

(MARIANAS CONSTITUTION SIGNED)

SAIPAN, DEC. 6 (MNS) --- THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WAS SIGNED BY 33 OF THE DELEGATES SUNDAY AFTERNOON (DEC. 5) AT MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH AUDITORIUM IN CHALAN MANOA. 1976

THE SIGNING CEREMONY CLIMAXED 49 DAYS OF WORK BY THE DELEGATES. MONDAY (DEC. 6) WAS THE LAST DAY OF THE 50 DAY CONVENTION. 11

FIVE DELEGATES FROM ROTA AND TINIAN AND ONE FROM SAIPAN BOYCOTTED THE SIGNING CEREMONY OVER DISAGREEMENT IN THE ALLOCATION OF MEMBERS IN THE LOWER HOUSE OF THE FUTURE BI-CAMERAL LEGISLATURE. THEY ARE JOSE R. CRUZ FROM TINIAN, AND BENJAMIN MANGLONA, PRUDENCIO MANGLONA, PETE OGO AND LEON TAIKAKAN FROM ROTA. SAIPAN DELEGATE JUAN DEMAPAN ALSO DID NOT SIGN. SOURCES SAID DEMAPAN LEFT THE CONVENTION FRIDAY AFTER FINAL APPROVAL OF AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS WAS INCLUDED IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH ORGANIZATION.

CONVENTION PRESIDENT LARRY GUERRERO, TOLD A CROWD OF ABOUT 300 PEOPLE THAT THE DELEGATES ARE PROUD OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. "WE FEEL VERY CONFIDENT," HE SAID, "THAT THE CONSTITUTION WILL REFLECT THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR PEOPLE."

THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WAS PRESENTED TO RESIDENT COMMISSIONER ERWIN D. CANHAM FOR TRANSMISSION TO WASHINGTON.

CANHAM SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN DELEGATES WERE "AN INEVITABLE PART OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS."

"ONE CAN RARELY EXPECT UNANIMOUS CONSENT IN HUMAN AFFAIRS," HE SAID. HE ALSO COMPLIMENTED THE DELEGATES FOR THEIR "INCREDIBLE PERSISTENCE AND APPLICATION" IN DRAFTING THE CONSTITUTION.

"YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO IT TO APPRECIATE JUST HOW MUCH YOU HAVE DONE," HE ADDED. "YOUR PRESENT MOOD COULD BE ONE OF DISILLUSIONMENT AND LETDOWN. BUT DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY YOUR EMOTIONS. YOU HAVE COMPLETED A BIG JOB."

THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER ALSO SAID THAT HE HOPED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT COULD JUDGE THE CONSTITUTION IN TERMS OF "CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES INSTEAD OF GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN PETTY DETAILS."

THE CONVENTION'S ONLY WOMAN DELEGATE, MAGDALENA CAMACHO, READ THE PREAMBLE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

A LOCAL SINGING GROUP THEN SANG THE "NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS" WRITTEN BY JOAQUIN PANGELINAN OF SAIPAN. THE CONVENTION ADOPTED A RESOLUTION RECENTLY WHICH WOULD MAKE THE SONG ENTITLED "GI TALO GI HALOM TASE" (IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN), THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

DELEGATES CAME IN THREES TO A TABLE AT THE FRONT OF THE STAGE TO SIGN THE CONSTITUTION.

A REFERENDUM TO RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE HELD BY APRIL OF NEXT YEAR. THE CONSTITUTION STILL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS BEFORE IT GOES INTO EFFECT.

(SILK APPOINTED TO MPSC)

MAJURO, DEC. 6 (MNS) --- MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM HAS NAMED CONGRESSMAN EKPAP SILK, FORMER VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS) TO A VACANCY ON THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION. THE VACANCY WAS CREATED LAST WEEK BY THE RESIGNATION OF MARSHALLS EDUCATION DIRECTOR KINJA ANDRIKE.

ACCORDING TO THE MICRONESIA INDEPENDENT, A MAJURO BASED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, THE APPOINTMENT OF CONGRESSMAN SILK, A VETERAN POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATOR WHO HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH SUPPORTERS OF UNITY FOR MICRONESIA, TO THE SEPARATIST-ORIENTED MARSHALLS STATUS COMMISSION WAS UNEXPECTED.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR KINJA ANDRIKE RESIGNED NOVEMBER 17 CITING HIS "HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT." IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION TO THE DISTAD, ANDRIKE STATED THAT HIS RESIGNATION "WILL NOT CHANGE THE BELIEFS I HAVE ABOUT THE WORK THE COMMISSION IS DOING FOR THE MARSHALLS AND I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE."

CONGRESSMAN SILK'S APPOINTMENT IS THE FIRST FROM THE MARSHALLS POLITICAL FACTION WHICH HAS OPPOSED THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT LED BY SENATOR AMATA KABUA, THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN. 17548

THE INDEPENDENT STORY INDICATED THAT SILK'S APPOINTMENT WAS MADE AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING THE OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS IN THE MARSHALLS WHICH SAW THE DEFEAT OF TWO OF SENATOR KABUA'S STRONG SUPPORTERS IN THE CONGRESS OF

MICRONESIA, CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK AND CONGRESSWOMAN
CARMEN BIGLER.

THE COMMISSION SOURCE, THE INDEPENDENT REPORTED,
INDICATED THAT CONGRESSMAN SILK IS EXPECTED TO PLAY A KEY
ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF STRATEGY TO BRING ABOUT SEPARATE
FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE MARSHALLS AND THE MPSC
WILL PLAY WITH RESPECT NOT ONLY TO FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
BUT ALSO TO THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR
THE MARSHALLS.

CONGRESSMAN ENPAP SILK IS ALSO THE PRESENT CONGRESS OF
MICRONESIA VICE-SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. HE
WON RE-ELECTION NOVEMBER 8TH.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(COM NEWSLETTER FEATURES D.C. OFFICE STORY)

SAIPAN, DEC. 6 (CONGRESS RELEASE) ---THE OFFICE OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, RECENTLY
PUBLISHED A CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER WHICH CARRIED STORIES
PRIMARILY ABOUT THE NEW MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE.

MICRONESIA'S WASHINGTON OFFICE IS OPEN AND OPERATING.
IT WILL SOON BEGIN RECRUITING A SECRETARIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF, ACCORDING TO LIAISON OFFICER, LEO FALCAM.

THE NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE
U.S. CONGRESS AND APPROPRIATE U.S. FEDERAL AGENCIES, DISTRICT
LEGISLATURES AND ADMINISTRATIONS, SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES IN
MICRONESIA.

IT CONTAINS, AMONG OTHERS, STORIES ABOUT THE
APPOINTMENT OF MR. LEO FALCAM AS MICRONESIA'S WASHINGTON
LIAISON OFFICER, MICRONESIA--WHERE AND WHAT IT IS TODAY
AND THE MAJOR ISSUES IT FACES, AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE
ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IN MICRONESIA UNDER THE UN CHARTER.

IT ALSO INCLUDES ARTICLES ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE U.N.
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING
MICRONESIAN UNITY; A MAP OF MICRONESIA ILLUSTRATING WHERE
MICRONESIA IS LOCATED IN RELATION TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED
STATES, THE FAR EAST AND JAPAN; AND A LETTER INTRODUCING
MR. FALCAM TO MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS.

THE MICRONESIAN WASHINGTON OFFICE IS LOCATED IN SUITE
823 PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING, 425 13TH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON,
D.C., 20004.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MICRONESIA'S WASHINGTON OFFICE
WILL SERVE AS A "BRIDGE OVER WHICH THE MICRONESIAN STORY
CAN BE TOLD DIRECTLY TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT," ACCORDING TO
FALCAM.

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