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(ENIWETOK RETURN)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON AND U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS HAVE ISSUED A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO RETURN ENIWETOK ATOLL TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AT THE END OF 1973.

ENIWETOK ATOLL IS ONE OF THE AREAS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT
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WHERE THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN DEFENSE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SINCE 1946. THE PEOPLE OF THE ATOLL WERE RELOCATED TO OTHER ISLANDS IN THE MARSHALLS, AND HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME ISLANDS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

IN THE STATEMENT ISSUED TUESDAY (APRIL 18), HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID THAT FUTURE MICRONESIAN LAND NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WERE SET FORTH IN THE THIRD ROUND OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN HAWAII LAST YEAR. "THERE AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS STATED THAT IN REGARD TO...SECURITY RELATED LAND REQUIREMENTS IN THE MARSHALLS, THE NEED FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AT KWAJALEIN WOULD NOT DISAPPEAR IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE." THE STATEMENT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS FURTHER NOTED THAT "IT MAY SOMEDAY BECOME POSSIBLE TO CONSOLIDATE OUR TESTING ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC AND CONCURRENTLY REDUCE OUR LAND INTERESTS IN THE MARSHALLS."

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT "THE STATUS OF ENIWETOK HAS BEEN UNDER STUDY BY THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EVER SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING BIKINI ATOLL WAS FIRST CONSIDERED. OVER THE YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS

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BEEN STRIVING TO BRING ITS WORK ON ENIWETOK TO A CLOSE. (NOW) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS IN FACT BEEN ABLE TO STRUCTURE ITS RESEARCH PLANS AND PROGRAMS IN SUCH A WAY TO PERMIT AN EARLY RETURN OF THE ATOLL TO THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK."

HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON TELEPHONED MARSHALLS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THE ATOLL, AND INDICATED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO WORK WITH THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK ON A TIMETABLE AND OTHER PLANS FOR A REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

IN THIS REGARD, THE HICOM NOTED THAT DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN WILL ACCOMPANY AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS ON HIS TRIP THROUGH THE EASTERN DISTRICTS, ENDING IN MAJURO WHERE HE WILL BEGIN MEETINGS WITH ENIWETOKESE AT THE DISTRICT CENTER. COLEMAN ALSO PLANS TO OVERFLY THE ENIWETOK COMPLEX ON HIS WAY TO AN INSPECTION OF BIKINI ATOLL, WHERE THE AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION OF THAT FORMER ATOMIC TESTING SITE IS NOW BEING CLOSED OUT.

THE HICOM SAID THAT AT SOME FUTURE DATE THE LEADERS OF ENIWETOK WILL BE INVITED TO BIKINI TO OBSERVE THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM THERE IN ACTION. HE SAID FURTHER THAT THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK WILL BE
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CONSULTED AT EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

DISTAD DEBRUM SAID THAT HE WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS FOR THEIR LONG AND HARD EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE THE RETURN OF THE ATOLL TO THE PEOPLE. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING WITH DEPUTY HICOM COLEMAN LATER IN THE WEEK AND TO BEGINNING THE PLANNING FOR THE REVERSION OF ENIWETOK TO THE TRUST TERRITORY SO THAT THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM COULD GET UNDERWAY.

ACCORDING TO THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED TUESDAY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE SAME TYPE OF SURVEY, CLEANUP AND REHABILITATION PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BEEN USED AT BIKINI. "AS AN INITIAL STEP, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, "THE U.S. PLANS TO COMMENCE THE SURVEY OF THE ATOLL PROBABLY LATE THIS SUMMER. THE CLEANUP AND REHABILITATION OF THE THREE ISLANDS---PARRY, JAPTAN AND ANIYAANII---IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE ATOLL, WILL RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY."

PRIOR TO THE RETURN OF ENIWETOK TO TRUST TERRITORY JURISDICTION BY THE END OF 1973, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, "THE UNITED STATES IS COMPLETING SOME RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TESTING ON THE ATOLL WHICH

WILL NOT INVOLVE NUCLEAR DETONATIONS OF ANY TYPE. THESE TESTS WILL IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH AN EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF THE REHABILITATION PROCESS AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1973."

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(SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPOINTED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18. (H45)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIC T. BORJA HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE REPRESENTATIVE HANS WILLIANDER OF TRUK AND REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL OF PALAU.

THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK WAS CREATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 4C-33, WHICH AUTOMATICALLY BECAME LAW MARCH 26. THE COMMITTEE IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF IRRADIATION ON THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO SECURE ANY AND ALL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE AFFECTED ATOLLS. IT IS ALSO CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING COMPENSATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK FOR THE INJURIES WHICH THEY SUFFERED DUE TO EXPOSURE TO IRRADIATION.

ACCORDING TO SENATOR BORJA, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS BEGUN INITIAL HEARINGS INTO THE RONGELAP AND UTIRIK SITUATION ON SAIPAN. ON MONDAY THE COMMITTEE CALLED ON DR. WILLIAM PECK, TT HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR, AND DR. HAYAKAWA OF JAPAN FOR SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE OVERALL SITUATION OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE.

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(SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CONT'D)

BOTH MEN ACCOMPANIED THE RECENT AEC MEDICAL TEAM TO RONGELAP. THAT TEAM WAS NOT ABLE TO CONDUCT ITS EXAMINATIONS.

BORJA INDICATED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO SEND A NEW MEDICAL TEAM CONSISTING OF A DOCTOR FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION; ONE FROM JAPAN AND ONE FROM THE U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A TRIP TO JAPAN TO

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OBSERVE RADIATION VICTIMS AND SEEK POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FROM CONSULTANTS IN JAPAN. HE SAID IF THERE SHOULD BE A TRIP, IT COULD BE IN THE EARLY PART OF JUNE.

THE SENATOR FURTHER STATED THAT ACTUAL INVESTIGATION AND OTHER COMMITTEE WORK RELATING TO RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS WILL COMMENCE FOLLOWING THE SUBMISSION OF AN INTERIM REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON MAY 10, 1972. THE FINAL REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED DURING THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF CONGRESS, EARLY NEXT YEAR.

EORJA SAID REPRESENTATIVES ATAJI BALOS AND CHARLES DOMNICK OF THE MARSHALLS WILL BE ACCOMPANYING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AS RESOURCE PEOPLE AND INTERPRETERS, IN ADDITION TO BRYAN FARLEY, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIAN RESEARCHER.

(BOY DROWN ON SAIPAN)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---A FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY DROWNED SOMETIME MONDAY EVENING (APRIL 17) IN THE OCEAN OFF CHALAN KANOA ON SAIPAN. THE YOUNGSTER WAS IDENTIFIED AS JOSEPH C. AGUON, SON OF MR. AND MRS. JUAN AGUON OF CHALAN KANOA DISTRICT TWO.

ACCORDING TO A POLICE REPORT, JOSEPH AND TWO OTHER YOUNGSTER WERE BOATING AND SWIMMING IN THE LAGOON, JUST OFF THE AREA KNOWN AS "SUGAR DOCK" AT ABOUT 4:00 P.M. THEY WERE USING A MAKESHIFT TIN BOAT,

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WHICH BEGAN DRIFTING OUT OF THE LAGOON INTO OPEN WATER. TWO OF THE BOYS SWAM FOR HELP, LEAVING JOSEPH ON THE BOAT, BUT BY THE TIME RESCUERS ARRIVED NO TRACE OF THE BOY COULD BE FOUND. AN EVENING SEARCH FAILED TO LOCATE HIM.

THE BOY'S BODY WAS FOUND TUESDAY MORNING IN DEEP WATER, BEYOND THE LAGOON REEF, BY TWO FISHERMEN.

(LEADER GRANT ANNOUNCED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---THE SPEAKER OF THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, ITELKANG LUII, HAS BEEN NAMED TO RECEIVE A "LEADER GRANT" FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE IS THE SECOND MICRONESIAN RE-

CIPIENT OF SUCH A GRANT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1972.

THE GRANTS ARE AWARDED TO SELECTED MICRONESIAN LEADERS EACH YEAR, AND ALLOW THE GRANTEE TO TRAVEL IN THE UNITED STATES FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AS A GUEST OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, VISITING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OBSERVING GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. LUII IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE PALAU FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. FRIDAY (APRIL 21), WITH THE REST OF HIS ITINERARY TO BE WORKED OUT AFTER HE ARRIVES IN THE U.S. CAPITOL. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY PALAU'S DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, HARUO REMELIIK.

THE OTHER GRANTEE FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR WAS WILFRED KENDALL,

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON DIVISION ON SAIPAN, WHO IS EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM THE U.S. AND HIS LEADER GRANT TOUR IN A FEW DAYS.

(SURGEON GENERAL VISITS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 16, (MNS)---THE UNITED STATES SURGEON GENERAL, JESSE STEINFELD, WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN A VISIT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY TUESDAY (APRIL 18). DR. STEINFELD WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN FROM GUAM TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

THE SURGEON GENERAL IS IN CHARGE OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, AND ACCORDING TO TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR DR. WILLIAM PECK, DR. STEINFELD HAS "MORE TO DO WITH DETERMINATION OF HEALTH POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES THAN ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL." HE WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES AND THE CONGRESS IN DETERMINING THIS POLICY. PECK SAID DR. STEINFELD IS THE HIGHEST-LEVEL U.S. HEALTH OFFICIAL EVER TO VISIT MICRONESIA.

AFTER CONFERRING BRIEFLY ON SAIPAN WITH HEALTH SERVICES PERSONNEL, DR. STEINFELD, DR. PECK AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CHIEF NASCHA SIREN

WILL LEAVE WEDNESDAY ON A SPECIAL MILITARY PLANE FOR TRUK, PONAPE,
KWAJALEIN AND EIKINI ON AN INSPECTION TOUR. THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN HEALTH PROGRAMS IN
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MICRONESIA IN RECENT YEARS, AS THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS QUALIFIED FOR
PARTICIPATION IN MORE AND MORE PUBLIC HEALTH GRANTS AND PROGRAMS, SAID
DR. PECK.

(MICRONESIAN STATUS STATEMENT)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL JOINT COMMU-
NIQUE, THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION TO THE RECENT STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
IN PALAU ALSO RELEASED THEIR OWN STATEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE
TALKS. WHILE THE STATEMENT DOES NOT DIFFER ESSENTIALLY FROM THE JOINT
COMMUNIQUE, IT DOES PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE TALKS.

HERE IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE MICRONESIAN RELEASE:

"THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION IS PLEASED AT THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE
FOURTH ROUND OF TALKS ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. AFTER
ALMOST TWO WEEKS OF DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES, WE
BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH MAY
ENABLE US TO END THE TRUSTEESHIP AND CREATE A NEW MICRONESIAN STATE IN
FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. WITH THE END OF THIS ROUND
OF TALKS, WE FIND OURSELVES CLOSER THAN WE HAVE EVER BEEN TO SELF-GOV-
ERNMENT IN MICRONESIA.

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(MICRONESIAN STATUS CONT'D)

"THE PALAU TALKS WITNESSED THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN HANA IN OBTAINING RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION CONSIDERS ESSENTIAL PARTS OF ANY FUTURE STATUS. AT HANA, THE TWO DELEGATIONS ARRIVED AT SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE FIRST THREE OF THESE FOUR

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CRUCIAL ISSUES. FIRST, THE DELEGATIONS AGREED AT HANA -- AND REAFFIRMED AT KOROR -- THAT THE COMPACT WE NEGOTIATE IS AN EXPRESSION OF MICRONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY, OF OUR PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, THE

RIGHT TO FREELY CHOOSE OUR POLITICAL FUTURE. SECONDLY, THE DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT MICRONESIANS HAD THE RIGHT TO ADOPT A CONSTITUTION AND LAWS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR OWN NEEDS. THIRD, THE DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OF THEIR LAND. ONLY THOSE BASES AND OPTIONS WHICH WERE NEGOTIATED AS PART OF THE COMPACT WOULD FALL UNDER U.S. AUTHORITY. OTHERWISE, ONLY MICRONESIANS WOULD OWN MICRONESIAN LAND AND ONLY MICRONESIANS WOULD EXERCISE THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN.

"THE PROGRESS MADE AT HANA IN SECURING RECOGNITION OF MICRONESIA'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, TO CONTROL OF LAWS, TO BASIC OWNERSHIP OF LAND, LEFT ONE LARGE AREA OF DISAGREEMENT TO BE SETTLED IN PALAU. THIS WAS THE ISSUE OF TERMINATION, OF HOW -- AND BY WHOM -- ANY FUTURE COMPACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA MIGHT BE ENDED. AT HANA, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED THAT TERMINATION REQUIRE THE CONSENT OF BOTH SIDES. AT HANA, AND AT KOROR, THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION MAINTAINED THAT UNILATERAL TERMINATION -- BY EITHER SIDE, WITHOUT THE OTHER SIDE'S CONSENT -- WAS AN ESSENTIAL SAFEGUARD OF MICRONESIAN'S RIGHTS.

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"WHILE INSISTING ON MICRONESIA'S NEED TO CONTROL ITS POLITICAL DESTINY, THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION ALSO RECOGNIZED THE UNITED STATES NEED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE PLANS ON A LONG-RANGE BASIS AND TO BE CONFIDENT OF A STABLE PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC.

"THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION PRESENTED AN APPROACH DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES. IN ITS ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES IT WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES. AS SLIGHTLY MODIFIED DURING NEGOTIATIONS, THE TERMINATION PROPOSAL HAS FOUR MAIN FEATURES.

"ONE: TO ENSURE THAT THE RELATION OF FREE ASSOCIATION IS GIVEN A FAIR TEST, THE COMPACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA WILL BE

TERMINABLE BY MUTUAL CONSENT ONLY DURING AN INITIAL PERIOD OF YEARS. THE MICRONESIAN SIDE PROPOSED THAT THIS PERIOD SHALL LAST FIVE YEARS; THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN YEARS. FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS POINT WILL BE NECESSARY.

"TWO: AFTER THE INITIAL PERIOD HAS PASSED, THE COMPACT WILL BECOME UNILATERALLY TERMINABLE BY EITHER THE UNITED STATES OR MICRONESIA.

"THREE: IN MICRONESIA, TERMINATION WOULD REQUIRE A VOTE OF THE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

"FOUR: IF THE COMPACT IS TERMINATED AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF FREE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA IS ENDED,

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A SECURITY TREATY WILL SPECIFY THE TERMS OF CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN MICRONESIA. THIS SECURITY TREATY WILL HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE COMPACT.

"MANY DETAILS OF TERMINATION REMAIN TO BE NEGOTIATED, BUT THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION WELCOMED THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTANCE OF MICRONESIA'S BASIC RIGHT DULY TO TERMINATE ANY COMPACT IT ENTERS.

"THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT UNITED STATES ACCEPTANCE OF MICRONESIA'S RIGHT OF UNILATERAL TERMINATION, COMBINED WITH PREVIOUS ACCEPTANCE OF MICRONESIA'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND MICRONESIA'S CONTROL OF LAWS AND LANDS, CONSTITUTE THE BASIS OF AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES. MICRONESIA'S FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES AND LEGAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED.

"BOTH DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A SMOOTH AND ORDERLY TRANSITION FROM THE CURRENT TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA. IT WAS AGREED THAT AN EARLY STEP IN TRANSITION WOULD BE THE CALLING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT. A NUMBER OF INTERIM STEPS OVER THE TRANSI-

ITION PERIOD WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE GRADUAL PHASING OUT OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND THE ORDERLY ASSUMPTION OF EXECUTIVE POWER BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

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"DISCUSSION OF FINANCE DID NOT PROCEED BEYOND PRELIMINARY STAGES. THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION DID NOT BELIEVE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND COMPENSATION TO BE GRANTED MICRONESIA BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION PROPOSED THAT THE FINANCING FURNISHED BY THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR BASIC AREAS. THESE WERE:

"ONE: THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED MICRONESIA DURING ITS TRANSITION FROM TRUSTEESHIP TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

"TWO: COMPENSATION FOR THE AGREEMENT BY MICRONESIA TO DENY THE USE OF ITS LAND AND WATERS TO MILITARY FORCES OF ANY NATION OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES.

"THREE: PAYMENT FOR THE CONTINUING RIGHT TO USE SPECIFIED LAND AND WATERS FOR U.S. MILITARY BASES AND OPERATIONS, AND

"FOUR: PAYMENT FOR SPECIFIC RENTALS FOR MILITARY USE OF LAND AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND OPTIONS ON SPECIFIC LAND AND TERRITORIAL WATERS.

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RUHHBRA/CINCPACFLT

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RUHFHFA/CGFMPAC

RUHHBPA/COMCBPAC

RULSSAA/NAVFACENGCOM HDQTRS

RUHHBRA/PACDIVNAVFACENGCOM

RUHHLHA/HICOM LNO HONOLULU

BT

UNCLAS // // // FINAL SEC OF IV // // //

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/HICOMRY OKINAWA NOT ADDEES

PASS INFO

CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

USCAR FOR TTPI LNO

SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INT/DASTA/OSN.

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(MICRONESIAN STATUS CONT'D)

"IN CONCLUSION, THE FOURTH ROUND OF STATUS TALKS IN KOROR SAW AGREEMENT ON THE MICRONESIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR UNILATERAL TERMINATION; IT SAW A MICRONESIAN RECOGNITION OF THE U.S. NEED FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AUTHORITY IN MICRONESIA. IT SAW PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION AND FINANCE, WHICH ARE MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO BOTH EEEONS

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"MANY DETAILS, AND SOME LARGE ISSUES, REMAIN TO BE DEALT WITH IN FUTURE MEETINGS WITH UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES. IT IS CLEAR, FOR INSTANCE, THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE UNDERSTANDINGS DEPEND ON AGREEMENT ON

THE NATURE OF FINANCING.

"APART FROM THE MATTER OF FINANCING, THERE REMAIN SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TOWARD MICRONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY. THE UNITED STATES POSITION APPEARS TO RECOGNIZE MICRONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY ONLY INsofar AS IT RELATES TO THE MAKING OF THIS COMPACT. THE UNITED STATES DECLINES TO ACKNOWLEDGE ANY INHERENT SOVEREIGNTY ON THE PART OF EITHER THE PEOPLE OR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA. THIS RESERVATION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES MAY YET CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO, WHILE IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED BY BOTH SIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE BROAD AUTHORITY IN THE FIELDS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, THERE REMAIN SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH REFERENCE TO THE EXACT SCOPE AND NATURE OF SUCH AUTHORITY -- PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"DESPITE THE WORK THAT REMAINS AHEAD, HOWEVER, THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT SOME BASIS FOR AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED. WHEN THESE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN, MICRONESIA WAS A TRUST TERRITORY AND THERE WERE THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE HAD IT REMAIN SO.

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THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL UNITED STATES OFFER WOULD HAVE MADE MICRONESIA A TERRITORY; THE NEXT WOULD HAVE MADE IT A COMMONWEALTH. THESE WERE NOT ACCEPTABLE PROPOSALS. BUT NOW, AT LAST, WE SEE THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW AND UNIQUE POLITICAL STATUS; A SELF-GOVERNING MICRONESIA IN FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A STATUS THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION BELIEVES CAN BE RECOMMENDED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE PEOPLE OF BOTH NATIONS -- AN HONORABLE END TO THE TRUSTEESHIP AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW NATIONAL LIFE IN MICRONESIA."

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(MNS RADIO WIRE)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---IN A JOINT STATEMENT RELEASED TUESDAY (APRIL 18) ON SAIPAN, U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AND TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO RETURN ENIWETOK ATOLL IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AT THE END OF 1973. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS IN LINE WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS DURING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN HAWAII LAST YEAR THAT U.S. DEFENSE LAND REQUIREMENTS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS MIGHT BE REDUCED FROM THEIR CURRENT LEVELS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK, WHO WERE MOVED FROM THE HOME
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ISLANDS IN 1946, PRESENTLY OCCUPY UJELANG ATOLL, BUT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HOME.

- (MORE) -

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM TUESDAY AFTERNOON, HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON INFORMED THE DISTAD ABOUT THE RETURN OF ENIWETOK. HE ALSO SAID DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN WILL BE TRAVELING WITH AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS THROUGH THE EASTERN DISTRICTS THIS WEEK, AND WILL MEET WITH ENIWETOKESE LEADERS IN MAJURO THIS WEEKEND TO BEGIN DISCUSSING PLANS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE ATOLL, AND THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK TO THEIR FORMER HOME.

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(MNS RADIO WIRE)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIONT. BORJA HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. THE COMMITTEE WAS CREATED UNDER RECENTLY ENACTED PUBLIC LAW 4C-33. INITIAL HEARINGS ON

THE OVERALL SITUATION OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK BEGAN ON SAIPAN MONDAY (APRIL 17). OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE REPRESENTATIVES HANS WILLIANDER OF TRUK AND TIMOTHY OLKERIIL OF PALAU.

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SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---A FIVE-YEAR-OLD BOY DROWNED SOMETIME MONDAY EVENING (APRIL 17) IN THE OCEAN OFF CHALAN KANOA ON SAIPAN. THE YOUNGSTER WAS IDENTIFIED AS JOSEPH C. AGUON, SON OF MR. AND MRS. JUAN AGUON OF CHALAN KANOA DISTRICT TWO. THE BOY'S BODY WAS FOUND EARLY TUESDAY MORNING IN DEEP WATER, BEYOND THE LAGOON REEF, BY TWO LOCAL FISHERMEN.

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SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---U.S. SURGEON GENERAL JESSE STEINFELD WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN A VISIT TO THE TT TUESDAY (APRIL 18). DR. STEINFELD WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN FROM GUAM TUESDAY AFTERNOON. THE SURGEON GENERAL IS IN CHARGE OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND HAS "MORE TO DO WITH DETERMINATION OF HEALTH POLICY IN THE U.S. THAN ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL," ACCORDING TO TT HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR DR. WILLIAM PECK. HE IS THE HIGHEST-LEVEL U.S. HEALTH OFFICIAL EVER TO VISIT MICRONESIA.

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PALAU, APRIL 18, (MNS)---THE SPEAKER OF THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, ITELBANG LUII, HAS BEEN NAMED TO RECEIVE A "LEADER GRANT" FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. HE IS THE SECOND MICRONESIAN RECIPIENT
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OF SUCH A GRANT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1972. LUII IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE PALAU FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. FRIDAY (APRIL 21ST). HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY PALAU'S DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, HARUO REMELIIL.

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