

The 7th FSM Congress convened in its 4th special session

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The 7th FSM Congress convened, March 17, this year in its 4th special session at the Congress Chamber in Palikir, Pohnpei with Speaker Jack Fritz presiding, and with eight member present and six excused on the opening day.

The Congress' choir sang the national anthem along with those in the chamber witnessing the opening of the session. Invocation was by Rev. Henry Wilson.

Fritz congratulated the Senators on their re-election in the recent election.

At the chamber to witness the opening of the 4th special session include National and State officials, traditional leaders and others.

Fritz appointed the committee to wait on the President including Floor Leader Joseph Urusemal as Chairman, and members are Senators Nishima Yleizah, Moses Mackwelung, and Wagner Lawrence.

President Bailey Olter on March 1st called for the 4th special session of the 7th Congress to convene on March 17, 1993 for 10 days, in Palikir, Pohnpei, to

consider several urgent measures.

The main topics of this 4th special session included three measures relating to the College of Micronesia which are the ratification of the College of Micronesia treaty, creating the College of Micronesia-FSM which must exist in its own right by April 1, 1993; the appropriation of funds for the Board of Regents of the new College of Micronesia-FSM; and the confirmations of the nominations of the new Board of

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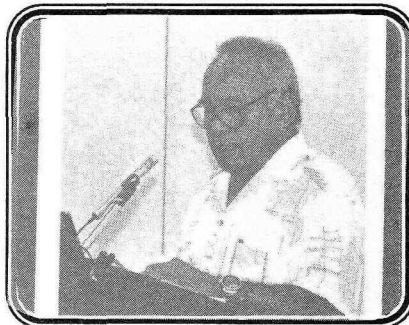
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4th PBILC met to discuss services for special families and children

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Fourth Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Conference convene at Palikir on the 7th of March with the theme, "Assuring the Continuity of Care and Services for Individuals with Special Needs: The Challenge of Transitions".

FSM President Bailey Olter addressed the conference speaking on the Government's responsibilities to Assure Continuity of Care and Services for Individuals with Special Needs while Pohnpei State Governor Johnny David, and Secretary of Health Services Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick welcomed the participants. Maternal Child Health Program Manager and Conference Co-Chairperson, Sizue Yoma was the Master of Ceremony.

The discussions on the overview of the purposes of the Conference was lead by Dr. Peter Van Dyke, Senior Medical Advisor to Healthy Family



OLTER ADDRESSED 4TH APBILC - President Bailey Olter on March 11, addressed the Fourth Annual Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Conference during the conference's opening ceremony held at the Central Conference Facility Building at Palikir, Pohnpei.

Headstart from Washington, D.C. who said that the conference was designed to provide an opportunity for the participants to interact with various agency representatives on a regional and local levels to create plans that will assure a continuity of services in the community for infants, children and youth with

disabilities and their families; promote effective leadership strategies to enhance smooth service provision transition from agencies to families, and to provide information on various interagency topics such as data collection, physicians involvement in the transition process and preschool models, to name a few.

Following the formal opening, the conference proceeded with discussions moderated by Dr. Phyllis Magrab, Director of Child Development, George Town University; discussants included Damian Sohl, Pohnpei's Director of Health Services; Secretary of FSM Department of Health Services Dr. Pretrick and Lilly Jean Iriarte, representing parents of Pohnpei State.

The conference defined the critical elements of transition services regarding care plans, care coordination, communication systems and community

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leadership. Also covered was Consumer Perspective as it relates to the importance of the elements for families and children with special needs.

The conference was hosted by the FSM Health Services, Pohnpei State Department of Health Services and the Guam Department of Public and Social Services in collaboration with other local, national and international public service organizations and technical assistance groups.

The conference is unique in that more than one sponsoring agency is involved in financing, planning and coordinating this major technical assistance event, said Dr. Pretrick.

The purpose of the conference has been to provide vehicle for intra-agency, and interagency, and inter-region communication concerning the systems of service provisions available for families and children with special needs. This year's focus is on how agencies can assure that the children who are at risk for health or educational problems will be provided with adequate support and assistance as they move from their homes to the hospital, to school and back into the community.

The participants were from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, four States of the FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Territory of American Samoa, and the Territory of Guam. The teams consisted of administrator from public health, special education, and early childhood education programs along with selected parent representatives and community leaders from throughout the Pacific Basin. Some of the team members will also be speaking on various panels during the week. Action Plans for interagency activities were designed by the jurisdictional teams.

The pre-conference meetings began on March 7, 1993 at Pwomaria Resort. On March 8, 1993, the conference moved to Palikir.

John Shwab, Ph.D., Department Chief, Child and Adolescent Primary Care Services, US Department of Health

and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, an advocate of Pacific Basin health and education programs for many years as well as key sponsor of the event was a presenter of the conference, along with Dr. Phyllis Magrab, Director, Child Development Center, Georgetown University. Local leaders spoke during the week including Damian Sohl, Director of Health, Pohnpei State, Dr. Anthony Polloi, Director, Palau Bureau of Health and Senator Mandeleine Burdallo, Guam Legislature. Other U.S. sponsoring agency representatives were Pascal Trohanis, Ph.D., Director, National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Richard Zeller, Ph.D. and technical assistance staff, Western Regional Resource Center, University of Oregon. In addition to the sponsoring groups there were other participating agencies and representatives including: Susan Moses, Community College of Micronesia; Dotty Kelly, Coordinator, NEC*TAS, University of Hawaii and the Pacific Basin Deaf/Blind Program; Gregory Dever, M.D., Director, Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program in Pohnpei; Philomena Milong, Coordinator, Palau Parent Network; Jo Butts, Coordinator, Technical Assistance for Parents Project; Nancy Ratokalau, Ph.D., Training Director, University of Hawaii, University Affiliated Program; Henry Ichiho, M.D., M.P.H., Head, Maternal and Child Health Program, University of Hawaii, and Peter Van Dyck, M.D., Healthy Start Program Advisor, Washington D.C.

This is the first year that the conference is being held in the Federated States of Micronesia. Previous Conferences have been held in Guam and Saipan. The conference's Co-Chairpersons Laurent Duenas, Administrator, Guam Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services and Sizue Yoma, from FSM Health Services were busy planning the onsite logistics with the assistance of their staff, other agency personnel and various technical agency staff.

The efforts of professionals, parents

and community leaders working together makes a difference in the lives of our children and is a commendable goal to achieve as we move toward the twenty-first century.

The conference was closed on 11th of March.

CFSM

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Regent members. All of these matters need Congressional actions before April 1, 1993, the letter said.

President Olter also asked Congress for its confirmation of the nomination of Del Pangelinan to become the FSM Public Auditor, replacing Jack Yakana, the current FSM Public Auditor. Another nomination awaiting confirmation is the nomination of Dr. Catalino Cantero as Secretary of the newly created Department of Education.

Olter requested favorable consideration by Congress of certain proposed amendments to Public Law No. 7-101, to make the law and the agreement between Asian Development Bank and FSM compatible.

Public Law No. 7-101, which authorizes the FSM Government to borrow from Asian Development Bank (ADB) \$6.5 million dollars for Fisheries project, was passed by Congress and signed by President Olter into law with certain modifications which are incompatible with the loan agreement which the Asian Development Bank's officials held certain reservations, causing a delay in the release of the loan to the FSM. The proposed legislation is intended to rectify the incompatibility between the agreement and the legislation.

President Olter said that he limits the number of issues on which he is requesting Congress' action in order not to distract the focus of Congress. But, he said he will ask the next Congress to favorably consider during the May 1993 Regular Session more proposed legislations.



NEW CAT TEAM IN POHNPEI - A transfer ceremony was held at the CAT team's camp in Pohnpei on March 12, 1993. Remarks were by United States Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal, and others. Above is Governor Johnny David delivering his remarks.

MMA & KDSFA signed agreement

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA) and Korean Deep Sea Fisheries Association concluded successfully another round of Fisheries Access negotiation early February this year and signed the access agreement.

The agreement will be presented to Congress for its review and approval before it can be implemented. The Authority concluded the agreement after two difficult rounds of negotiations.

The agreement, if approved by Congress, would grant access to Korean fishing vessels to fish within the FSM's 200 miles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In return the Association will pay an annual fee of approximately \$2,415,000, an increase of approximately 72% over the previous fee level, says Jesse Raglmar Subolmar, Chairman of MMA. In addition to the increased fee level, the agreement would also ban the current practice of transshipment at sea and therefore, brings the transshipment of catches to FSM ports. The agreement also include measures to improve on the provision of catch data requirement.

In November of last year the two parties broke off negotiations over disagreement over MMA's insistence that the Korean vessels pay more on the royalties fee to the FSM. The two-day negotiation was attended by all MMA Authority members except the Kosrae State's member, Gerson Jackson, who was unable to attend the negotiation.

Nena presents his concerns over COM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Vice President Jacob Nena on January 21, this year, wrote a letter to Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick, the Rector of the College of Micronesia (COM), calling the Board of Regent's attention to a number of issues which concerns the FSM Government regarding the well-being of College of Micronesia-FSM.

Nena said that the FSM Government will not be responsible for payment of deficits resulting from the operation of the COM treaty unless the Government officially accepts it and funds are duly made available for it.

Nena said that the National Government will not pay for CCM operational deficit until an audit is completed. Should such audit verify misappropriation of funds, such personnel having involvement in misappropriation of CCM funds will be asked to make restitutions. In the interim, Nena told Pretrick that, the FSM Department of Education is designated to make payments of CCM bills against the \$400,000 dollars recently appropriated by the Congress of the FSM.

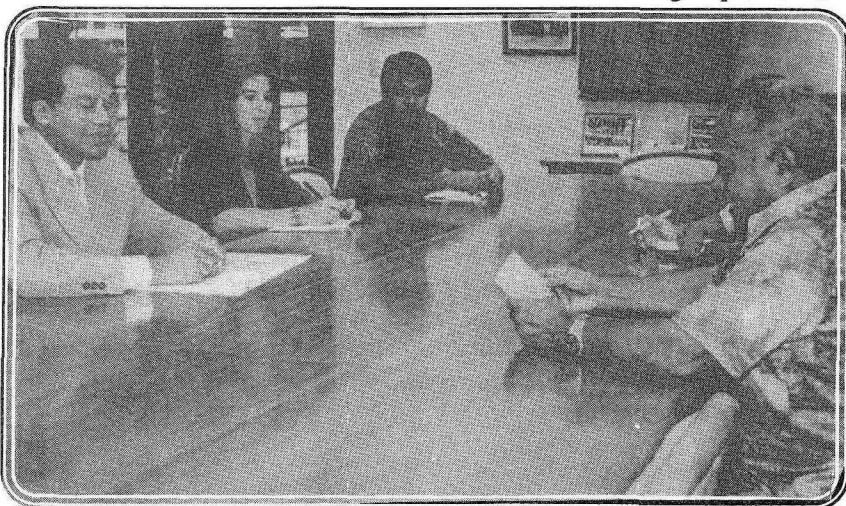
Nena also said that awarding of scholarship to applicant seeking entry into Micronesian Occupational College (MOC), Community College of Micronesia (CCM) or College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) will henceforth be decided by the FSM Government. This does not apply to self-supporting students who pay their own expenses.

Nena said that the second quarter student tuition and other fee requests should be substantiated with signed registration and activity forms and a copy of official transcript for the previous school year before payment is made.

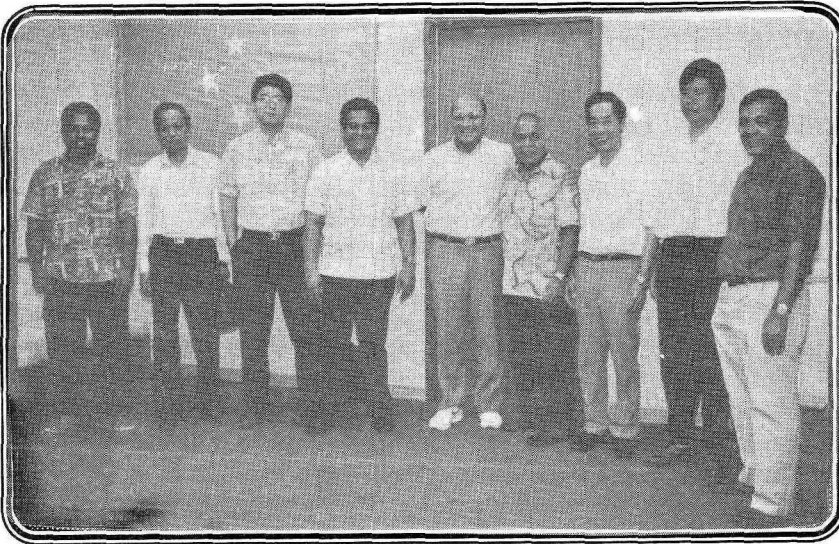
Nena stated that current members of the Board of Regents should continue in their capacities to advice and coordinate operations of CCM until new nominees are confirmed by Congress.

He added that the new Board of Regent will be asked to make necessary staff reshuffling to ensure sound administration and fiscal management.

Nenat concluded thank the CCM Finance Committee, on President Olter and his own behalf, for its dedication and determination in seeking favorable solutions to the College's problems.



UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE CALLED ON PRESIDENT BAILEY OLTER - Somsey Norindr, UNDP Resident Representative (left) paid a courtesy call on President Bailey Olter during his familiarization visit to the FSM from February 28 to the 3rd of March this year. Norindr, who assumed his duties in mid February last year as the UNDP Resident Representative with resident in Suva, presented to President Olter a letter from the UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III, informing Norindr's responsibility for administering the UNDP Program in the FSM, in replacement of Nigel Ringrose who was recently reassigned to other duties. The Resident Representative was accompanied by Sylle Goyet, UNDP Program Officer for Micronesia. From left to right are: UNDEP Resident Representative Norindr; UNDP Project Officer Goyet; Deputy Assistant Secretary for UN/Multilateral Affairs Jeem Lippwe; Protocol Officer leske lehsi (partially hidden), and FSM President Bailey Olter.



FRIEND OF LONG AGO - Old time friends of President Bailey Olter visited him at his office in Palikir. Olter had a photo session with them and from left to right are Special Assistant to the Vice President Josiah Wakuk, Shi Zhao Yu, George Chu, Vice President Jacob Nena, David M. Sablan who is a consultant, President Bailey Olter, Miao Le Sheng, Li Xiar Fu, and Chief of Staff Bermin Weilbacher.

SPC can provides assistance on AIDS & STD

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The South Pacific Commission (SPC) can provide technical assistance and financial grants up to \$5,000 to community groups to conduct their own AIDS and STD education and prevention activities, said Atanraoi Baiteke, Secretary-General of the SPC, in a release.

In his message for the World AIDS Day, 1992, with the theme "A Community Commitment" Baiteke said that the most successful programs in AIDS prevention were organized and conducted by community and peer groups.

So far, over 20 community groups in 12 Pacific island countries have received financial assistance including a video produced for Vanuatu's Wan Smolbag Theatre, which highlights issues related to HIV and AIDS. Charlotte's Story another video produced by SPC about a Samoan mother whose son got AIDS and died, and how the family handle the situation.

Understanding AIDS is a booklet that has been translated into 20 languages of the South Pacific countries including the FSM States of Chuuk and Yap. For further information, contact Steven Vete, South Pacific Commission, B.P D5, Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia, Telephone: Area Code (687) Telephone

26-20-00; for Fax: Area Code (687) 26-38-18; for Telex: 3139 NMSOPACOM.

In the FSM, call your State AIDS Coordinator, or the FSM Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick, Secretary, Department of Health Services; Palikir, Pohnpei; FM 96941. Both State or National AIDS Coordinators can help you with your requests.



U.S. TURNED-OVER EQUIPMENT TO FSM - The government of the United States of America turned-over some equipment to the FSM on February 2; this year. The brief transfer of equipment took place at the Pohnpei Dock. From left to right are Director of Office of Freely Associated States Lynne Lambert, U.S. Ambassador to the FSM Aurelia E. Brazeal, and Chief of U.S. Relations Epel Ilon. In the back are two staff of the U.S. Embassy in the FSM.

Japan small grant assistant

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Embassy in Tokyo has recently been informed by the Government of Japan that it is introducing a new scheme for Small Scale Grant Assistance to developing countries such as the FSM.

Such grant assistance will be given to projects undertaken by either governmental or non-governmental entities that would contribute significantly to "economic and social development, improvement of public welfare, or similar objectives in developing countries".

However, the Government of Japan requires that recipient Government would ensure that such goods and services acquired be used solely for the project and are exempted from customs and duties or other types of internal taxes and fiscal levies that maybe imposed on such goods and services. The Government of the FSM has communicated to the Government of Japan of its acceptance of the offer and its requirements.

Arriola replaces Palsis as Kosrae State LNO in Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Kosrae State Liaison Officer, Maker Palsis, left Pohnpei January, this year, returning home after serving for three years and ten months as Liaison Officer between Kosrae and Pohnpei States and the FSM National Governments.

Palsis became Kosrae State Liaison Officer during former Governor Yosiwo George's Administration and continued under the new Governor Thurston Siba until he was notified by the Governor through telephone that he is being relieved of his post by Arriola.

Palsis' successor, Kun Arriola, formerly served as Administrative Officer in the Governor Thurston Siba's Office before taking the new assignment.

Twenty six Australian pigs arrived Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Twenty Six genetically improved breeding pigs arrived Pohnpei the first of February this year by chartered aircraft direct from Australia, according to the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei.

Stanford said that 24 of the pigs had been purchased by Pohnpei Pork Corporation and two additional boars would be donated to Pohnpei Agriculture and Trades School (PATS). One boar was being donated through the Australian Government Small Grants Scheme, and the other is a direct donation by the supplier, Hyfarm industries.

The Ambassador described the Project as a flagship for Australian involvement in FSM Agriculture. Australian technical expertise and genetic engineering would be working hand in hand with a Pohnpeian joint venture partner and the FSM Development Bank. It will be a small project, which if successful, could be followed by others.

He expressed the hope that these pigs would significantly benefit the FSM by providing an improved genetic pool for local producers and eventually lead to import substitution of pork products.

The pigs are being supplied by an Australian company, Hyfarm Industries which specializes in the breeding of pigs for high performance in the tropical environment. Australia is an ideal country for the import of pigs into the FSM as it is free of exotic diseases

endemic in many other countries, stated the release. Dr. Alan King of Hyfarm Industries who is a qualified Veterinarian will be travelling with the pigs to ensure their safe arrival.

Dr. King who visited Pohnpei last year was very impressed with PATS' achievements and said that the school will benefit by the donation of a purebred Landrace boar and purebred Hampshire boar by creating a new genetic base for their breeding program and thus improve the quality and quantity of pigs produced at their piggery.

Pohnpei Pork Corp. has purchased 20 purebred gilts and four purebred boars which will be used as foundation stock for its commercial piggery project which is being completed in Nett Municipality. Pohnpei Pork Corporation is a joint venture between local business man, Hatler Gallen and David Smith, an Australian who has had previous experience in breeding pigs in tropical environment in Australia.

Pohnpei Pork Corp. will use this first consignment of stock as a nucleus herd from which to build a sound genetic base and to produce stock to supply Pohnpei with fresh pork and pork products with a view to import substitution. The company will be building a small slaughterhouse to cater for this need in the near future. Live breeding stock will also be available for sale to other farmers to generally improve the pig breeding in Pohnpei.

Chief of Staff represent FSM to tourism seminar

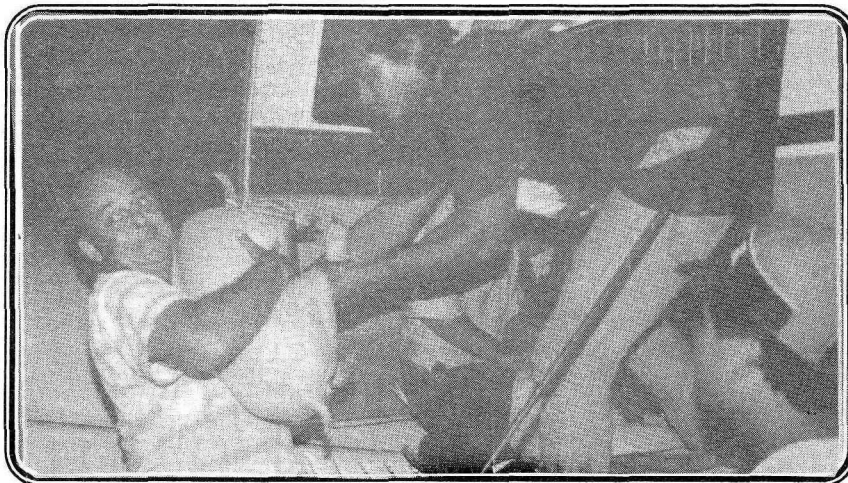
PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM President Bailey Olter appointed Chief of Staff Bermin Weilbacher to represent the FSM Government to the 3rd Pacific Islands Area Seminar, in Honolulu, January this year. The State of Hawaii's Office of International Relations co-sponsored the seminar with Japan's Association for Communication of Transcultural Study (ACT) Foundation.

The invitation for a FSM Government representative to participate in the seminar was extended to President Olter by Hawaii's Governor John Waihee and Secretary General of ACT Foundation Tomoyoshi Kaneko.

The overall theme was "Cultural Tourism." Various speakers defined what Cultural Tourism is and discuss specific topics as the role of culture as foundation of tourism. Regarding Education, the topics relating to examination of cultural studies as lifelong learning, experiential cross-cultural education, and cross-cultural encounters were explored. The Economics of tourism discussions involved economic and social impact of tourism on the Pacific Islands, small business development of cultural tourism, and a big business case study on economic benefits of cultural training. The Islands Delegates briefly discussed their tourism strategies, and how they relate to and affect indigenous cultures.

Invited Speakers at the Seminar were from the University of Hawaii's School of Travel Industry Management, Hawaii Visitors Bureau, and Bishop Museum, Tokai University, Marimed Foundation, East-West Center, Pacific Islands Business Center, Economics department of the University of Hawaii and a Hawaii resort hotel with a successful cultural training program.

The participants were housed at the Tokai University in Honolulu. All expenses for the seminar were paid for by the sponsors of the Seminar.



BREEDING PIGS FROM AUSTRALIA TO POHNPEI - Twenty Six genetically improved breeding pigs arrived Pohnpei the first of February this year by chartered aircraft direct from Australia, according to the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei. The above photo was taken at the Pohnpei International Airport upon arrival. The pigs are being transferred from the chartered plane to a vehicle. Handing the pigs over to David Smith from the plane is Robert Bardalome.

Fiscal Year 1994 budget review completed

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM National Government has completed its review of Fiscal Year 1994 Presidential proposed Budget which will be finalized for submission to the Eighth Congress when it convenes its First Regular Session in May 1993, according to the Presidential Budget Review Committee (The Committee).

The Committee is Chaired by Vice President Jacob Nena with other members including FSM Budget Officer Patrick Mackenzie, Director of Administrative Services Kohne Ramon, Secretary of External Affairs Department Resio S. Moses and the President's Chief of Staff Bermin Weilbacher.

The Committee on January 19, this year issued to departments and agency heads, the guidelines for revising their FY 1994 Budget. The guidelines stipulated that the Fiscal Year 1993 budget level will be the basis for the Fiscal Year 1994 budget request.

To cover the additional personnel cost of approximately \$600,000 dollars in a fiscal year for the salary increase for all public service employees which was enacted by the Seventh Congress and took effect on January 1, 1993, the Committee had directed that rather than inflating the overall budget figure, each department and agency should cover this additional cost by proportionately reducing the amount budgeted for All

Others Object Class.

This includes travel, consumable goods and fixed assets. The Committee is recommending a two to three year step down, cutting the budget five percent per fiscal year. The guidelines give departments and agency heads the flexibility to decide where in their budget to make this budgetary cut or step down. However, it must be reflected on the overall budget figure.

New positions, re-allocation, upgrading, or promotion of existing positions will not be requested in the FY 1994 budget. Any new program and/or project were treated as a separate budget request.

Ramon announced change of health care plan

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Director of Administrative Services, Kohne K. Ramon, who oversees the FSM National Government Employee Health Insurance Plan has written to all FSM Departments and Offices informing them that effective January 15, 1993, the Queen's Health Care Plan will terminate its services provided under the FSM Health Insurance Plan.

Earlier the Third Party Administrator informed FSM Administrative Services Director that it will terminate its contract with the FSM Government. Under the agreement the FSM Health Insurance Plan makes a monthly payment of \$65,000 to the Queens Health Care Plan.

Meanwhile, Ramon has recommended that off-island medical referrals under the FSM Insurance Plan be sent to Guam or Manila until other arrangements can be made. The FSM has an agreement with Guam Memorial Hospital Health Plan who handles its patients both in Guam and at the Makati Medical Center, Manila Philippines.

The FSM National Government Employee Health Insurance Plan pays Guam Memorial Hospital Health Care \$35,000 monthly for this service.

Dr. Cantero confirmed as Secretary of Education

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Congress in its 4th Special Session confirmed the nomination of Dr. Catalino Cantero as the first Secretary of Education at the national Government.

President Bailey Olter submitted his nomination of Dr. Cantero to the position of Secretary of the newly-created Department of Education in a letter to Congress Speaker Jack Fritz.

In his letter, the President stated, "I have searched the country for qualified FSM citizens and have identified the individual I believe most qualified to lead the way in developing and guiding the educational need of our country. I am therefore, without reservations, very happy to advise you that Dr. Cantero has humbly accepted this nomination and is ready to respond to the call of Congress for the advice and consent process."

Olter requested Congress to give its advise and consent in "good timing" because of the urgency to move forward on the educational development such as the restructuring of the College of Micronesia System.

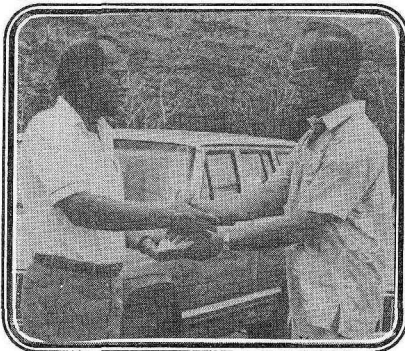
Cantero is the first Micronesian to earn his doctorate degree or PhD, the highest award in educational world, from Ohio University in educational administration. Dr. Cantero has devoted his

entire life to educational development.

As an appointee awaiting confirmation by the Congress of the FSM, Cantero hence will be an advisor to the Department.

Cantero has been Acting Secretary of the Department of Education since the establishment of the Department until his appointment.

Meanwhile, President Olter appointed Yosiro Suta, Administrator, Federal Programs, Community Services and Foreign Assistance, as interim Acting Secretary. In so doing, Olter suggested to all departments and agencies to cooperate with the Acting Secretary.



CHINA DONATED JEEPS TO FSM - The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the FSM Li Qinping (right), turned-over the keys of the seven donated vehicles to the Secretary of External Affairs Resio S. Moses (left) in a brief ceremony held in the parking lot at Palikir. The brief ceremony was attended by national and state officials.

IAC provides life insurance for FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Individual Assurance Company (IAC) again has been awarded another contract to provide Group Life Insurance, which include both basic and supplemental benefits, to the Government employees throughout the Federated States of Micronesia.

The contract period of three years, the Company informed the President that processing of local claim payments of up to \$5,000 to the beneficiary will be done in coordination with the Bank of Federated States of Micronesia. In this way IAC will be providing prompt services to the families in the FSM. Indeed, the letter said, two families in Pohnpei have enjoyed the benefits of this new arrangement.

The Pacific Regional Director, Bill Villa, concluded by reiterating that IAC and The Bank of the FSM will strive to be of service to the people of the FSM.

Meanwhile, the Office of Administrative Services in the FSM Government remind all its employees to file for the insurance.

Contract employees to submit progress report

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - All FSM employees on Special Contracts, Independent Contract or Other Contract arrangements have been advised by the Director of Administrative Services to submit to his office a written report on their job accomplishments or failures at least 15 days prior to the expiration date of their contracts, according to a letter from Administrative Services.

President Bailey Olter, on October 16, last year, issued guidelines for renewal or extension of any contracts and directed Administrative Services to monitor and to ensure compliance.

Failure to comply with the guidelines which include submission of reports will result in disapproval or denial of the renewal or extension of such contracts, the letter concluded.



MALEM SENIOR CITIZENS VISITED OLTER - President Olter was presented a gift by the Malem senior citizens when they visited him at his office during the citizens visit to Pohnpei, March 3, 1993. Front, left to right are: Malem Senior Citizens President Akio N. Talley presenting the present to the President Olter (right). In the back, left to right are: Malem Municipal Government Mayor Emul P. Timothy, and Sapuno F. Likiaksa, and Moody S. Shrew.

Negotiation on the Third Party Administrator

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Three FSM Government Officials returned to Pohnpei after attending several meetings with the new Third Party Administrators, on the issues dealing with payment on referral patient's medical bills, utilization review of doctor's orders with a view of minimizing costs, medical screening of patients and related logistical issues.

The Kuakini Medical Center and Honolulu Medical Group, have reached agreement with the FSM officials relative to provision of medical assistance to FSM patients who are insured by the FSM Health Insurance Plan.

The Kuakini Medical Center will provide medical care for in-patients referral cases, while the Honolulu Medical Group with memberships of more than 200 specialized Medical Doctors will provide medical screening of FSM's out-patients referrals.

The four medical referral coordinators attached to the FSM Consulate Office in Honolulu, one from each state of the FSM, will assume new roles in the referral program. They will be responsible for conducting the utilization review of patients, checking the patient's medical chart and making recommendations on Doctor's orders on preferred medications, to name a few. They will ensure that the Doctor's discharge plannings are carried out, including ensuring that a patient scheduled revisit to a doctor is not missed.

Also ensuring that a discharged patient who remain in Hawaii for a follow-up visit with his doctor does not miss his

appointment. The follow-up for medical check-up, if the patient had returned home, will be the responsibility the State Hospital in his/her Home State, ensuring that he/she does not miss the appointment.

Regarding the settlement of FSM's medical accounts payable, agreement has been reached which provides that it will be paid on a weekly basis. Upon receipt of the summary billing from the health care providers in Hawaii and further certified for payment by the Office of the Administrative Services, (OAS) such statement will be forwarded to the FSM Finance, through its Division of Accounting which will initiate an electronic wire transfer from the account of the FSM Health Insurance with the Bank of Hawaii, Pohnpei Branch, to the Third Party Administrator's checking accounts with the Bank of Hawaii in Honolulu. With this arrangement, payments of medical bills should improved.

The Delegation also met with the managements of Outrigger Hotel Chain in Honolulu to request assistance in providing lodgings for referral patients who normally would stay in the Government provided houses, but due to overcrowding are unavailable. The discussions went well and the prospect for an agreement is promising, says Ramon.

The delegation was led by the Director, OAS Kohne Ramon, other member were Sihna Lawrence, the Administrator of Division of Accounting, Department of Finance and Perdus Ehsa, Administrator of the Division of Personnel, OAS.

Bank of FSM ordered to pay license fees

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Supreme Court Chief Justice Andon Amaraich, on January 18, 1993, ordered the Bank of the FSM to pay license fees to the FSM Government for each separate branch or office. The sum of \$3,000 dollars, plus accrued interest, deposited in escrow account with the FSM Supreme Court for payment of the bank's license fees for three of its branches for calendar year 1992, be released to the FSM National Government.

The matter brought to rest Civil Action No. 1991-092, Bank of the FSM versus the National Government of the FSM. The Bank of the FSM, a domestically organized bank sought a declaratory judgment from the Court that its four branches in the FSM should pay only \$1,000 for the four branches instead of \$1,000 for each branch or office. While the Government contends that Title 29, section 502, of the FSM Code is to be assessed on per branch and rather than per bank.

Acting Chief Justice Amaraich, in reviewing the case, concluded that the word "bank" as used in the context of the law should be understood as bank branch. Thus the request for summary judgement Plaintiff, Bank of the FSM, represented by Attorney R. Barrie Michelsen was denied, and judgement is entered for the Defendant, FSM National Government, represented by Douglas J. Juergens, Chief of Litigation, Office of FSM Attorney General.

Kitti Municipality celebrated its Constitution

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Leaders and residents of Kitti Municipality celebrated the 8th anniversary of its constitution in February this year, with speeches by the Municipal Government Leaders, local products fair and sports events.

In his brief keynote address, the Kaunen Wehi, Soukiseh-leng or Nanmwarki, reminded all leaders in the municipality to take their duties and responsibilities seriously. To illustrate his point he said he has accorded them the proper protocol by making particular reference to them in his remarks. The Kitti Municipal Constitution differs from all other municipal constitutions, in Pohnpei that it provides for a functional role for the traditional leaders in the municipal government, which is consistent with the expressed spirit of Article 5, sec-

tions 1 and 2, of the FSM Constitution.

Other speakers included the Luhkenmanlap or Chief Magistrate Shadoru H. Santos, Speaker of Isokohnedi or Municipal Council, Dionicio Saimon and State Director of the Department of Education Daro Weital.

Following the formal ceremony, the students in Headstart level to Eighth graders from six elementary schools in Kitti competed in a variety of track and field events which occupied the rest of the day's activities.

Simultaneously, there was an agricultural fair involving a wide variety of farm produce and also a fishing tournament. The winners of both the fair and the tournament were rewarded. The celebration which was participated by a multitude of people from most villages was a successful one.



DEBATE STUDENTS - The students above are students who took part in the March 19, 1993, debate, visited the President in the Cabinet room. The topic of the debate is: Resolve that the President be elected by the people rather than the Congress. From left to right are: Pamela Etse, Maxine Donre, Emily Flores, Coach Advisor Nowel Hemon, President Bailey Otter, Tracy Donre, Stephanie Kanichy, Legina Nakanaga, Leilani Phillip, Lynn Carlos, and Coach Advisor Behsel Poll.

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