

(MARIANAS SENATOR ASKS RESCOM'S REMOVAL)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 5 (MNS)---AN AWE OF CONTAINMENT AND CHANGE APPEARS TO BE THE PREDOMINANT FORCE OF SOME SENATORS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LEGISLATURE DURING ITS CURRENT 30-DAY SESSION.

ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE BY MS. GADALUPE C. BORJA IN DAILY NEWS, "A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO REMOVE MARIANAS RESIDENT COMMISSIONER ERNIN D. CANHAM WAS INTRODUCED MONDAY (AUGUST 2) BY SEN. HERMAN T. PALACIOS IN THE FIRST DAY OF A 30-DAY SESSION. "THE RESOLUTION STATES THAT CANHAM "HAS ALL BUT IGNORED THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAIPAN, ROTA AND TINIAN RELATIVE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF TYPHOON PAMELA."

ACCORDING TO THE SAME ARTICLE, SENATOR PALACIOS, WHO ATTEMPTED BEFORE THE SESSION TO GET HIS COLLEAGUES TO COSPONSOR THE RESOLUTION BUT FAILED, CHARGED ON THE FLOOR THAT CANHAM HAS NOT GIVEN ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHOSE CROPS WERE DAMAGED BY SUPER-TYPHOON PAMELA AND TO HOMEOWNERS WHOSE HOMES WERE DAMAGED BY THE TYPHOON. THE SENATOR ALSO CHARGED THAT CANHAM'S AGE--72--WAS INTERFERING WITH HIS ABILITIES TO ADMINISTER THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

PALACIOS TOLD THE DAILY NEWS THAT CANHAM COULD HAVE SOUGHT TO PURCHASE MATERIALS TO ASSIST TYPHOON-AFFECTED VICTIMS THROUGH CREDIT WITH LOCAL BUSINESS IF THE MARIANAS GOVERNMENT HAD NO FUNDS WITH WHICH TO PURCHASE THE ITEMS.

THE CONTROVERSIAL CON-CON BILL WAS ALSO INTRODUCED FOR THE THIRD TIME DURING THE FIRST DAY OF THE SESSION. TWO SIMILAR BILLS HAVE BEEN VETTED PREVIOUSLY BY RESCOM CANHAM.

CANHAM HAS INDICATED THAT A COMBINATION DISTRICT AND AT-LARGE ELECTION OF DELEGATES WOULD PROVIDE FOR MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

IF CANHAM VEToes THE BILL AGAIN, THE LEGISLATURE CAN REPASS IT AND THE BILL WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO CANHAM. IF THE BILL IS NOT APPROVED BY THE RESCOM WITHIN 20 DAYS, CANHAM WOULD TRANSMIT THE BILL TO THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR WHO HAS 60 DAYS TO ACT ON THE BILL, ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARIAL ORDER CREATING THE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

(TROPICAL STORM BILLIE FLIRTS WITH MARIANAS)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 5 (MNS)---RESIDENTS OF SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS BREATHED A CAUTIOUS SIGH OF RELIEF THURSDAY (AUG. 5) NOON WHEN THE LATEST WORD FROM FLEET WEATHER CENTRAL INDICATED THAT TROPICAL STORM BILLIE SEEMED TO BE MOVING AWAY FROM THE RAIN-SOAKED ISLANDS.

BILLIE FIRST BRUSHED THE AREA TUESDAY (AUG. 3) AS UNNAMED BUT NUMBERED TROPICAL DEPRESSION 13. AT 4 A.M. WEDNESDAY (AUG. 4) THE DEPRESSION WAS LOCATED OVER THE NORTHERN TIP OF SAIPAN, HEADING TOWARD THE NORTH-NORTHWEST AND WAS BIGGER, STRONGER, AND NAMED TROPICAL STORM BILLIE.

SEVERAL INCHES OF RAIN FELL ON SAIPAN AND TINIAN AS THE BLUSTERY STORM PASSED BY. UNPREPARED FOR THE DELUGE, MANY RESIDENTS SPENT A MAKEFUL, SOGGY NIGHT MOPPING AND BAILING RAINWATER. LOW-LYING SECTIONS LIKE THE HOUSING AREA AROUND THE CONTINENTAL AND INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS WERE BADLY FLOODED. ON CAPITOL HILL, PUBLICATIONS DIVISION AND OTHER OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS HAD UP TO TWO INCHES OF WATER ON THE FLOORS.

BY WEDNESDAY EVENING IT APPEARED BILLIE WAS WELL ON HER WAY, BUT THE NEXT MORNING IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE STORM HAD LOOPED AROUND AND WAS LOCATED ABOUT 100 MILES WEST-SOUTHWEST OF SAIPAN. BILLIE WAS FORECAST TO BE OVER THE ISLAND OF TINIAN AT 4 A. M. FRIDAY (AUG. 6) AND BY THAT TIME SHOULD HAVE ATTAINED FULL TYPHOON STRENGTH. TROPICAL STORM CONDITION TWO WAS RESTORED AND THE BOARDING-UP PROCESS WAS BEGUN.

IT WAS 10 A. M. FORECAST THURSDAY THAT BROUGHT THE CAUTIOUS SIGH OF RELIEF. TROPICAL STORM BILLIE HAD BEGUN MOVING TOWARD THE WEST - AWAY FROM THE MARIANAS - AND NO FURTHER ERRATIC MOVEMENT WAS INDICATED.

BUT RESIDENTS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, WISE TO THE UNPREDICTABLE WAYS OF TROPICAL STORMS AND TYPHOONS DIDN'T TAKE DOWN THE BOARDS. THAT COULD COME LATER WHEN BILLIE WAS DEFINITELY LONG GONE, THAT IS UNLESS THE NEXT TROPICAL DEPRESSION, NOW BREWING NORTH OF TRUK, DECIDES LIKE BILLIE, TO FLIRT WITH THE NORTHERN MARIANAS.

(MV YAP ISLANDER IS ON ITS WAY TO TRUK)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 4 (MNS)---THE MV YAP ISLANDER, WHICH DEVELOPED ENGINE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDST OF STRONG WINDS AND

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ROUGH SEAS DUE TO A TROPICAL DEPRESSION TUESDAY NIGHT (AUGUST 2), HAS HER ENGINE REPAIRED AND IS STEAMING FULL SPEED TOWARD TRUK.

ACCORDING TO ELIAS OKAMURA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, YAP ISLANDER WILL ARRIVE IN TRUK MONDAY MORNING (AUGUST 9).

OKAMURA SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS WAS "POOR COORDINATION OF WEATHER REPORTS." ACCORDING TO OKAMURA, THE SHIP BEGAN TO HAVE ENGINE PROBLEMS AROUND 9 O'CLOCK TUESDAY EVENING. THE ENGINE WAS FIXED FOR AWHILE, THEN GAVE OUT AGAIN. THE SHIP WAS PUT ADRIFT AT ABOUT 2 A.M. OKAMURA SAID THAT DUE TO THE ROUGH SEAS, THE CREW WERE UNABLE TO REPLACE THE NECESSARY PARTS BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY DELICATE TO HANDLE. HOWEVER, THE SHIP'S ENGINE WAS REPAIRED BY 11 A.M. YESTERDAY (AUGUST 4), AND SHE CONTINUED ON HER JOURNEY TO TRUK.

WHILE YAP ISLANDER WAS HAVING ENGINE TROUBLES, IT WAS REPORTED ONLY ABOUT 50 MILES FROM THE CENTER OF THE TROPICAL DEPRESSION. THE SHIP'S SKIPPER REPORTED THAT ONE LIFE RAFT WITH LIFE JACKETS WAS BLOWN OFF THE SHIP WHILE DRIFTING AT FIVE KNOTS.

THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER, BASSWOOD, WAS ON STAND-BY TO ASSIST THE YAP ISLANDER IF NEEDED, BUT DID NOT HAVE TO BECAUSE THE ENGINE TROUBLE WAS SOLVED.

(MAKILONG STILL AWAITING TRIAL IN JAKARTA)

JAKARTA, AUGUST 4 (MNS)---THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD RECEIVED AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA ABOUT THE LATEST PREDICAMENT OF SIMON MAKILONG, A 24-YEAR OLD PALAUAN MAN, DETAINED AT KONDOK JAIL JAKARTA.

THE MESSAGE SAYS, "VINOFF (AMERICAN EMBASSY) VISITED MAKILONG AT KONDOK POLICE HEADQUARTERS. MAKILONG APPEARED HEALTHY AND HAD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT TREATMENT (IN THE PRISON), ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED TO HAVE LOST SOME WEIGHT DUE TO REDUCED DIET.

THE TRIAL DATE FOR MAKILONG STILL HAS NOT BEEN SET. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, "THE CASE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE PROSECUTOR." BUT THE EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT "TRIAL DATE HAD NOT BEEN SET, AND THAT WITHIN TWO WEEKS THE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE." THE EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED THE "DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ENLIST THEIR HELP IN SPEEDING UP HANDLING OF THE CASE."

MAKILONG'S MESSAGE TO HIS FAMILY WAS THAT "HE IS ALRIGHT AND HOPING TO BE RELEASED IN TWO MONTHS." HE ASKED HIS FATHER FOR SOME MONEY SO HE COULD BUY "EXTRA FOOD, SOAP AND OTHER ESSENTIALS NOT PROVIDED IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES AT JAIL." MEALS ARE SERVED TWICE A DAY.

MAKILONG WAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED ON CHARGES OF POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA APRIL 27, 1976. HE WAS A THIRD ENGINEER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT-OWNED MV GUNNERS KNOT AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST. MAKILONG WAS IN A BAR NEAR THE JAKARTA HARBOR AREA AND WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE AFTER A ROUTINE CHECK OF CUSTOMERS IN THE BAR.

(PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEER CERTIFIED)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 5 (MNS)---PEDRO SASAMOTO, A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER IN THE DESIGN/ENGINEERING DIVISION, HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, RECENTLY EARNED A CERTIFICATE FROM THE TERRITORY OF GUAM BOARD OF ENGINEERING REGISTRATION.

THE BOARD RECOGNIZES SASAMOTO AS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER QUALIFIED TO DO INDEPENDENT AND RESPONSIBLE WORK IN THE FIELD OF CIVIL ENGINEERING. SASAMOTO'S CERTIFICATION IS THE FIRST PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER REGISTRATION EVER GRANTED TO A MICRONESIAN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY BY THE GUAM BOARD.

SASAMOTO ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND EARNED HIS BACHELORS DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING IN 1970. HE HAS BEEN WORKING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SINCE.

SASAMOTO IS FROM SAIPAN. HE IS MARRIED. HE AND HIS WIFE, ERNESTINA, HAVE THREE YEAR OLD SON, JEREMY.