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PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Marianas Islands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONGRESS  
ORDER IS MADE BY CARVER

SAIPAN, M.I. (June 24)...Acting Secretary of the Interior John A. Carver, Jr. has promulgated the first amendment to Secretarial Order No. 2882, which establishes the Congress of Micronesia. The amendment extends the cut-off date for district and municipal import and export duties to October 1, 1965 and clarifies existing provisions of the Order.

Section 3 of the Order reserves the power to levy import duties to the Congress of Micronesia and the High Commissioner. When the Order was promulgated on September 28, 1964, Section 26 provided that existing district and municipal import and export duties could temporarily remain in effect until July 1, 1965. The amendment just issued will extend this cut-off date until October 1, 1965. It enables the Congress of Micronesia to act before district and municipal import and export levies expire. The Congress meets in July. The amendment also allows the districts and municipalities to take action after the first regular session of the Congress but before the new cut-off date.

Following is a summary of the three other sections of the amendment:

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Section 5, Budget, has been amended to clarify the power of the Congress to appropriate funds available from revenues raised pursuant to the tax laws and other revenue laws of the Trust Territory.

Section 7 has been amended to clarify the language disqualifying from membership in the Congress, any person who has been convicted of a felony and not pardoned. Section 7 now reads: "...no person who has been convicted of a felony by any court of the Trust Territory or any court with the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States, shall sit in the Congress..."

The language of Section 6 providing for reapportionment of election districts has also been amended for clarification.

Order No. 2882, Amendment No. 1, is dated June 10, 1965. It reads as follows:

Subject: Legislative Authority for the Congress of Micronesia, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

WHEREAS, on September 28, 1964, the Secretary of the Interior promulgated Secretarial Order No. 2882 creating the Congress of Micronesia and granting legislative authority thereto; and

WHEREAS, the said Order No. 2882 in Section 3 reserved to the Congress of Micronesia and the High Commissioner the levy of duties on goods imported into the Trust Territory; and

WHEREAS, Section 26 of the said Order No. 2882 temporarily extended until July 1, 1965, District and municipal import and export duties in effect on September 28, 1964;

WHEREAS, such date of July 1, 1965, will not afford the Congress of Micronesia an opportunity to act prior to the expiration of District or municipal import or export levies; and

WHEREAS, certain revisions in Section 5, 6 and 7 are also desirable so as to clarify the appropriation and legislative authority of the Congress of Micronesia and the apportionment of members among the several districts of the Trust Territory and the language relating to the qualifications of members;

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NOW, THEREFORE, Secretarial Order No. 2882 is amended in the following particulars, the amendments to become effective July 1, 1965:

1. Section 26 of the said Order No. 2882 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 26. Temporary extension of export and import duties. Notwithstanding any other provision of this order, any District or municipal import and export duties in effect upon signature of this order may continue in effect until October 1, 1965, unless sooner reduced or repealed by the District Legislature or municipality concerned; Provided, That no such District or municipal import or export duty may be increased above its rate as of the date of signature of this order."

2. Section 5 of the said Order No. 2882 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. Budget. Money bills enacted by the Congress of Micronesia shall not provide for the appropriation of funds in excess of such amounts as are available from revenues raised pursuant to the tax laws and other revenue laws of the Trust Territory. Prior to his final submission to the Secretary of the Interior of requests for Federal funds necessary for the support of governmental functions in the Trust Territory, the High Commissioner shall prepare a preliminary budget plan. He shall submit such plan to the Congress of Micronesia in joint session for its review and recommendations with respect to such portions as relate to expenditures of funds proposed to be appropriated by the Congress of the United States. With respect to such portions of the preliminary budget plan, the High Commissioner shall adopt such recommendations of the Congress as he may deem appropriate, but he shall transmit to the Secretary of the Interior all recommendations he has not adopted."

3. The final paragraph of Section 6 of the said Order No. 2882 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Election districts shall be reapportioned every 10 years on the basis of population, but each District (as described in Section 39 of the Trust Territory Code), shall be entitled to at least two Assemblymen. The first such reapportionment shall be made in 1971."

4. The final paragraph of Section 7 of the said Order No. 2882 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"No person who has been expelled from the Congress for giving or receiving a bribe or for being an accessory thereto, and no person who has been convicted of a felony by any court of the Trust Territory or any court with the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States, shall sit in the Congress unless the person so convicted has been pardoned and has had restored to him his civil rights."

/s/ John A. Carver, Jr.  
Acting Secretary of the Interior