL DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA,

HE WROTE HIS BOOK ABOUT MICRONESIA WHILE DOING RESEARCH UNDER A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH GRANT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM FROM 1970 TO 1971. "THE FOLKTALES OF MICRONESIA" WAS PUBLISHED IN NAGOYA, JAPAN, IN 1973.

THE ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR DESCRIBES HIS BOOK AS A REPRESENTATIVE COLLECTION OF LEGENDS FROM MANY ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA AND AN ATTEMPT TO SELECT LEGENDS WHICH ARE WIDELY KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

DR. MITCHELL IS NOT A NEWCOMER TO MICRONESIA. HE FIRST CAME TO THIS PART OF THE PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II WHEN HE WAS IN THE UNITED STATES MARINES. HE LATER TAUGHT AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON GUAM FROM 1957-59, AND AT THE COLLEGE OF GUAM FROM 1962-64.

AMONG HIS MICRONESIAN STUDENTS AT THAT COLLEGE WERE BONIFACIO BASILIUS, NOW THE TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION, AND ASTERIO TAKESY, NOW THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.