

SEPT 19 11
ENEWETAK ATOLL RETURNED TO MARSHALLESE

ENEWETAK, SEPT. 21 (MNS) --- THE UNITED STATES ENDED 32 YEARS OF USE AND OCCUPANCY OF ENEWETAK ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS AT ENEWETAK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1976, WHEN ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, ACTING FOR THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS SIGNED DOCUMENTS TO RETURN CONTROL OF THE ATOLL TO THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE.

SOME 40 ENEWETAK PEOPLE, TOGETHER WITH BRIG. GEN. THOMAS E. LACY, COMMANDER, FIELD COMMAND, DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS CONCERNED UNITED STATES AGENCIES LOOKED ON AND APPLAUDED.

THE ENEWETAK REPRESENTATIVES HAD JOURNEYED TO ENEWETAK BY SHIP FROM NEARBY UJELANG ATOLL WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING SINCE THEIR REMOVAL FROM ENEWETAK IN 1947 TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO USE THEIR HOME FOR NUCLEAR TESTING. A TOTAL OF 43 NUCLEAR BLASTS, INCLUDING THE FIRST HYDROGEN BOMB IN 1952, WERE CONDUCTED BETWEEN THEIR REMOVAL AND 1958 WHEN NUCLEAR TESTING WAS ENDED IN THE ENEWETAK-BIKINI AREA.

THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE, IN TURN, SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WHICH PERMITS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM TO REMOVE TONS OF DEBRIS REMAINING FROM THE PERIOD OF NUCLEAR TESTING.

ALSO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REMOVE OR NEUTRALIZE SOME RADIOACTIVE AREAS WITHIN THE ATOLL WHICH MIGHT BE DANGEROUS TO THE FUTURE INHABITANTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HOME.

WITHIN A FEW MONTHS AN ADVANCE GROUP OF ENEWETAK PEOPLE WILL MOVE FROM UJELANG TO THE NONCONTAMINATED ENEWETAK ISLAND OF JAPTAN TO START THE WORK TOWARD A NEW LIFE IN A MUCH LARGER AND MORE DESIRABLE ATOLL. THE REMAINDER OF THE GROUP WILL REMAIN ON UJELANG AS THE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM ON ENEWETAK PROGRESSES.

UJELANG ATOLL, WHICH HAS BEEN THE HOME OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, WAS CONVEYED TO THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE BY QUITCLAIM DEED, SIGNED BY THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER DURING THE CEREMONIES. THIS WILL GIVE THEM TWO ATOLLS FOR THEIR FUTURE HOME. APPROXIMATELY 400 PEOPLE NOW LIVE ON UJELANG ATOLL.

THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE INDICATED THEIR APPROVAL OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRUST TERRITORY BY DECLARING SEPTEMBER 16, AS A HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED BY THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE.

ENEWETAK WAS TAKEN AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF BLOODY FIGHTING IN FEBRUARY 1944, DURING THE UNITED STATES DRIVE ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO END THE PACIFIC WAR IN 1945. IT WAS USED BY THE UNITED STATES FROM 1944 UNTIL THE END OF WORLD WAR II AS A BASE TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK AGAINST JAPAN TO END THE WAR.

(LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BILL BECOMES LAW)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 21 (MNS) --- A MEASURE CALLING FOR A CONFERENCE OF MICRONESIAN LEADERS TO FORMULATE AND DEVELOP A UNIFIED POSITION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA WAS ALLOWED TO BECOME LAW BY TRUST TERRITORY ACTING DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER JUAN A. SABLAN ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 18) WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE.

THE MEASURE (S.B. 6-412) WHICH BECAME PUBLIC LAW 6-139 GIVES AUTHORITY TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PRESIDING OFFICERS TO SPECIFY THE SITE OF THE CONFERENCE; WHETHER IT SHOULD BE HELD IN TRUK OR PONAPE. THE CONVENTION WILL MEET FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 20 CALENDAR DAYS AND BE HELD NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER, 1976.

THE CONVENTION WILL BE CALLED TO "DELIBERATE AND FORMULATE A UNIFIED POSITION" ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ISSUE. THE UNIFIED POSITION WILL THEN BE TRANSMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE WHICH WILL IN TURN TAKE "OTHER AND FUTURE STEPS AS IT SHALL DEEM NECESSARY" TO HAVE THE POSITION RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. AN APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 IS EARMARKED TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

THE BILL STIPULATES THAT THE CONVENTION SHALL HAVE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE FOLLOWING MICRONESIAN LEADERS: ALL SPEAKERS OF DISTRICT LEGISLATURES; ONE PARAMOUNT TRADITIONAL

CHIEF OF EACH ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT, WHO SHALL BE SELECTED BY, AND FROM AMONG, THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS OF THE DISTRICT. IN THE CASE OF KUSAIE DISTRICT, A DELEGATE SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF KUSAIE DISTRICT.

ALSO, TWO DELEGATES SHALL BE SELECTED BY, AND FROM AMONG, THE LEADERSHIP OF EACH DISTRICT; THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PRESIDING OFFICERS; CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TRANSITION; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

WITH THIS BILL BECOMING LAW, A TOTAL OF 29 MEASURES PASSED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DURING ITS SPECIAL SESSION IN PONAPE RECENTLY HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW. TWO OTHERS WERE VETED.

(HANDICAPPED CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN EACH DISTRICT)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 21 (MNS)---THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILL HOLD A CONFERENCE IN EACH DISTRICT ON PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS OF HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS. DATES FOR THE CONFERENCES WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DAVID RAMARUII SAID THE CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD IN PREPARATION FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY, 1977.

MRS. AGNES MCPHETRES, CHIEF, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AS THE TT STATE DIRECTOR OF WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS. SHE WILL ORGANIZE THE CONFERENCES. MRS. MCPHETRES AND SEVEN OTHER DELEGATES WHO WILL BE APPOINTED LATER, WILL BE THE OFFICIAL TT DELEGATES TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR. THE DELEGATION MUST INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HANDICAPPED POPULATION AND THEIR PARENTS, RAMARUII SAID.

THE CONFERENCE WAS MADE POSSIBLE UNDER PUBLIC LAW 93-516 PASSED BY THE U. S. CONGRESS IN 1974 WHICH AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT TO CALL A WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE.

THE CONFERENCE HAS THREE MAJOR GOALS. THEY ARE: (1) TO PROVIDE A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL OR PHYSICAL HANDICAPS; (2) TO GENERATE A NATIONAL AWARENESS OF THESE PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS; AND (3) TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS WHICH, IF IMPLEMENTED, WILL ENABLE INDIVIDUALS WITH HANDICAPS TO LIVE THEIR LIVES INDEPENDENTLY WITH DIGNITY, AND WITH FULL PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

TO CUT DOWN COSTS AND AT THE SAME TIME TO INVOLVE AS MANY INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AS POSSIBLE, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT EACH DISTRICT WILL HOLD A "MINI CONFERENCE," RAMARUII SAID.

THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, HEALTH SERVICES AND EDUCATION, A TEAM HAS BEEN FORMED IN EACH DISTRICT INCLUDING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TO COORDINATE THE DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH DISTRICT CONFERENCE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THAT DISTRICT WILL GET TOGETHER WITH MRS. MCPHETRES TO COMPILE THE RESULTS OF THE DISTRICT CONFERENCES INTO A REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO WASHINGTON.

THE COMPILED REPORT OF THE DISTRICTS MEETINGS WILL BE THE TT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE, RAMARUII INDICATED.

(CON CON FOR MARSHALLS APPROVED)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 21 (MNS)---MARSHALLS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM HAS SIGNED INTO LAW A BILL CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS NEXT YEAR. THE BILL WAS ENACTED BY THE MARSHALL ISLANDS LEGISLATURE LATE LAST MONTH.

THE MEASURE PROVIDES \$150,000 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE CONVENTION.

THE CONVENTION WILL CONVENE IN MAJURO, THE DISTRICT CENTER OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, ON A DATE WHICH WILL BE SPECIFIED BY A PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE, AND WILL HOLD SESSIONS FOR SIXTY DAYS.

ELECTION OF FORTY-EIGHT CANDIDATES FOR THE CONVENTION WILL BE ON NOV. 2, 1976, THE SAME DATE AS THE UPCOMING CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S GENERAL ELECTION. ACCORDING TO THE LAW, THE CLOSING DATE FOR FILING NOMINATIONS TO THE CONVENTION IS OCT. 13, 1976. IN ORDER TO RUN FOR THE CONVENTION, A PERSON MUST BE EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD OR OLDER ON THE DATE OF THE ELECTION AND HIS CANDIDACY MUST BE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN FIFTEEN QUALIFIED VOTERS, THE LAW STATES.

A SEVEN-MEMBER PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE WILL BE CHOSEN CONSISTING OF TWO MEMBERS SELECTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FROM THE MEMBERS OF THAT DELEGATION; THE SPEAKER OF THE NITIJELA; AND FOUR OTHER SELECTED BY THE SPEAKER, TWO EACH FROM THE DELEGATES ELECTED FROM THE RATAK AND RALIK DELEGATE DISTRICTS.

THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE WILL ENSURE THAT ACCOMMODATION AND FACILITIES FOR THE CONVENTION ARE IN PROPER ORDER; AND TO TAKE SUCH OTHER STEPS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS OF THE CONVENTION.

THE SPEAKER OF THE NITIJELA WILL CHAIR THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE. HE WILL ALSO ACT AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION UNTIL THE CONVENTION SELECTS A PRESIDENT FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP.

THE CONVENTION WILL DRAFT A CONSTITUTION, IN ENGLISH AND MARSHALLESE, FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.