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Palikir, Pohnpei, September 30, 1990

Number 10

US Ambassador presents her credence

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The first U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the FSM, Her Excellency Aurelia Erskine Brazeal presented her credentials to President John R. Haglegam during a formal ceremony held Sept. 18 at the President's Cabinet Room.

Present at the ceremony were FSM Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael, Pohnpei State Governor Resio S. Moses, Acting Speaker Dohsis Halbert, Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet members, and other officials. The Ambassador was accompanied by Second Secretary Mary C. Shoemaker.

Brazeal who replaces former U.S.

Representative to the FSM Michael Wygant who left the U.S. Embassy in May this year said, "Our nations face an historic opportunity to help shape a firm, more secure, and more prosperous world, in which our shared ideals and our democratic way of life can flourish. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will determine how the people of our two countries prosper. President Bush seeks to strengthen even further the friendship between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia as we move down this path. For that reason both countries agreed to elevate representatives to ambassadorial level."

(See CREDENTIAL, Page 2)

Chief Executives meet in Palikir

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The 16TH FSM Chief Executives Conference (CEC) met at President's Cabinet Room September 27-28 to discuss: the budget request for translation of and public education on the proposed amendments to the FSM Constitution, the rotation of the Japanese Foreign Aid, FSM Immigration problems with visitors, Copra Subsidy, FSM Group Health Insurance, U.S. Federal Budget Sequestration, Control Document for Projects, Compact Funds Distribution, Second Five-Year Development Plan, and the U.S. Peace Corps in Micronesia.

The Conference which was chaired by Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael comprised of the four State Governors, Petrus Tun of Yap; Sasao Gouland, Chuuk; Resio S. Moses, Pohnpei; and Yosiwo P. George, Kosrae; and other staff officials from the states and the National Governments.

The CEC approved a proposal of \$200,000 for Political Education Program on the proposed amendments to the FSM Constitution. A Central Coordinating Committee is to be appointed by the President, and the State Governors are to appoint Task Forces in their states to carry out duties in educating the public of the amendments to the Constitution beginning December this year to February next year.

The CEC also agreed upon the 1992 Foreign Aid from the Government of

(See CHIEF EXECUTIVES, Page 2)



CREDENTIAL PRESENTATION - The first U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the FSM, Her Excellency Aurelia Erskine Brazeal (standing at the podium) presented her credentials to President John R. Haglegam during a formal ceremony held Sept. 18 at the President's Cabinet Room. From left to right are: FSM Congress Acting Speaker Dohsis Halbert, Pohnpei State Governor Resio S. Moses, FSM Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael, Acting Secretary of External Affairs J.Ragmar Subolmar, FSM President John R. Haglegam, and Brazeal.

2 Chief Executives

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Japan which its rotation started in 1987 with Pohnpei State, Chuuk State in 1988, Kosrae State in 1989, and now Yap State this year and the next year. The Yap State project is with two phases which will take two years to be completed.

CEC proposed the establishment of a \$1.7 million copra processing plant and agreed to seek financial assistance from the FSM Congress or other outside sources. According to statistics each of the three states of Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap could provide 2 million nuts to begin with.

The agreement with Straub Hospital & Clinic in Honolulu had been terminated as of September 15 this year due to lack of personnel to take care of FSM health insurance in Honolulu. CEC during the discussion noted that the \$1.4 million of the FSM Group Health Insurance has \$92,999.86 outstanding debt as of Fiscal Year 1989-1990.

The CEC further affirmed to reinstate the agreement on the basis that Straub Hospital & Clinic provides the subscribers with easy access to medical care at its facilities, designed to monitor their care with single source billing, extended a discount on services and to

agree to serve FSM Group Health Insurance subscribers appropriately and expeditiously.

The CEC was discontented at both FSM and State personnel who check documents and luggages at the airport upon arrival and departure, displays actions discourteously to the visitors in FSM and therefore requested the FSM Attorney General to initiate through FSM President a specific communication to FSM personnel, and the Governors of the FSM states, to communicate specifically with their personnel, indicating that all visitors and leaders especially entering and departing the FSM must be given due respects.

Discussion on U.S. Federal Budget Sequestration, Control Document for Projects, Division of the Compact Fund, and the Gramm-Rudmann Act was stressed and the CEC considered several interpretations toward the Automatic Budget cuts as it was briefed by an FSM Budget Office personnel who reported that the Act will have effects on the U.S. Congress appropriations.

The CEC noted that FSM funds provided under the Compact and those which covered by the U.S. Full Faith and Credit will not be affected and those

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Credentials ...

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"As Secretary of State Baker noted in June 1989, Americans believe we are on the eve of a new era in international relations. President Bush has underscored the post-cold war theme in recent statements. The dominant trends shaping the 21st century are the decline of communism as an economic and political system, an increasingly integrated economy of global scale sparked by spectacular technological change and a world wide trend toward democracy and free enterprise. Pacific Basin Nations are on the cutting edge of these trends. They have demonstrated to the world that the unleashing of market forces and human creativity is the strongest basis for sustained prosperity. National success in future world economies will belong to societies that nurture individual initiative, openness, the free flow of information and fair competition," Brazeal said.

Adding she said that she supports Haglelgam's call, made earlier this year, "to make the decade of the 90's the decade of economic development. The movement toward international economic interdependence, I believe, is inevitable and it would be wise to prepare for this global market. The United States wishes to work with your government to achieve economic growth and to promote trade."

She stated that, "The path to be followed by the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia is set in the Compact of Free Association. It will be our guide -- for our political, security, economic and cultural relations -- all aspects of our free association."

Brazeal concluded saying, "Mr. President, on this historic occasion I bring the friendship of the American people to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. I look forward to working with the people and the government in a close, cordial and respectful way to promote mutual interests. Let us continue to be constant and good friends."

Haglelgam in his statement said, "The people and government of the FSM have been looking forward to the day (See CREDENTIALS, Page 3)



BRAZEAL PAID COURTESY CALL ON HAGLELGAM - The first U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the FSM, Her Excellency Aurelia Erskine Brazeal (left), Sept. 18, paid courtesy call on FSM President John R. Haglelgam (right) at his Office.

Credentials

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when the United States accredits its Ambassador to the FSM. That day has come to pass this afternoon when Ambassador Aurelia Erskine Brazeal presented her credentials to me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the FSM."

He extends to Brazeal a very warm welcome to the Federated States of Micronesia as well as the gratitude of the people of the FSM to her Excellency and to her esteemed government for the historic occasion in the relationship between the FSM and United States of America. "We are witnessing," said Haglelgam, "the full expression of establishing friendly and diplomatic relations between our two countries in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations."

"I am pleased to have accepted your letter of credence and to receive you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Federated States of Micronesia," said Haglelgam, adding, "The relationship between our two countries under our Compact of Free Association Treaty is vast and dynamic and one which we attach a great deal of importance. This relationship requires close cooperation and understanding of our two governments."

Continuing, "Your excellency's appointment with your long and impressive record of service in the foreign service of your country gives me full confidence that you will serve as your predecessor did to strengthen the friendship and cooperation that has already existed between our two countries."

"I wish to take this opportunity to thank Michael Wygant, the first United States Representative to the FSM, under whose excellent leadership the first three years of our special relationship produced what I consider to be a solid foundation for us to build upon. I also would like to express gratitude to Mrs. Shoemaker for the excellent works she has done and the fine cooperation she has generously demonstrated during the short time she has been in charge of the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei," he said.

Adding, "I wish to express the gratitude of the government and the people of the FSM to the United States Government for its past assistance in our self-determination efforts which led to our independence nearly four years ago and to the establishment of our close and friendly relations with the United States under the Compact of the Free Association Treaty. Madam Ambassador, we have come a long way to this point in our history. The FSM will continue to seek the recognition of its sovereignty by members of the community of nations and by international organizations including the United Nations. We look forward to further assistance from the United States in this regards."

"Madam Ambassador, our two countries have much to look forward to under the Compact of Free Association to cooperate on matters of mutual concerns," he stated, adding, "As you assume full charge of the United States Embassy, the FSM Government looks forward to working closely with you in strengthening our relationship with your government."

Concluding he said, "May I ask Your Excellency to convey my personal regard and best wishes to President Bush for his continued good health and the prosperity of the people of the United States. Ambassador Brazeal, I am indeed gratified to receive you and to welcome you to the Federated States of

Micronesia."

Brazeal who is from Georgia is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister, and Counselor.

Since 1987, Brazeal has served as Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs for the American Embassy in Tokyo. Prior to this, she served as a member of the Senior Seminar from 1986-1987; Deputy Director for Economics at the Department of State, 1984-1986; in the Economic Bureau of the Office of Development Finance at the Department of State, 1982-1984; Economic Officer in Tokyo, 1979-1982; Review Officer for the Treasury Department Secretariat, 1977-1979; Uruguay/Paraguay Desk Officer, 1974-1977; and Watch Officer and Line Officer for the Secretariat Staff at the Department of State, 1973-1974.

In addition, she has served as an Economic Reports Officer in the Economic Bureau at the Department of State from 1971-1972, and a consular and Economic Officer for the American Embassy in Buenos Aires from 1969-1971. Brazeal entered the Foreign Service in 1968.

She received her BA degree from Spelman College and Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University in 1967. Brazeal was born, November 24, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois.



PRESENTATION OF THE 1990 CONCON DOCUMENT - President John R. Haglelgam (second from the left) shook hands with Resio S. Moses, 1990 Constitutional Convention President, as he accepted the Constitutional Convention Document presented to him, Sept. 24, by Moses in the President's cabinet room. From left to right are Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael, Haglelgam, Con Con Administrator Ihlen Joseph, and Moses.



FSM Joint Stamp Issue with US & Marshalls

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM joins USA and the Marshalls to release a joint commemorative stamp issue Sept. 28, 1990 that salutes the 1986 enactment of the Compact of Free Association, according to a press release from FSM Postal Service.

The ceremony was held at the President's Cabinet room and attended by Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael, FSM Congress Acting Speaker Dohsis Halbert, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Aurelia Brazeal, Governors Resio S. Moses, Sasao Goulund, Yosiwo George, and Petrus Tun, Acting Post Master General Ignacio Stephen, cabinet members, and other officials.

The United States commissioned Herb Kawainui Kane of Hawaii to design two stamps, one in honor of the treaty with the FSM and the second for the treaty with the Marshall Islands.

Based on inputs from the FSM Postal

Service, the stamp honoring the FSM highlights the illustration of a traditional Micronesian canoe superimposed next to the FSM national flag and a caption (FREE ASSOCIATION) noted horizontally on the right edge of the stamp.

The traditional canoe features on the stamp is a Satawalese canoe representing the expertise and mastery of our traditional navigators who could sail the open seas by canoes without the need for modern day navigational instruments.

Kane also designed a U.S. stamp for the Compact between the USA and the Marshall Islands. It depicts a Marshall Islands stick chart superimposed next to the national flag of the Marshall Islands.

Both of Kane's stamp designs are being reproduced as a joint stamp issue by the FSM with addition of a third stamp to salute the U.S.A., who has

contributed much to the educational and political development of Micronesia since the second World War.

The third stamp which was designed by Lloyd Birmingham, depicts the famous U.S. naval frigate ship, the U.S.S. Constitution superimposed next to the American flag. Also featured in the stamp design is the bald eagle, the national bird of the U.S. and a symbol of the U.S. Postal Service, along with the frigatebird, the symbol of the FSM Postal Service.

The stamps are all denominated at 25 cents.

The FSM stamps were printed by The House of Questa in London, England.

For more detailed information regarding FSM stamps contact Philatelic Bureau, Federated State of Micronesia FM 96941, or FSM's philatelic agent, the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp., 46 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001.

FDA meets in Palikir to discuss IDF issues

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PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) The Federated Development Authority (FDA) comprised of the four State Governors and the President whose function is managing the Investment Development Funds under the Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the USA, met Sept. 26, at the FSM Capital in Palikir.

The meeting was chaired by Chuuk State Governor Sasauo Goulard. Present at the meeting were FSM Vice President Hiroshi Ismael,

Pohnpei Governor Resio S. Moses, Kosrae Governor Yosiwo George, Yap Governor Petrus Tun, and some key staffs for the governors.

From the National Government were the Secretary of Finance, Al Tuuth and the Division of Investment staff, representatives of the Attorney General's office, Office of Planning and Statistics, Department of Resources and Development, FSM Development Bank President Manny Mori, the IDF Advisory Board staff.

The first item the Authority discussed was a loan package submitted by the Ponape Coconut Product (PCP), Inc. for \$330,000 with 5% interest rate which to be paid in 12 years, all required review of which has been completed by the Investment Development Fund (IDF) Advisory Board, Pohnpei State

Government relevant agencies and the FSM Development Bank which is managing the funds.

In the discussions Development Bank President Mori explained due to recent currency fluctuations and inflations, that the IDF Advisory Board is recommending that an increase of \$30,000 dollars be approved to change the total to \$360,000. The FDA members unanimously approved the loan application.

FDA also discussed and adopted two amendments to the existing guidelines, which would allow for a smooth and efficient conduct of loan applications review. Guideline 1 amended to read, if the Advisory Board is asked for comments, and the Board is to make a decision without a meeting, each member of the Board will have until the end of the Advisory Board's review period to submit his comments to the Chairman. The second amendment reads, unless a majority of the Board members opposed the application, the application will be deemed approved.

Lastly, the FDA discussed the Investment Portfolio with Seibel Investment Company.

The Secretary of Finance, Tuuth and staff of the Division of Investment briefed the members on the Seibel, a company which is managing \$33-million dollars long term and \$35-million

dollars in short term investments for the FSM. Seibel's parent company, Equi Tech, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, as a result other investors have withdrawn their portfolio from Seibel. At the recommendation of the Secretary of Finance, the FDA voted to take all but 1-million dollars from Seibel and give to Northwest Quadrant (N.W.Q.), another money manager, to manage its portfolios. This change will take effect as early as today (October 1, 1990). The other money manager is Capitol Olympic which is managing \$27-million dollars for the FSM.

The FDA members were also briefed on the investment market conditions. The Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has adversely affected the market. The Bond Market's interest rate went up while the value of the bond dropped. Adding that if a full scale war breaks out, the market will drop. Price of crude oil is fluctuating. As of September 25 Texas Crude is selling at \$38.67 per barrel, an increase of \$1.14 per barrel.

At the end of the FDA meeting, Vice President Ismael announced that FSM will host the Forum meeting slated for July 1991. A planning committee has been created to prepare for the meeting. He invited the governors to make recommendations they feel might be helpful.



FDA CONFERENCE MEETS IN CABINET ROOMS - The Federated Development Authority (FDA) on September 26, met at the FSM Capital in Palikir. The meeting was chaired by Chuuk State Governor Sasauo Goulard. From left to right are, FSM Development Bank President Manny Mori, President's secretary Laura Girdner who was taking the minutes of the meeting, Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael, Pohnpei State Budget Adviser Leo Delarosa, Chuuk State Public Safety Deputy Chief Fiuling Ruben (partially hidden), Glenn Jewell, Chuuk State Governor Sasauo Goulard, Pohnpei State Treasury Technical Adviser Jerry Shae, Kosrae State Governor Yosiwo George, Yap State Governor Petrus Tun, and Pohnpei State Governor Resio S. Moses.

CORRECTIONS

In the Aug. 30, 1990 issue (Volume 11, No. 8), continuation of the APPU story on Page 2, South Korea is a full member of the APPU, but was not mentioned in the story. Sept. 15, 1990 issue (Vol. 11, No. 9), on page 2, story on Fresh Tuna Companies in Chuuk and Yap States, last paragraph, the name for the company to be established in Chuuk should appear "Chuuk Fresh Tuna Inc., and the story on Powell, Page 7, Dueton isn't part of Gene Babauta's name. It should appear (Gene Babauta).

6 White joins FSM AG Office as Chief of International Law

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PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)-The former North Carolina State Chief Deputy Attorney General Harold (Hal) M. White, Jr. joined FSM Attorney General Office as FSM Senior Assistant Attorney General and was appointed the FSM Chief Division of International Law by the FSM Attorney General Bill R. Mann.

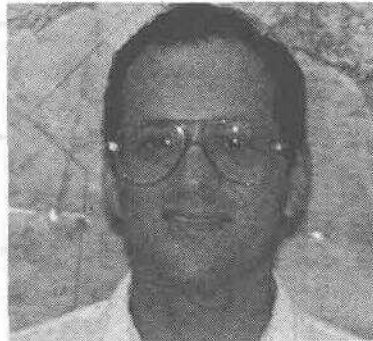
The FSM International Law Division Chief represents the President, the Department of External Affairs, Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA) and other agencies of the government on External Affairs and International relations of the FSM.

White studied Political Science and History, and received his BA Degree in 1971 from Wake Forest University at North Carolina and J.D. Degree in 1975 from the University of Main in Florida.

White was a contributing member of the California State Advisory Committee for Science, Technology, Environment and other policies of California State to former State Governor of California Edmund G. Brown from 1976 to

1982; and was an Attorney to United Nation (UN) Non Governmental Organizations, authorized to observe UN Committees during sessions and advice governmental conference from 1982 to 1987.

He was Law Professor at Western State University; worked for the International New Court and coordinated International Law Society at the Col-



White

lege of Law, Los Angeles, California from 1976 to 1982.

At Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. from 1984 to 1985, White was a researcher and one of the authors

of "International Space Law," the publication which is involving the outer-space activities of the United States and the other countries.

As a Professor of Law from 1982 to 1987 at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina, White taught International Communication Law and published with his wife's assistance the book entitled "Law of the International Communication."

He also served as the Deputy Chief Attorney General of North Carolina where he advised the Attorney General pertaining to his relation with the Congress of the United States of America and his relation with the other states; helped to conduct for him some of his most special litigation cases involving Constitutional Law and special cases that would come in or generally referred by the Governor to the Attorney General from 1987 to 1990, prior to his appointment with FSM.

White, 41, is married to former Rita Lauria from North Carolina and they have two daughters, Camie, 7, and Marcela, 3 years old.

FSM Livestock Dev. Officer left Pohnpei for United Kingdom

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)- The FSM Livestock Development Officer Haresh T. Patel left Pohnpei the end of September returning to the United Kingdom, his home, after six years with the FSM Department of Resources and Development (R/D), Agriculture Division, according to the Division's Chief Sailas Henry.

Patel first arrived Pohnpei from Palau in 1984, where he was serving as a volunteer under the UNDP Regional Livestock Project as Livestock Development Officer, Advising the Government of Palau on cattle raising.

At the end of his UNDP tour of duty, Haresh was hired by the Division of Agriculture, R/D, as a Livestock Development Officer, a position he held until his departure.

As Livestock Development Officer, Patel served as technical expert to the government, involving in the planning, designing and implementation of various livestock development projects in

all states of the FSM. He was also involved in reviewing livestock, and related development projects proposals presented to various state and FSM governments, conducted studies, gather information and documents required for the Development of viable Livestock industry.

Patel helped started and implemented a pilot project (Goat Project) in Pohnlangas, Pohnpei State, purposely, to improve goat meat for local consumption as well as for possible export. Same project was extended to Kosrae and Chuuk States with funding from FSM Congress, UNDP Regional Livestock Project and the participating state. Ten male goats of Anglo-Nubian breed were imported from Fiji, where similar project was established for purpose of crossbreeding with local female goats.

Consequently, interested local farmers were invited to participate by bring to the project site their female goats, leave them for certain period of time for

breeding, then returned to the farmers.

The project was proven successful. The goat population rapidly increased. A demonstrations on variety of preparation and recipes of goat meat were held. From the Pohnlangas Goat Project, up to four goats were slaughtered for meat weekly and sold at the local market.

After a visit to Guam's Meat Import Section (USDA/FSS) information received indicated that Guam imports about 40 tons of goat meat monthly from the Northern Marianas and New Zealand, says Henry.

Patel also helped designed, coordinated, and implemented the Australorp Poultry Development Project in various states of the FSM. This project involved the sale from Agriculture offices of the Australorp (black) chicks, which can survive on local feed, to farmers to raise for either home consumption or for sale.

Finally, Patel was involved in the planning, designing, and the implementation,

(See PATEL, Page 7)

PCP, processing plant

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FDA members have unanimously approved the loan application of \$360,000 for Ponape Coconut Product (PCP), the only coconut processing company in Pohnpei, established through the initiative of Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS) in 1974.

On November 16, 1989, it was granted a corporate charter. Mr. Catalino Sahn of Pohnpei, who has been with PCP since its inception and who is the President and General Manager. The Vice-President is Etler Joseph, and Secretary Treasurer, Myoriko Victor, both of Pohnpei. The company employs one Filipino Chemist and 22 FSM citizens.

The borrowed money will be used for modernizing, and expanding the operations of PCP by acquiring a soap making machine, two trucks, spare parts, enlarge factory building, and as working capital.

The company will be granted a grace period of 18 months, for which no

interest will be charged. Thereafter, for the first two years the company will make a monthly payment of \$1,450, and during the remaining eleven years the company will have to pay \$3,553.20 a month on the principal and interest

PCP is processing copra to make cooking oil, laundry soap, body and hair oil, shampoo, animal feed and toilet soap. Its products have been sold locally in the retail stores. It also exported its products to other states in the FSM. An agreement was signed end of 1989 in Guam for the marketing of its products in Guam, Saipan, Okinawa and possibly other places, according to the proposal.

Arrangements are being made with various marketing companies in Hawaii and the US West Coast for marketing PCP products. The company expects, following the expansion, to increase its toilet soap monthly production level from the present 338 to 2,239 cases.

Chief Executives ...

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which are not covered by the U.S. Full Faith and Credits may become domestic projects subject to the 30 percent cut.

The conference announced that there is an FSM Delegation in Washington, D.C. which is joining FSM Embassy Office officials to follow up on this issue.

The CEC agreed to come up with budget strategies for the nation and recommended that the State Governors are to submit reports to support the CEC bill to the Congress.

The CEC was briefed on the Second Five Years Development Plan and the U.S. Peace Corps in Micronesia. It was noted that the Office of Planning and Statistics has distributed the Second Five Year Development Plan to the FSM States and National Government to review and comment on it by May 1990. It was further urged that the Governors of the four states submit their inputs on the document, the week of October 1-6, 1990.

Patel

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tion of the Pohnpei Broiler Project. One of the goals of the project is to substitute imported with locally raised chicken meat. FSM Congress in 1988 who approved the project as a pilot project in Pohnpei also appropriated for the proj-

ect \$140,000, and Pohnpei State Legislature matched it with \$250,000 while FSM Development Bank (FSMDB) together with the Pohnpei State Agriculture Division participated by identifying eighteen farmers and granted loans for each farmer.

The funds from the Congress and Legislature were used for the acquisition of equipment and facilities. While the individual farmer's loan amounts ranging from 30 to 40 thousand dollars by each farmer from the FSMDB were used for development of and operation of the farms.

The Pohnpei Broiler Project is now operating smoothly and is producing about 3,000 chicken each week which are available in the local stores. This production level is still insufficient for the consumption demands in Pohnpei. It is planned that similar project will be established in other states of the FSM.

Henry praised Patel for his practicality in the implementation of the Livestock projects. "He was a doer, he had never shied away from actually working at the project sites. He was both an expert advisor and a practical demonstrator".

The FSM will be recruiting another expert to fill the vacancy, Henry concluded.



PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE - Vice President Hiroshi H. Ismael (right) is presenting in his office a certificate of outstanding performance to Livestock Development Officer Haresh Patel (second from the left), in completion of his employment contract with FSM Department of Resources and Development, Division of Agriculture. From left to right are: Acting Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development Bumio Silbanuz, Patel, Administrator, Division of Agriculture Sailas Henry, and Ismael.

8 Ming Feng Tsai arrested and charged

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSS Palikir, following the arrest, escorted Ming Feng Tsai, steaming under its own power, to Colonia, Yap before proceeding to Pohnpei. The vessel has been in Pohnpei since it arrived following the arrest. The ship's crews comprised of four Filipino nationals and four Taiwanese, the captain included, were allowed to remain on board the ship. But were ordered not to leave the island until a trial is held.

The Federated States of Micronesia through the Attorney General's Office filed, on September 20, 1990, in the FSM Supreme Court's Trial Division, Palikir, Civil Action No. 1990-73, the Federated States of Micronesia, Plaintiff, vs. THE VESSEL MING FENG TSAI, defendant seeking the Court to order forfeiting the fishing vessel together with its fishing gears, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo and fish on board the vessel, and awarding a civil monetary penalty in accordance with the section 502 (2) and (3) of title 24 of FSM Code.

Also filed was Criminal Action No. 1990-506, against the Captain and the entire crew members of Ming Feng Tsai for ignoring all orders to stop which in the process of apprehending endangered the lives and safety of the surveillance officers.

The second Civil Action No. 1990-74, FSM vs. the Captain and all crews named as defendants, charging them for violations of certain sections 501 and 503 of title 24 FSM Code for fishing in the FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone without a valid and applicable fishing permit, for obstructing and resisting arrest,

and for abandoning fishing gears in order to avoid detection of unlawful fishing.

Under the FSM laws criminal penalties for violations of section 501 of title 24 is punishable by a fine up to 5-million or imprisonment for not more than two years or both. However, any violent resistance to an FSM arresting officer by a fugitive vessel or its crews including use of dangerous weapons, guns, so forth, which caused to the arresting officer(s) bodily injury would, if found guilty, be imprisoned for a period up to 10 years.

The FSM will vigorously enforce its maritime laws against any violations by any vessel(s) engaged in illegal fishing activities within in the FSM's Extended Economic Zone, says Webster. In this connection, there is constant random air surveillance by both the New Zealand and Australian military through governments' arrangements, in addition to FSM's existing surveillance programs.

The apprehended vessel, Ming Feng Tsai, is one of the 203 fishing vessels, licensed by the Government of the Republic of Palau. Operating under a contract with Palau International Traders Incorporated Inc., a company in Palau in joint venture with Ting Hong Oceanic Enterprises Co., Ltd., a Taiwanese company. The Joint Venture engages in fishing and airfreighting on a daily basis freshly caught tuna fish from Koror to the Japanese Fish markets, says Hsu Jing Shan, the Company's Palau Representative.

The Taiwanese company, Ting Hong Oceanic Enterprises Company, Ltd., has retained private attorney Fredrick L. Ramp, Esq., to represent it in the suits.



US & FSM SIGN MOU - The governments of the FSM and the USA signed, September 17, 1990, a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the transfer of two vessels from the United States Coast Guard to the FSM. The Governments of the United States of America (USG) and the FSM, have reached the understanding that the USG will grant to the FSM Government without compensation and further responsibility, the former US Coast Guard vessels Cape Cross, WPB 95321 and Cape Corwin, WPB 95326 (Ex-U.S. Coast Guard Patrol Boats, 95 feet long, number 321 and 326). The FSM agrees to accept the vessels where they are located in their present condition, and to assume fiscal and logistical responsibilities for operation, maintenance and repair of the vessels. The FSM agrees to use these ships during the remainder of their useful life to patrol waters within the jurisdiction of the FSM as recognized by international law. Signing the MOU for the US and FSM Governments are US Embassy to the FSM Second Secretary Mary Shoemaker (left) and Acting Secretary of External Affairs J. Raglmar Subolmar (right).

THE NATIONAL UNION

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