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PAGE FIVE RUHGSAA4593 UNCLAS
 CONSULTED AT EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM.
 DISTAD DEBRUM SAID THAT HE WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE HIGH COM-
 MISSIONER 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.

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ACCORDING TO THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED TUESDAY, IT WILL BE
 NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE SAME TYPE OF SURVEY, CLEANUP AND REHABILI-
 TATION 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 REHABILI-
 TATION 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, (MNS)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA HAS
 BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING
 RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE RE-
 REPRESENTATIVE HANS WILLIANDER OF TRUK AND REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY
 OLKERIIL OF PALAU.

THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK WAS
 CREATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 40-35, 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 RES-
 PONSIBILITY 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, IT HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR,
 AND DR. HAYAKAWA OF JAPAN FOR SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE OVER-
 ALL SITUATION OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE.

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