

8th FSM Congress convened in its First Regular Session

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The 8th FSM Congress convened May 11, in its First Regular Session in Palikir, Pohnpei, and electing Jack Fritz of Chuuk as Speaker for the 8th FSM Congress. Speaker Fritz has been Speaker for the FSM Congress since May 1987.

The Congress convened with Senator-elect Wagner Lawrence of Pohnpei

presiding as temporary Speaker until the election of Speaker Fritz.

The invocation was by Rev. Eugene W. Ness from the Assembly of God.

The Senators-elect (two-year term senators) were administered the oath of office by Edwel Santos, Chief Justice, Pohnpei Supreme Court after the credentials committee reviewed the credentials of the senators-elect. The com-

mittee consisted of Moses Mackwelung of Kosrae as the Chairman, and members were Leo A. Falcam of Pohnpei, Nishima Yleizah of Chuuk, and Joseph Urusemal of Yap.

Also elected were Dohsis Halbert of Pohnpei as Vice Speaker and Joseph Urusemal of Yap as Floor Leader. Speaker Fritz appointed Henry Asugar

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Exchange of Note between FSM and PRC

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Representatives of the Governments of the FSM and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) signed Letters of Exchange and exchanged notes, April 13, at Palikir, confirming their governments' agreement with the stipulations regarding the construction of the FSM Convention Center and National Museum to be located on FSM capital grounds.

Signing on behalf of the government of the PRC was Ambassador of PRC to the FSM Li Quinpin, and signing for the FSM government was the Secretary of External Affairs Resio S. Moses.

The agreement states that the FSM has requested PRC to construct a Convention Center and National Museum. The project will cover an area of 2,500 square meters including outdoor walkways.

The Chinese shall be responsible for the survey, design, provision of equipment and materials and recruitment of the necessary number of Chinese technical personnel to organize and construct the project.



FSM & PRC EXCHANGED NOTES - Secretary of the Department of External Affairs Resio S. Moses (right, sitting) and Ambassador of PRC to the FSM Li Quinping (left, sitting) signed Letters of Exchange and exchanged notes confirming their governments' agreement with the stipulations regarding the construction of the FSM Convention Center and National Museum to be located on the FSM capital grounds. At the back standing and looking on were representatives from both governments.

The FSM shall be responsible for providing the land on which the project will be constructed. It will also be responsible for providing power and water, drainage and sewerage, a road and

ground levelling for the project.

The agreement also stipulated that specific matters relating to implementation of the project shall be subject to
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FSM & PRC SIGNED CONTRACT -- Representatives from the governments of the FSM and PRC signed a contract agreement on the Convention Center and National Museum to be located at the FSM Capital. Signing for the FSM was National Planner Marcelino Actouka, (sitting, center) and signing for PRC was Senior Architect of Schenzhen Architecture Design Institute Vice Yard Chief, Chen Da Chang (sitting, right). Witnessing the signing were government representatives of both governments.

Note

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contract(s) to be executed by organizations authorized by FSM and PRC.

All related expenses shall be met by the loan stipulated in the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Chinese government and the FSM government signed on November 5, 1990. However, if the loan proceeds cannot totally cover the expenses, the uncovered expenses shall be discussed and settled separately between the two governments.

The November 5, 1990, agreement states that the government of the People's Republic will provide the FSM government with an interest free loan of two million U.S. dollars to be repaid over a period of ten years.

President Olter submitted FY 94 budget to CFSM Speaker Fritz

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM President Bailey Olter, on the first day of April this year, transmitted to Speaker Jack Fritz the fiscal year 1994 national budget totaling \$29,718,246, of which \$22,602,423 is for operations of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the FSM government, including the special programs, and independent and autonomous agencies. The balance, \$7,115,823 is for capital improvement accounts.

In his six-page letter, President Olter explained a number of policy considerations consistent with his May 1991 commitment to streamline the Government, a policy which he reiterated through his letter to Speaker Fritz dated January 20, 1993, in which he proposed that such a saving policy could be achieved through improved management. President Olter said the budget was developed in view of the inevitable decline in Compact funds, a task he says is neither easy nor impossible.

The President's Budget Review Committee headed by Vice President Jacob Nena which undertook a detailed review of the functions and missions of various offices and departments, resulted in his submission which addresses some of the Congress' concerns expressed in

Congressional Resolution No. 7-32.

To hold down the growth of the FY 1994 budget, these guidelines were used: 1) a reduction of fiscal year 1994 budget level to at least five percent below the current FY 1993 level; 2) freeze or stop on all promotions, upgrading and reallocations of positions in FY 94; and 3) limitations of recruitments in FY 1994 of new positions strictly to key slots.

The FY 1994 requested budget for fixed assets is \$182,035 compared to \$350,196 approved for FY 1993, a decrease of \$168,161. Another graphic example of the President's efforts to minimize expenditures is that the FY 1994 proposed budget is \$17,000 less than the anticipated revenue to be collected in FY 1994.

The FY 1994 requested budget includes ten proposed development projects totaling \$7,115,823 apportioned as follows: Manpower Development, two projects, totaling \$2,164,698; Resources and Development, two projects, totaling \$344,200; Health Services, one project, totalling \$80,000; Planning and Statistics, two projects, totaling \$546,925; Postal Services, one projects, \$530,000; Transportation and Communication, one project for \$450,000; and \$3 million to be given to the FSM Development Bank for loans to potential borrowers.

President Olter told Speaker Fritz that there is not enough money in the fiscal year 1994 capital account to cover the \$7,115,823 for capital projects. Therefore, he is proposing to take \$3 million from the Compact current account in section 211(a)(2) the Grant Assistance Section, to supplement the FY 1994 capital account funds.

In closing his letter, President Olter told Speaker Fritz that he hopes the Congress will join him in supporting his budget to be more responsive to the needs of the citizens of the FSM.

According to the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and FSM, the FSM must dedicate at least 40 percent of its annual funding to economic development projects. This means that during the first five years of the Compact period, the FSM governments would have dedicated to Capital Development Account Projects \$24 million annually or a total of \$120 million; during the second five year period \$20,400,000 annually or a total of \$102 million; and during the last five years \$16 million annually or a total of \$80 million.

During the 15 years of the Compact period the FSM would have spent at least \$302 million dollars for capital development.

UNDP representative visited FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The UNDP HIV/AIDS project staff, Donna Bjerregaard, visited the FSM in April to do a follow-up on the recommendations adopted during the South Pacific Sub-regional meeting held on November 12, last year, in conjunction with the Second International AIDS Congress held in New Delhi early November last year during which the participants from the Pacific Islands Countries strongly expressed the need of holding another sub-regional meeting, which would specifically focus on particular situation in the South Pacific.

Bjerregaard, paid courtesy calls on the Secretary of Department of Health Services, officials of UNDP and UNICEF in the FSM, the Deputy Secretary of External Affairs, the Secretary of Transportation and Communication, the Secretary of R&D, the National Planner, and the Chief of Staff.

She met with the Assistant Attorney General, and the appropriate health services staff on the FSM's HIV/AIDS Project. During the meeting she reviewed and discussed the AIDS situation and other issues including prevention and control programs. Bjerregaard also met with the National Women's Advisory Council, and the Women's Non-Governmental Organization in the State of Pohnpei.

Bjerregaard also called on the Executive Director of the Outward Bound Program, the staff of the College of Micronesia-FSM, the Substance Abuse officials, and met with the Executive Director of Pohnpei Community Action Agency. She devoted to meetings with Health Services staff on UNDP's proposed HIV/AIDS prevention and control plan for the FSM and identification of priority issues for the proposed sub-regional meeting.



PRESIDENT OLTER'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED - President Bailey Olter's 61st birthday in March this year was celebrated in his office a day before with a happy birthday song, cake and other refreshments. Upon emerging from his office, the happy birthday tune was harmonized under the direction of Bermin Weilbacher, Chief of Staff. The birthday cake was topped with four candles, each representing each of the four states of the FSM. The Acting Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court Andon Amaraich and Director, Administration of Congress, Suda Rayel, represented their Branches. Above is the President blowing the candles off, on his birthday cake.

Sokomanu new Secretary General for SPC

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The New Secretary General of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), Ati George Sokomanu, was in the FSM last February on an orientation and familiarization visit, according to a release from External Affairs.

Sokomanu, who assumed the post of Secretary General of the SPC on January 5, this year, was a former President of the Republic of Vanuatu. He was accompanied by SPC's Chief Economist Siliga Kofe who is from Tuvalu.

While in the FSM, the Secretary General paid courtesy calls on President Bailey Olter, Secretary of External Affairs Resio S. Moses, Secretary of Resources and Development Asterio Takesy; and the Governor of Pohnpei Johnny David. Sokomanu also visited the Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program where he met with the program's director Dr. Gregory Dever, and was the guest of honor at the award ceremony for the 25 students from Palau, Marshalls, FSM and American Samoa who completed their first year of study in

community health.

The Secretary General was presented an award by the Director of the Program in recognition of his substantial and continuing assistance to the school's mission in the South Pacific.

Secretary Moses in welcoming Sokomanu, expressed appreciation on behalf of the FSM Government for the timely visit-this being the first after almost eight years by an SPC Secretary General, explained that while delivery of services by the SPC to the region, and indeed to the FSM, have been excellent, there is a need for improvement in communications.

Communication costs between the FSM and Noumea, where the SPC Headquarters are located, are extremely high and it takes over one month for mails from the SPC to reach the FSM. The FSM has lost out on numerous matters requiring deadlines. To alleviate this problem, Secretary Moses recommended the utilization of the FSM Embassy in Suva in the coordination of urgent communications and other important matters.

Mangefel visited the FSM States

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Deputy Secretary of External Affairs John A. Mangefel is visiting all four states in the federation accompanied by Protocol and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer, Ieske Iehsi. The visit is part of an effort to maintain and improve coordination and good relations between the national government and the state governments. Emphasis will be given to specific problem areas that warrant improvement, according to a release from the Department of External Affairs.

Communications were forwarded by the President's Office to the respective state governors informing them of the proposed visits and to seek their concurrence. The visit was made starting with Chuuk State from April 20 to 23, Yap State from April 26 to 29, and Kosrae State from May 3 to 6, and Pohnpei State shortly thereafter. It is expected that a report of the visits will be compiled and disseminated to the states and appropriate national government's agencies and departments for follow-up actions.

President's memo. on new instruction

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter in a memorandum, directed all executive branch witnesses who will be testifying before the Congress committees, to prepare and submit written summaries of their testimonies. Such written summaries should highlight the subject matters to be discussed. This new instruction is in response to requests from the Congress.

President Olter said that the new instruction will become the standard mode of operandi to be followed by all executive branch witnesses and urges all those testifying before any committee of Congress to abide by it.

Olter has directed his Special Assistant for Legislative Matters to coordinate the implementation of the new policy with witnesses from the executive branch of the FSM government to ensure their compliance with it.

Australia to provides funds to the Pacific Islands

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - A circular letter from Mafaituuga Vaasatia Poloma Komiti, Acting Secretary-General, South Pacific Commission to representative of governments and administrations stated, "I wish to bring to your attention the offer made by the Government of Australia of funds in the amount of A\$20,000 which has been donated to a United Nations voluntary fund to enable Pacific Island countries to be represented at the Fifth World Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994.

The theme of the conference is to be "Population and Sustainable Development" and many of the issues to be discussed at the conference, including migration, will be of particular interest to the countries of the region.

Countries wishing to obtain funding to attend the Conference should therefore approach relevant United Nations representatives for further information.



UPGRADING POHNPEI POWER PLANT - The Nanpohnmal Power Plant will be upgraded after the ground breaking ceremony held, April 12 which will provide an additional five mega watts of power. The project is expected to be completed in 11 months and will cost 8.5 million U.S. dollars. Above are the officials representing the Governments of both the FSM and Japan breaking the ground of the project.

Pohnpei Electric Utilities will be upgraded

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - A ground-breaking ceremony was held, April 12, 1993, at the Nanpohnmal Power Plant marking the beginning of the new Pohnpei Electric Utilities Upgrade Project which will provide an additional five mega watts of power. Upon completion, Pohnpei State will have available a power capacity of 20 mega watts.

The project which is expected to be completed in eleven months will cost 8.5 million U.S. dollars or one billion Japanese yen. All funding for the project has been provided by the Government of Japan. This is the first time that the amount of aid has reached the one billion yen mark in one single fiscal year.

President Bailey Olter, Vice President Jacob Nena, Governor Johnny David, Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Kasiano Joseph, officials of Pohnpei Utilities Corporation, Pacific Consultant International and BELMAT, the project consultant and contractor respectively, the traditional leaders and other officials attended the ceremony.

President Olter expressed his appreciation

to the government of Japan for its continued assistance to the FSM in its national building efforts and maintaining good relations between the two governments. Olter also expressed his appreciation to the contractors for their participation in the landmark project.

Governor David expressed his appreciation to the FSM government and Department of External Affairs, the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) and all who are assisting in making the project a reality.

The President of the company that won the contract to undertake the construction thanked the Governor and the President and the government of Japan for their parts in making the project a reality and for their trust and confidence in his company.

The closing remarks were delivered by the manager of PUC who requested the patience and cooperation of all involved during the construction period which will from time to time cause power interruptions.

A reception was held in the evening the same day at the PCR Restaurant in honor of the occasion.

Weno Harbor to be extended

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Government of Japan had decided and entrusted to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to conduct a Basic Design Study on the Weno Harbor Extension Project (the Project) in Chuuk State in response to a request from the FSM Government.

A study team headed by Masaki Shiomi, Chief of Design Standard Laboratory, Port and Harbor Research Institute, Ministry of Transport was sent to the FSM early last March and remained in the FSM to conduct the study until May 8, 1993. Upon completion of the study, JICA will prepare a draft report which will be sent with a team to the FSM for discussions with officials concerned in September, 1993. Upon its acceptance in principle by the Government of FSM, a final report will be prepared for submission to the FSM in November, 1993.

The team held discussions with the FSM officials and conducted a field survey at the proposed project site. As a result, both parties have confirmed their understandings of the main items to be included in the Basic Design Study report in the following order of priority, beginning with the repair of Dock A, including the dredging of mooring basin to a depth of 30 feet and extending to 300 feet long; extension of container yard; the extension of Dock B, including deepening it to 30 feet, and 200 feet long, return wall of 150 feet long and a slope for landing craft; freight station, tugboat for Dock A; commuter boat terminal, revetment of Western and Southern ends of the dock; and installation of navigational aids and provision of new forklift.

The minutes of the discussions between the two parties was signed, April 20, by Masaki Shiomi, JICA Team Leader representing the government of Japan and by John A. Mangefel, the FSM Deputy Secretary of External Affairs.

The agreed minutes included a proviso stating that during the period of construction, the Japanese company to which the contract was awarded will observe applicable earth moving and environmental control laws and regula-

tions of the FSM. The Department of Health Services at the National level shall be responsible for the assessment of the environmental requirements while the Chuuk State Health Services' Division of Environmental Health shall be responsible for providing the on-site coordinations.

As a recipient, the FSM shall be responsible for securing the project site; the provisions of electricity, water supply, telephone, drainage, sewage and other incidental utilities to the site; ensure prompt and smooth custom clearance, necessary arrangements for tax exemptions and delivery to the project site of materials and equipments; to accord those alien workers who are recruited by the contractor to work on the project, the necessary entry permits and to allow them to remain in the FSM as employees during the contract period; to bear all expenses necessary for the execution of the project other than those to be covered by the grant aids; to bear the costs of exchange commissions, and to coordinate and solve issues which may arise with during the implementation of the project.

Finally, the FSM is responsible for ensuring that upon completion, the project will be maintained properly and effectively for the benefit of the FSM.

SPREP to fund Turtle project in Yap

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION) - The South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) has agreed to fund a matching of U.S. \$16,599 towards the Outer Islands Turtle Project, Phase IV in the State of Yap.

This funding is part of the ongoing FSM/Yap State 1992/1993 Marine Turtle Conservation Program (RMTCP). The FSM Government will be providing an amount of US\$37,156 in matching funds towards the project with the intent to make full report on each project and tagging data sheets available to SPREP for entry into the Regional Turtle Data Base.

The FSM Government is appreciative of the support by SPREP and the International Center for Ocean Development (ICOD), the latter being the principal sponsor of the program.

On a related matter, a meeting is scheduled to be convened in Apia, Western Samoa, in early June 1993 to provide a forum where all those interested or involved with the marine turtle conservation in the South and Northern Pacific can meet to share their experiences and coordinate their activities within the framework of the RMTCP. Interested members of SPREP should advise the SPREP Secretariat no later than 26 February 1993 of their participation for funding arrangements.



CHUUK HARBOR TO BE EXTENDED - FSM and Japan signed an agreement to extend the harbor at Weno in Chuuk. The minutes of discussions between the two parties was signed on April 20, 1993 by JICA Team Leader representing the Government of Japan Masaki Shiomi (sitting left) and by the Deputy Secretary of External Affairs John A. Mangefel (sitting, right) representing the FSM. In the back are representatives from the two governments witnessing the signing.

A report on the Bank of the FSM activities

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Bank of the FSM Board of Directors Chairman, Del Pangelinan, in April filed a report on the Bank of the FSM activities entitled "Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia - A true success story."

The following is the report, "The Bank of FSM is an excellent example of how a locally created and supported enterprise can flourish and stimulate economic growth and success in the community it serves. Over 4000 individual FSM citizens have purchased shares in this \$45 million bank, and today, over 98 percent of its ownership is Micronesian. As a financial intermediary, it reinvests 100 percent of its deposits back into the local economy.

Bank of the FSM is one more unique banks in the world. It is the only foreign chartered bank insured by the United States Federal Deposits Insurance Corporation (FDIC). It may also be unique as a commercial bank in that its Mission Statement dedicates its resources entirely to local economic development.

The report stated that the Bank of the FSM was organized in 1984, and opened its first branch in 1986 in the State of Kosrae. Today the Bank has branches in all four states of the FSM, and is the only bank that has that distinction. It is the only bank in the FSM which has local citizens as its managers at all of its four branches. Because of its local orientation, it also makes all of its lending decisions locally, resulting in more knowledgeable and prompt loan application processing. This is only one example of how Bank of the FSM provides the best banking service in Micronesia. Bank of the FSM also regularly offers the best yields to its depositors, and lowest cost for services.

In the past three years the Bank has seen assets and deposits grow over 200 percent, while today its profitability and return on capital is competitive with the best banks in the United States.

Bank of the FSM is one of the largest private sector contributors to the economic growth in the FSM. Its loans to consumers are directed at local needs, such as housing and education, while its commercial lending provides financial resources for businesses both large and very small.

Bank of the FSM represents a true success story, of small bank which was

first nurtured by its community, and today is able to reciprocate and nurture

KCCA not to pay tax on patronage refund

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Appellate Court of the FSM Supreme Court reversed the 1991 Trial Court decision on the case of Kolonia Consumer Cooperative Association (KCCA) versus the Secretary of FSM Department of Finance, which supports the Secretary of Finance decision to include in the KCCA's gross revenue tax the annual patronage refunds to its shareholders.

The Appeal Case No. P4-1991, Kolonia Consumers Cooperative Association, Appellant versus the Federated States of Micronesia, Appellee was heard on June 24, 1992, before Associate Justices of the FSM Supreme Court Richard H. Benson, and Martin Yinug and Temporary FSM Justice and Acting Chief Justice, Republic of Palau Supreme Court Arthur Ngiraklson. The Attorney for KCCA was Roberta J. Lindberg, Esq., Micronesian Legal Services and for the FSM was Douglas J. Juergens, Chief of Litigation, FSM Attorney General's Office.

The question before the Appellate Court was whether patronage refunds were refunds as the terms used in Title 54, Section 112, sub-section (5) (a). The Secretary of Finance after a 1989 audit, disallowed the exclusion of refunds for the years 1986, 1987, and 1988. KCCA filed a motion for summary judgement and it was denied, in favor of the Secretary of Finance, which resulted in the appeal by KCCA.

K.C.C.A. was in existence when the gross revenue tax law came into effect in 1971. Beginning in 1971 K.C.C.A. paid gross revenue tax, deducting patronage refunds from gross revenue tax, which the government allowed for years 1971 through 1985.

The Court found that patronage refunds are refunds within the category of items not included in gross revenue. The court also found that the regulations governing cooperatives prescribed by the Registrar of Corporations during the Trust Territory administration are presently in effect.

The trial court found meaning of "refunds" ambiguous and that it applied to "voluntarily paid refunds," which is not the case with K.C.C.A. There is com-

that same community," concluded the report by Chairman Pangelinan.

pulsion to pay the patronage refunds. The regulations provides that a 20% net of earnings must be allocated to reserve or to return on share capital, the remainder of the net earnings after the 20% must be allocated to patronage refunds. So, in essence, KCCA does not have to pay gross revenue tax on its patronage refunds.

Olter respond to Gouland's Request

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM President Bailey Olter and Chuuk Governor Sasao Gouland have exchanged correspondences on the need for cooperative efforts in the marine surveillance in the FSM, the training of appropriate state personnel in modern instruments used in locating the whereabouts of fishing vessels and in the reading and analysis of fishing vessels logs.

Under the present circumstances, President Olter offered some suggestions for Governor Gouland's consideration and response. Relative to Marine Surveillance, President Olter suggested that the National Government and Chuuk State Government enter into a cost sharing scheme; Chuuk State provides the vessel with a suitable surveillance crew and the FSM National Government would supply the necessary fuel oil and lubricating oil for the vessel. Similar to an arrangement implemented between the FSM and the State of Yap.

President Olter said that the two patrol boats, FSS Palikir and FSS Micronesia will continue to carry out surveillance operations in Chuuk State waters and the surrounding areas when needed. Adding that perhaps, the vessels operated by the State Government could keep an eye on any violators of the State's 12 mile zone.

Regarding his request for training of State's officers, President Olter informed Governor Gouland that the staff of FSM Marine Surveillance and Drug Enforcement Division in the Office of the Attorney General can provide some training assistance for the state officers. However, should additional training is needed, the FSM Attorney General can be requested to seek training opportunities regionally or internationally.

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of Chuuk as Chief Clerk.

The Chairmen of the Standing Committees as appointed by Speaker Fritz are Lawrence, Judiciary and Governmental Operations; Redley Killion of Chuuk, Resources and Development; Claude Phillip of Kosrae, Ways and Means; Isaac V. Figir, External Affairs; Yleizah, Health, Education and Social Affairs; and Peter Christian of Pohnpei, Transportation and Communications.

Speaker Fritz appointed the committee to wait on the President including Killion as Chairman, and members were Christian, Figir, and Phillip.

Present at the Chamber viewing Congress in its first day of session were President Olter and Vice President Nena, and officials of the FSM and the four states and others from other foreign countries.

President Olter, in a letter to the Cabinet informed all Cabinet members and office and agency heads that the 8th Congress of the FSM was convening its First Regular Session on May 11, 1993.

Because a large number of bills and resolutions sponsored by the administration during the Seventh Congress were not acted upon by the Seventh Congress, President Olter advised all Departments and agencies to notify the Office of the President of those measures they feel should be resubmitted to the 8th Congress for its consideration.

"After my final review and approval," the President stated, "the Attorney General will begin the necessary work."

According to a release from the FSM Congress this session will consider many subjects, but the major activity will be the Fiscal Year 1994 budget. The release stated also that this first session will go for 30 calendar days with option to shorten or lengthen it depending on the status of Congress business at hand. All congressional sessions are open to the public and everyone is thus so encouraged to come and observe their Congressmen in session.



UNDP DONATED CAR TO FSM - During the recent visit of Dr. Faysal Abdel-Gadir, UNFPA Director for the South Pacific to FSM, he officially presented on April 1st, the key to one vehicle and two UNFPA decals to Dr. Isamu Abraham, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health Services. Witnessing this brief ceremony at Palikir were the Family Planning Coordinators of Yap State Naty Malgarsoh; Chuuk, Enrida Pillias; Pohnpei, Marcy Lorrin; and Kosrae Public Health Nurse Supervisor Matchugo Talley; National Coordinator of a UNFPA funded family Health Project Swanilda Robonei; United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Health Statistician Zin Aung; and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program Manager Sizue Yoma. The vehicle was purchased by UNFPA to support a Family Health/Planning Project, a project which has been financially supported by UNFPA, executed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and implemented by the FSM Government since 1985. At least once a year, for the last eight years, consultants from UNFPA and WHO regional office have conducted tripartite review meetings (TPRs) for the project on Pohnpei. The use of this vehicle is restricted to transporting consultants from both UNFPA and WHO whose travels to FSM are directly related to the UNFPA-supported project and/or family planning/MCH related errands or home visits of client defaulters. President Bailey Olter has exempted this vehicle from the Government motor pool policy. He further gave Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick, Secretary of the Department of Health Services, the sole authority of the use of this vehicle. Other use of this vehicle may be authorized, in writing, by the Secretary.

Munbusho Scholarship available to FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Department of External Affairs announced that the government of Japan once again is making the Monbusho Scholarship available to FSM students during its academic year 1993. The scholarship is part of the foreign aid assistance given to FSM from Japan annually. It is aimed at students interested in pursuing professional careers in a wide variety of

areas ranging from photography to civil engineering at a Japanese Senshu-gakko or professional school.

Interested applicants who wish to know more about the scholarship or obtain an application form may contact the FSM Department of Education, the state education departments or the FSM Department of External Affairs, in Palikir, Pohnpei, FM 96941.

PIDP-EWC announced scholarship at UH

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) East-West Center, has announced the availability of scholarships for Pacific islanders who wish to study at the University of Hawaii (UH) or at its affiliated campuses, according to Department of External Affairs.

Any person interested in applying must have already been accepted by the UH system before he can receive consideration under the scholarship program. The scholarships may be used for graduate and undergraduate studies, short-term training, and internships. An important selection criterion is that the selected field of study must be relevant to the priority needs of the Pacific Islands.

Due to the financial limitations, each FSM state is requested to submit one candidate with a high academic achievement, for nomination to East-West Center PIDP for school year beginning September 1993. For further information, please contact FSM Department of Education, or the Education Department in your state or the Department of External Affairs, Palikir, Pohnpei.

8 UNDP to provide FSM with assistance in its poultry & piggery

THE NATIONAL UNION, April 30, 1993

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM government last year entered into an agreement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under which the UNDP will provide the FSM with assistance in its poultry and piggery development, including provision of veterinary services. According to documents from the Department of Resources and Development, the aim, after its completion in about three years, is to enable the States to be self-sufficient in egg production, expand the broiler industry, and increase productivity in backyard poultry and piggery activities especially on the outer islands, and provide the government with a list of animal diseases present in the region.

A UNDP mission composed of six experts arrived in the FSM in February, headed by a broiler consultant from Australia, D. Hessels; a USDA certified veterinarian, D. Ligda; a livestock production expert from Poland, J. Kaszynski; a poultry technologist from Tanzania, Mrs. H. Chande; a poultry specialist from Guyana, Mrs. A. C. Francis; and livestock production and poultry expert from Nepal, T.B. Basnet.

The team of experts has completed its visits to all of the four states, spending at least a week in each states, meeting with the state governors, the directors of Resources and Development Departments and various individual farmers, exploring and discussing various aspects of its mission and the resulting development plans.

The team is in the process of writing its report to be presented to the FSM government and the respective state upon

completion. The report is expected to contain the team's recommendations regarding the development of livestock in the FSM with a target of replacing imported chicken and pork meat with locally raised chicken and pork meat by up to 50 percent.

The project will also provide training

to take place in the FSM and abroad for short-term training, and abroad for degree training.

The duration of the project is three years and it may be extended to five years upon request of the FSM government to the UNDP, according to the Department of R&D.



NATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE - Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development Asterio Takesy addressed the National Energy Conference held at Palikir, Pohnpei on April 26 for two days. Looking on is the National Energy Advisor June Morgan. The energy meeting was to develop an integrated approach to fostering development of the energy sector said Takesy. "In the past," Takesy added, "a large part of the country's financial resources has been directed to the energy sector. In 1990, over \$12 million was spent for fuel alone. Business forecasts show that demand for energy requirements will be increased exponentially. The meeting appraised the importance of a well functioning, low cost energy availability on the four targeted growth segments of the economy, fisheries, tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing. Without electricity and fuel for transportation, none of these areas can develop in accordance with the national plan." The main speaker at the conference was Morgan who presented analyses of the current situation and who will be coordinating ongoing work on energy issues.

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