Guam may eliminate certain public programs from FAS citizens

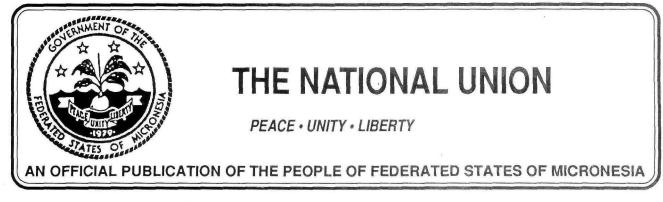
PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM **INFORMATION SERVICE) - Copies** of Guam Public Law No. 23-45, which will eliminate certain public programs from citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS) who are residing in Guam under the terms of the Compact of Free Association with the United States of America, and copies of Executive Order No: 95-24; 95-25; and 95-26, were received by FSM Attorney General, Camillo Noket, from Guam Attorney General Calvin E. Holloway, Sr., and were forwarded to all FSM Cabinet Members for information.

The Act was signed by Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez of Guam on October 18, 1995, designated as Public Law No. 23-45, but its implementation has been delayed for 120 days under a number of Executive Orders issued by the Governor's office to provide ample time to review the impact of the new law.

A new section 2201, restricts use of local funds that may be used to provide public assistance to any person who is not a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident alien of the United States and registered as such with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Public Assistance is defined as assistance provided through the services of General Assistance (as defined in sections 2601, 10 Guam Code Annotated (GCA); Aid to Families with Dependent Children; Medically Indigent Program and Medicaid.

The law also provides that services to citizens of the Freely Associated States will be conditioned upon agreement entered into between the Governor of Guam and the Government of the United States or the governments of the Freely Associated States (FSM, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshalls) to establish immediate reimbursement for expenditures as defined and quantified by the Government of Guam. Executive Order No. 95-24, establishes a Medical Assistance Emergency Task

See PUBLIC PROGRAMS, Page 3)



Volume 16 Palikir, Pohnpei, December 1995 M

Number 6

Inauguration of the Governor and Lt. Governor of Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Newly elected Pohnpei State Governor Del Pangelinan and Lt. Governor Dion Neth were inaugurated, January 8, at the Pohnpei State Track Field in Kolonia in spite of the pouring rain which Pohnpeian traditionally considers as a 'good omen.

Governor Pangelinan during the ceremony, pledged dedication and honesty as fundamental principles of his administration of Pohnpei State in the next four years.

The ceremony was broadcast live throughout Pohnpei. (See more on inauguration in the next issue of the (See INAUGURATION, Page 9)

Inauguration of the President Olter greeted by President Soeharto



PRESIDENT OLTER VISITS INDONESIA - President Bailey Olter (right) visited Indonesia and had a talk with President Soeharto (left) at the Istana Merdeka. Center is the interpreter. (See Page 3 for story).

2 Italian Ambassador to the FSM presents credentials

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -Ambassador-Designate of Italy to the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Dr. Marcello Spatafora, presented his letters of credence to FSM President Bailey Olter in a ceremony held December 18 in the President's Cabinet Room at the Capital in Palikir.

In presenting his credentials, Ambassador Spatafora said he is honored to be accredited by the President of the Republic of Italy to be its Ambassador to the FSM.

In his remarks, the Ambassador said, "In these last few years the international scenario has substantially changed, with the opening up of new opportunities and challenges. In fact we are facing an era of transition towards new equilibrium and a certainly a new, but still uncertain, international order. It is here that our two countries have the opportunity of working together, in close relationship, towards the building-up of the foundations of such an international order, in which peace and security will be tightly connected to the economic and social development, and in which increasing responsibilities will be given to the United Nations."

"In fact, Italy is a country which strongly believes in the United Nations and has a long standing and deserving track record of initiatives in support of the United Nations causes and principles," he said.

In regard to the United Nations he said "The Italian Government thinks that the reform of the UN. Security Council structure must move in a democratic, not an elitist direction. This is the spirit of the Italian proposal."

Spatafora said his country appreciates the role the FSM plays within the framework of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the South Pacific Forum and in the research for means to meet sustainable development requirements of Small Island States. Italy will keep it in mind when it takes over the Presidency of the European Union early in 1996. In that capacity its efforts within the European Union, the United Nations system and the relevant



ITALIAN ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENCE - Italian Ambassador Dr. Marcello Spatafora (right) presents his letter of credence to President Bailey Olter (left), December 18, 1995, in a brief ceremony held at the Cabinet Room. Behind the President is Chief of Protocal Ieske Iehsi and sitting are Speaker Jack Fritz (left) and Ambassador of China to the FSM Chen Yongchen (right).

international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, Italy will continue to firmly support the financing of programs intended to benefit and speedup the economic development of the FSM, with special accent being placed on its priorities, like the sustainable development of agriculture and fishing, the safeguard of environment and coastal areas, tourism, and development of human resources.

Spatafora expressed his confidence that Italy and the FSM can strengthen their relationship in bilateral and multilateral fields, notwithstanding geographical distances, through promoting peopleto-people contacts, economic cooperation, and exploring any useful opportunities to develop trade.

In response, President Bailey Olter welcomed Ambassador Spatafora saying he is pleased to receive "the distinguished Ambassador of Italy," on behalf of the people of the FSM. Adding, "It is indeed a great pleasure for me to receive and accept your letters of credence as the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from your esteemed country ... "

"Mr. Ambassador, this event this morning," he said, "is a historic one as it marks a new chapter as well as an important accomplishment in the threeyear relationship between our two countries. It is, " ... my fervent desire and commitment to work closely with you and your government to further strengthen that relationship and to advance our common interests." Olter added that the FSM stands firm on issues of growth and welfare of small island states, namely sustainable development and environment, which areas, Olter noted, Italy also supports in the international fora.

"Our two government's continued cooperation in these international undertaking is essential." Olter expressed his appreciation for Ambassador Spatafora's appointment as Ambassador of Italy to the FSM and said to convey his best wishes for personal good health of President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and for the continued prosperity of the Italian people.

Also present at the ceremony were

Olter offers Indonesia bilateral cooperation in forestry, fishery and agriculture 3

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -President Bailey Olter and his entourage went on a six-day State Visit to Indonesia where Olter offered Indonesian President Soeharto bilateral cooperation in forestry, fishery and agriculture with Indonesian parties.

The two Presidents met at the Merdeka Palace where President Olter suggested to Indonesian businessmen to set up joint ventures in the fish canning industry in the FSM.

Public programs

Force chaired by the Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Membership includes representatives of the Governor's Office; the Department of Public Health and Social Services; Guam Memorial Hospital Authority; Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Guam Health Planning and Development Agency; Bureau of Planning; Department of Law; Guam Medical Society; the Guam Legislature; the Freely Associated States community; and Representatives of the U.S. Federal Government.

The Task Force shall examine the nature and extent of the potential impact of the health, welfare and safety problems and provide strategies and recommendations for short and longterm solutions. The task force shall make its report to the Governor of Guam no later than February 1, 1996.

Executive Order No. 95-25, authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to transfer \$250,000 to Guam Memorial Hospital Authority to provide services to those affected by Public Law No. 23-45, the citizens of the FAS.

Executive Order 95-26, authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research to transfer \$250,000 from outstanding appropriations within General Funds to the Department of Public Health and Social Services to provide services to those affected by Public Law 23-45. In a state banquet held for President Olter at the State Palace, President Soeharto called for the promotion of cooperation among the Asia-Pacific countries, both under bilateral and multilateral bases, adding that cooperation between developing countries, in addition to expansion of the cooperation between developing and industrial nations, is essential in paving the way for a more prosperous and peaceful

Envoy

(Continued from Page 2)

Cabinet Officers, Congress Speaker Jack Fritz, and members of the Diplomatic Corp.

Ambassador Spatafora made a number of courtesy calls after the ceremony. A dinner was hosted by Secretary of the Department of External Affairs Asterio Takesy in honor of Ambassador Spatafora.

Ambassador Marcello Spatafora is also Italy's Ambassador to Australia who resides in Canberra, Australia, with his family. A first class Minister Plenipotentiary Marcello Spatafora, 53, graduated in law at Pisa University and started his career in diplomacy in 1964. His overseas postings saw him as Viceconsul in Paris; First Secretary in Belgrade; First Counselor and Charge d'Affaires in Beirut (from 1975 to 1977); Ambassador to Malaysia (from 1980 to 1986); and to Malta (from 1985 to 1989). He headed the Delegation for the Organization of the 1990 Italian Presidency of the European Community and of the Italian Presidency of the European Political Cooperation. In 1991, he headed the Weapons-Control Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He is married to Ms Laura Puggelli and has a son, Nicola. Mrs. Spatafora was born in Prato, Florence, graduated in Medicine and Surgery at Pisa and Rome Universities and carried out research work at Pisa University for the Neurophysiology Institute of National Council for Research. She has accompanied her husband in all his different post assignments. world.

Indonesian population ranks the fourth largest in the world. An island nation, it was known as among the poorest country upon gaining independence after World War II, has now grown economically to be self-sufficient in rice production, the country's stable food and with itsrich natural and mineral resources its industrial potential is attracting foreign investment on a large scale from industrial countries around the world and lifting it up among the medium industrialized countries.

It's export of wood products including furniture for the first six months of 1995 amounted to US\$222.9 million and combined with plywood, rattan and pulp and paper it reached US\$3.84 billion.

Indonesia has its own currency called Rupiah (Rp). Its exchange rate fluctuates slightly, but on December 8, 1995, the exchange rate was Rp 2,278.00 to US\$1.00.

At it's jet aircraft assembly plant which Secretary Asterio Takesy toured, he was shown two-l8 passenger shorttake-off-and-landing (STOL) aircraft, ready for delivery, which were build in response to an order from the defunct FSM Public Airline Corporation established some years back which was later abandoned for lack of funds. Each of the aircraft has a price tag of \$7 million.



IN BALI - During President Bailey Olter's visit to Indonesia he and First Lady Amalia visited the Tanah Lot. Above are the President and First Lady Amalia during the visit.

4 Olter urges to work on 1997 budget

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -President Bailey Olter, in a December 6, 1995 memorandum, directed all National Government departments, offices and agencies to begin work on their 1997 fiscal year budgets. The complete FSM National Budget is due in Congress by April 1, 1996, as required by Public Law No. 6-70.

President Olter also asked that the following guidelines be followed in preparation of the 1997 budgets: the proposed budget should be reduced by 10 percent from the 1996 level, with each department or office head deciding where to cut; no new positions should be requested in the 1997 budget and all positions remaining vacant for more than six months in FY 1996 will be scrutinized to determine whether they should be kept or deleted from the budget; only trips absolutely necessary should be budgeted and trips outside the FSM will be scrutinized for necessity; all memberships in international forums or agencies must be justified by the benefits they contribute to the Nation's development.

To meet the April 1, 1996 deadline, President Olter designated January 8, 1996, as the date by which all budgets for the Executive Branch were to be completed and submitted. Budget funding from all special Compact budgets including Section 214(b) for energy production; Section 215(a)(2) current account operations and maintenance of communications systems or FSM Telecommunications Corporation; section 216(a)(1) surveillance of the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone: section 216(a)(2) for health and medical programs, including referrals to hospital and treatment centers; section 216(a)(3) for scholarship fund to support postsecondary education at accredited US and FSM institutions of higher learning; and section 221 (b) Special Block Grant, to his Budget Review Committee must be included.

On January 12, 1996, budgets for the development projects and programs; Congress; the Judiciary; Public Auditor and all independent agencies were to be

submitted to the Budget Review Committee.

January 15 to 17, 1996 was reserved for review of the Executive Branch budget requests.

The final date to submit the development budget was January 19, 1996.

From January 30 to 31, 1996, the independent agencies will be notified of the President's decision after review and decisions on their initial budget submissions are made. At this time the affected agencies will be given an opportunity to discuss with the President his recommendations on their budgets. By April 1, 1996, the budget will have been submitted to Congress for its action. Any questions on preparation of the budget must be referred to the FSM Budget Office for further clarification. While preparing the initial budget, all

while preparing the initial budget, an concerned are reminded of the recommendations of the FSM Economic Summit which includes reducing FSM reliance on foreign aid by downsizing or reduction of the public sector while increasing public and private savings and investment with the aim of keeping costs of government at a minimum while maintaining effective and efficient services for its citizens.

In preparation for their budgets, President Olter urged department, offices and agency heads to be mindful of the Compact step-down which will take effect October 1, 1996, the beginning of Fiscal Year 1997, and secondly the continued growth of the costs of the government. The current level of revenue increase is insufficient to offset the loss compact dollars.

In preparation for the last budget stepdown, a Presidential Task Force to study and recommend how the FSM Government ought to be restructured by reducing it to stay within its budgetary resources submitted its report to the President in August. Additionally, the Economic Management Policy Advisory Team (EMPAT) also reviewed the existing government structure. Both studies recommend changes designed to improve and streamline the operation and organization of the National government.

FAA raises concerns about safety and reliability of aircraft and naviational system

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -President Bailey Olter in a September 29, 1995, letter to Chuuk State Governor, stated that he has been informed regarding concerns raised by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorities about the safety of aircrafts and reliability of the navigational system at the Chuuk State International Airport.

The President said, "Specifically, the lack of power due to power outages in Chuuk State and the fact that the emergency generator at the airport does not automatically come on, had caused the non-directional beacon (NDB) to shut down. The lack of power is also causing the distance measuring equipment (DME) to run on batteries, which is only designed to operate in an emergency situation. This also resulted in the remote monitoring system to call in to Honolulu that the equipment is down, which could mask a true problem."

"We are informed that the NDB and the DME are not working," he said, adding,"and if the emergency generator fails or is not turned on, Chuuk State may cause a problem for Continental Micronesia aircraft and others that may use the facility. If these are not reliable, Continental and others cannot be assured of landing at Chuuk and may be forced to carry additional fuel and less cargo on its FSM routes (Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae). If these situations are not corrected, the FAA may be forced to take necessary action as well as inform Continental and others that the airport is no longer safe for landing, thus, closing down the Chuuk State International Airport."

The President urged Governor Gouland to take necessary action immediately to avert any real problems from occurring adding, he believes that it is in the best safety and economic interest of the nation and Chuuk State to have these concerns addressed and corrected immediately.

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 1995

Consultative Group meeting held in Manila NGEHI

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Consultative Group meeting with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Donors, held on December 6, 1995 at the ADB Headquarters in Manila, produced encouraging results for the FSM, reported FSM National Planner, Bermin Weilbacher.

"Headed by the Secretary of External Affairs and accompanied by Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, Acting Secretary of Finance, the National Planner and the EMPAT Team, the FSM Delegation presented its Post-Summit report to ADB and the International Donor Countries.

"The Consultative Group Meeting with ADB, IMF, World Bank, United States, Japan, China and Australia generally endorsed the FSM's efforts to make the FSM economy resilient to changes in the world. The FSM delegation returned and the National Planner remained to represent the FSM in the ADB Technical Assistance Meeting to strengthen the Utilities Corporations for Chuuk and Yap States, scheduled for December 14 and 15, 1995. Joining the FSM National Planner were Chairman of Chuuk's Utilities Corporation, Erhart Aten, who is also the first elected Governor of Chuuk, and a representative from Yap State's Public Utilities and Contract Department."

INVITAITON FOR BID

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the FSM Fisheries Development Project. It is intended that part of the loan proceeds will be applied to eligible payment under the contract for procurement of eleven land vehicles (the Goods), according to a December 6 Invitation for Bid from the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) Sebastian Anefal.

R&D now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from member countries of the Asian Development Bank for the supply and delivery of the Goods for the purposes of the Project. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of: Secretary of R&D/Project Director, FSM Department of R&D, Project Management Office, P.O. Box 12 Capital Station, Pohnpei, FM 96941. Phone (691) 320-2646. Fax (691) 320-5854.

A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written notice to the above and upon payment of a non refundable fee of USD \$100.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two percent of total bid price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction of Bidders no later than February 23, 1996, and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The Department will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Alternative bids will be considered. Alternative bids which do not conform to the specifications but meet the performance prescribed in, or the objective of, the specifications, may be submitted. However, only the alternative bids of the bidder whose main bid is the lowest evaluated bid will be considered. A bidder who wishes to have its alternative bid consideration on an equal basis with all other main bids must submit a bid bond for each alternative bid. An alternative bid must be submitted in a sealed enveloped clearly marked "ALTERNATIVE BID" separate from the main bid. Thank you.

NGEHI reports referral statistics

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The National Government Employer Health Insurance (NGEHI) highlighted certain interesting statistics in its Newsletter for the months of August and September 1995, the Newsletter showed there were 44 medical referrals. During the month of August alone, 13 referrals were made from the FSM to the following destinations: six patients referred from Chuuk, two to Hawaii, three to Guam and one to Manila; six referral patients from Pohnpei, three to Hawaii and three to Manila; and one referral from Yap to Hawaii. There was no referral from Kosrae. In September, 29 referrals were made from the FSM: four from Chuuk, one to Honoluluf, one to Guam and two to Manila; 24 referrals from Pohnpei, 10 to Honolulu, 10 to Guam, three to Manila and one to another country. Only one referral was from Yap to Honolulu and none were from Kosrae during September. Two cases of basic were disapproved for the reason of "under the exclusion clause," NGEHI Newsletter reported.

Collection of premium from government employees in August 1995 was \$166,896.76, of which \$60,082.83 or 37 percent was from the FSMNational Government; \$36,717.29 or 22 percent from Chuuk; and \$30,041.42 or 18 percent was collected from Pohnpei, the report stated.

The total aggregate gross revenue from October 1994 to August 1995 was \$1,838,721.38. Disbursements during the same period were \$1,076,074.10 for medical claims which included \$565,917.43 payments to off-island care providers or hospitals; \$418,572.48 payments to hospitals in the FSM; and \$91,584.19 for reimbursements for eyeglasses, pharmacy costs, stipends and out-patient services. The Fund balance at the end of August 1995 was \$662,647.28.

The NGEHI Insurance Plan allows reimbursement of in-patient and outpatient prescription medicines under the

⁶ Ambassadors of Australia and Japan to the FSM presented letter

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The third Australian Ambassador to the FSM, Ambassador Perry Head, presented his credentials to President Bailey Olter during a brief ceremony held October 9, 1995 in the Cabinet Room in Palikir, Pohnpei.

Ambassador Head succeeded the second Australian Ambassador Peter Stanford.

Along with the letter of credence, Ambassador Head presented a letter of recall for his predecessor, Ambassador Stanford to President Olter as required by diplomatic practice.

In his statement at the ceremony, Ambassador Head pointed out that during his time with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra, he has watched with great admiration, the development and progress the FSM has made in the last decade and with great pride watched FSM take its place as a member of the South Pacific Forum.

"During that period," he said, "a great bond of friendship has developed between ...not only the government, but the people of the FSM and Australia, and I feel very privileged to be chosen by my Governor General and by my government to come to Pohnpei and the FSM to carry on that spirit of friendship and cooperation."

Ambassador Head looks forward to visiting the other three states of the FSM and getting around this part of the world and making new friends. "I am sure that it is not going to be a difficult task because I have been warmly welcomed," he said.

He credited his predecessor, Ambassador Peter Stanford for having done a great deal of useful and productive work and for the spirit of cooperation with the people here. Ambassador Head said he will continue the existing cooperation between the two countries in the many areas such as fisheries and in protection and development of marine resources. In addition, he will maintain the close association the two countries have, not just through the patrol boat project, "...which I must complement the FSM on having one of the finest projects of that type in the region," he stated.

The Ambassador said he looks forward to spending his time here productively.

The President on behalf of the government and the people of the FSM welcomed and accepted Ambassador Head's letter of credence as Ambassador of Australia to the FSM.

He said, "The FSM and Australia, as everyone knows, are no strangers to each other. We have had decades of friendly and productive relations even preceding the formal establishment of diplomatic relations in 1988. We continue to have an excellent relationship and the many fruitful activities attest to the strong and healthy cooperation and friendship that exist between our two governments and peoples. I have no doubt that with the vast experience, and of course, youthfulness and vitality that you possess, Mr. Ambassador, you can move that relation even further ahead."

President Olter said that he and the government of the FSM look forward to working with the Ambassador in that regard.

He acknowledged the significant contribution that the government of Australia has made toward FSM's quest for political independence, and economic and social developments. Australia's continuing assistance in human resource development, and the management of "...our oceans, to name a few, are some of the examples of your government's invaluable contributions to the FSM," he said. As a regional partner, Australia has an indispensable role in helping bring to the world's attention the concerns and the unique situations of "...our small island countries," he said. He added, "In this respect, the FSM continues to appreciate Australia's active participation in the association of small island states (AOSIS), and other arenas, to give the needed focus on the Pacific region."

President Olter told the Ambassador, "...the list goes on, and for these I, on behalf of the people and government of the FSM, wish to extend to your government, through you, our deepest appreciation."

The President conveyed his warm greeting and that of the government and people of the FSM to their excellencies, Governor General Bill Hayden and Prime Minister Paul Keating, and his best wishes for their good health and prosperity.

President Olter again welcomed the Ambassador to the FSM, "your 'home away from home'," he said.

Also present at the credentials presentation were the Vice President, Chief Justice Andon Amaraich, the members of the President's Cabinet, members of the diplomatic corps, and other government officials.



PHOTO SESSION - The Ambassador of Australia to the FSM, Perry Head (right) after presenting his letter of credence to President Bailey Olter (left) at a photo session with the President in the Cabinet Room.

rs of credentials to President Olter in a ceremony held at Palikir

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Japan's current ambassador to Fiji, His Excellency Yasunori Kikuchi presented his credentials to President Bailey Olter as Ambassador of Japan to the FSM, October 5, 1995, in a brief ceremony held in the Cabinet Room.

In presenting his credentials to President Olter, Ambassador Kikuchi became the 4th ambassador of Japan to the FSM succeeding His Excellency Takakazu Kuriyama. The first Ambassador of Japan accreditted to the FSM was Ambassador Nobuo Matsunaga followed by Ambassador Ryohei Murata.

The brief remarks presented by both the President and Ambassador highlighted their important commitment to work closely with each other in further strengthening the friendly relationship between their two countries.

After the Ambassador presented his credentials and the Letter of Recall of his predecessor he conveyed to the President His Majesty's sincere desire that the friendly relations existing between the two countries may be yet further promoted in the years to come.

He noted that it is extremely gratifying to see how steadily the relations between the two countries have developed in various fields since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1988. He stated he is happy to be appointed as Ambassador to the FSM at this time when the FSM, under the leadership of President Olter, is making great strides in further promoting development and stability.

The Ambassador, being aware of the great responsibility his appointment brings him, said he is determined to do his utmost in the execution of his duties and he will strive for even closer ties and enhanced mutual understanding between the two countries.

President Olter in his remarks welcomed the Ambassador and his wife to the Nation's Capital, adding that the occasion is a manifestation, and a strong testimony to the important links between the people and governments of Japan and the FSM. "Indeed, we take great



7

PRESENTATION OF CREDENCE - Ambassador of Japan to the FSM (right) presents his letter of credence to President Bailey Olter (left) during a brief ceremony held at the Cabinet Room, October 9, 1995. Sitting are Chief Justice Amdon Amaraich, and Speaker Jack Fritz. Standing (center), Chief of Protocal Ieske Iehsi.

pride in and value our relationship very much," he said.

"With a strong foundation in our past and shared desire and commitment to cooperation and prosperity for our countries and people, I am most confident about a strong and lasting friendship between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan," he added.

The President acknowledged with deep gratitude the contribution of Japan's last Ambassador to the FSM, Ambassador Kuriyama, to the excellent relationship between Japan and the FSM. "It was under his ambassadorship that the embassy of Japan was established in the FSM," said the President, requesting his appreciation to be conveyed to Ambassador Kuriyama. He stated that he believes it is timely to let Ambassador Kikuchi know that he has an excellent staff manning his Embassy here under the able charge of Mr. Kiyoshi Nishikawa and Mr. Susumu Nakazawa.

The President concluded his remarks by conveying his best wishes and those of the government and the people of the FSM to the Prime Minister and the esteemed Government of Japan.

Kikuchi is also Ambassador to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu since 1994 and residing in Fiji. Before becoming ambassador, he was Consul-General at Melbourne, Australia, 1991, and cabinet councillor, cabinet secretariat, prime minister's office, concurrently secretary general, laiason and coordination council on measures for indo-chinese refugees and displaced persons, 1988. In 1987, he was minister of the Embassy in Norway, and counsellor of the same Embassy in 1985. He held the same title in Brazil, 1983, 1982 in Yugoslavia, and in 1981. counsellor at the Secretariat of the National Defense Council. He served as director for Disarmament Division. United Nations Bureau. He was posted in the USA and former USSR consecutively.

Ambassador Kikuchi passed higher diplomatic service examination and graduated from Hitotsubashi Univeristy, Faculty of Law and entered the Ministery of Foreign Affairs. He was born in China, 1939.

Also present at the brief ceremony were Vice President Jacob Nena, Congress Speaker Jack Fritz, Chief Justice Andon Amaraich, members President's Cabinet, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Ambassador's wife, and other FSM officials.

The ceremony was fallowed by a dinner reception in the evening hosted by the President at the Skylite Hotel.

Bills and resolutions passed by Congress Campaign for Pohnpei

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 1995

8

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM **INFORAMATION SERVICE)** - The Ninth FSM Congress adjouned its 2nd Regular Session November 1995, passing 12 bills and adopting 14 resolutions.

C.B. 9-10, to establish lapsing date for State public projects.

C.B. 9-41, to amend Title 54 of the FSM Code to deduct from gross receipts for gross receipt tax purposes, the wages and salaries of citizen employees and the employer's contribution to the FSM Social Security.

C.B. 9-90, setting the salary of the new Public Auditor at 26,000.

C.B. 9-100, to further amend Title 7 of the FSM Code to codify the term 'Micronesian' as the official application for the citizens of the FSM.

C.B. 9-103, to further amend Public Law 8-115, as amended, for the purpose of changing the allottees of funds for the districts of Northern Namoneas and Northwest regions in Chuuk State.

C.B. 9-109, appropriating \$3,171,522 for the Banking Board, RECDS, the First FSM Games, and the Business Development Loan Fund as follows: BDLF, \$3.0 millions; REDCS, \$37,222; Banking Board, \$33,300; and FSM Games Supplemental, \$71,000.

C.B. 9-112, to further amend Title 11 of the FSM Code by adding a ew section requiring periodic renewal f identification card and reporting of ownership or possession of dangerous devices and to require reporting of losses of dangerous weapons.

C.B 9-120, to appropriate \$70,000 for the construction of the water system in lower Sekere.

C.B. 9-122, further amend Title 24 of the FSM Code for purpose of changing certain prohibited acts and penalties for violations of the fisheries law.

C.B. 9-125, to further amend Public Law 8-119, as amended, to change the allottees of funds previously appropriated for certain districts in the State of Pohnpei.

C.B. 9-140, amending Public Law 9-30 (F 1996 Budget) to appropriate for supplemental funding of the Executive and Legislative Branches in the amount of \$192,000.

C.B. 9-144, appropriating \$80,000 as FSM's share of the FSM/UN Water Resources Assessment and Development Project.

Congressional Resolutions:

C.R. 9-41, urging the President, all State Governor, and National and State leaders to review development efforts and refocus ideas to ensure full compliance and implementation of development objectives as outlined in National and State plans.

C.R.9-43, confirming the nomination of Henry Robert as a member of the COM-FSM Board of Regents.

C.R. 9-44, approving the nomination of Kangichy Welle of Chuuk as a member of the COM-FSM Board of Regents.

C.R. 9-46, ratifying the 'Convention to ban the importation into Forum Island Countries of hazardous and radioactive wastes and to control the transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific Region.

C.R. 9-47, approving the Fiscal Year 1996 HIV Prevention Cooperative Agreement Grant.

C.R. 9-48, approving the FY 1996 Tuberculosis Prevention and Control/ Elimination Cooperative Agreement Grant Application.

C.R. 9-49, approving the Calendar Year 1996 STD accelerated Prevention Campaign Grant Application.

C.R. 9-50, approving the Calendar Year 1996 Childhood Immunization Project Grant Application.

C.R. 9-51, approving the Fiscal Year 1996 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Application.

C.R. 9-52, approving the FY 1996 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Application.

C.R. 9-53, approving the FY 1996 HIV/ADS Surveillance/Serosurveilance Cooperative Agreement Grant Application.

C.R. 9-54, approving the FY 1996 Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Application.

C.R. 9-55, Three day extension of the Second Regular Session.

Lory, wildlife and forests

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Department of Conservation and Resource Surveillance of Pohnpei State Government recently announced the commencement of a year-long campaign to promote awareness and pride in Pohnpei's State Bird, its unique wildlife, and its forests, according to a release.

"The campaign will focus on the State Bird - the Pohnpei Lory or Serehd, which is found only on Pohnpei and no where else on Earth. This beautiful bird symbolizes our uniqueness, freedom, and beauty. Feeding on nectar, it needs the forest to survive as do all Pohnpeians, for the forest protects our soils, prevent siltation and destruction of our precious reefs. The forest is also a renewable source of timber, a home for wildlife, and a place for recreation and tourism. Pohnpeians should be encouraged to cut down less trees, plant more, and use the land they have already cleared more wisely."

"During the year-long campaign, DCRS personnel will be visiting schools, churches, and communities island-wide. Posters, bumper stickers and badges of the Serehd will be distributed, billboards erected, and songs produced. The Department hopes all residents of Pohnpei will come together and show their support and love for the Serehd and it's forest home - living symbols of our State's beauty."

.....

NGEHI

(Continued from Page 5)

following conditions: a stamped prescription by the State hospital pharmacy certifying its unavailability; patient when purchasing from local pharmacy must always ask for a receipt. The cash receipt together with the prescription slip must be submitted to the FSM Administrative Services Office for reimbursement. After payment of \$2.00, only 90 percent of the remaining balance will be reimbursed. Only a 30day supply of medicine prescribed by an attending physician will be reimbursed, and the cost of medicine purchased but not included in the prescription will not be reimbursed.

What to do with the FSM's productive capacity

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Bank of Hawaii released its FSM Economic Report authored by Wali M. Osman Bank of Hawaii's Pacific Economist. The release stated: "What to do with the FSM's productive capacity? This question was posed when BOH published its first economic report on the FSM in 1989. This is revisited in BOH's latest economic study of the FSM, issued today.

"Current infrastructure, management skills and use levels suggest that fisheries dominate the economy and offer the greatest potential for expansion," said Osman.

"Tourism has great potential because of FSM's diversity of ecosystems and marine habitats and its world class diving sites," adds Osman. "But in order to capture a share of the specialty tourist market, FSM will have to develop its tourism infrastructure. Garment manufacturing and undersea mining also offer prospects for economic diversification over the long term."

"These sources of income for FSM will grow more rapidly and others will emerge if the institutional structure in which the private sector works changes as well. An area that needs attention is the regulatory environment, especially the land lease market," he said.

"For five decades," he said, "FSM has been a consumption economy funded by the United States in form of rent payments for exclusion rights of access to the area's waterways. American dollars have sustained a relatively high standard of living for FSM's small population of roughly 103,000 (1991 figures). Today, the Federation is only slightly less dependent on US funding than it was decades ago."

"A money economy with modern communications, transportation and utilities has been developing over the past half century, but it is limited to the population centers of the main islands. A complex, harmonious but highly hierarchical system has been established over the centuries," notes Osman. Institutionally, the FSM is a communal economy based on the concept of extended family, where the individual's economy is the essence of the region's social and economic stability. This aspect of FSM's economy yet has also contributed to the very low pace of economic change.

"The FSM is a chain of 607 small islands in the Western Pacific about 2,500 miles west of Hawaii. FSM's total land area amounts to less than 271 square miles and extends over 1,700

Inauguration

(Continued from Page 1)

National Union).

In a related activity, Pangelinan and Neth were declared winners of the 1995 election in Pohnpei, on Dec. 18, 1995, when Governor Johnny P. David declared the winners in the runoff elections held on Dec. 12 for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

For the office of Governor the candidates were incumbent Governor Johnny P. David and candidate Del Pangelinan. For the office of Lieutenant Governor, the candidates were incumbent Lieutenant Governor Victor Edwin and candidate Dion G. Neth.

Gubernatorial candidate Del Pangelinan, garnered 7,978 votes or 52.93 percent of the votes defeating incumbent Governor Johnny P. David who received 7,094 votes or 47.07 percent.

Candidate for Lt. Governor Dion G. Neth, received 7,826 votes or 51.92 percent defeating incumbent Lt. Governor Victor Edwin with 7246 votes or 48.08 percent. All votes cast by 15072 voters who turned out to vote in the runoff election, have been counted and tabulated by the 1995 Election committee in accordance with law.

In declaring the election results over radio station V6AH, Governor Johnny David expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he received during his term as Governor and requested all citizens to cooperate and support the new Pangelinan and Neth administration for the benefit of the entire State of Pohnpei. miles of the Pacific Ocean. Four states comprise the federation: Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae."

The release of the report took place during a luncheon hosted by the Bank of Hawaii at the FSM Centeral Building in Palikir. Bank of Hawaii Pohnpei Branch Manager Christina Michelsen was Master of Cermony during the luncheon and the release of the report. Guests to the luncheon were the National and State officials, private sectors and others.

In the General Election held on November 14, candidate Del Pangelinan led the four-way race with 6,190 votes but failed to obtain the minimum required by the Pohnpei Constitution; Incumbent Governor David received 4,936 votes; Pohnpei State Chief Justice candidate Edwel Santos, 2,935 votes: Legislative Speaker candidate Itor Harris, 1,775 votes; and State Public Defender candidate Kletus James, 192 votes. In the Lieutenant Governor's race State Director of Treasury Dion G. Neth led in the four-way race with 7,544 votes; trailing far behind was Incumbent Lt. Governor Victor Edwin with 4,401 votes; in the third place with 2,244 was candidate William Seneres; and in the fourth place with 1,616 was International Law student Simon Kihleng studying under an Australian Study Grant in Australia.



FORUM - President Olter during the opening of the South Pacific Forum held in PNG.

[•] NFC and Longline Fishing Industry establishes joint venture

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) and the Longline Fishing Industry on August 4, 1995, celebrated the establishment of a joint venture which will air freight fresh tuna from the states to Guam for transshipment to Japanese markets.

The ceremony was held in the Pohnpei International Airport's Terminal building. In attendance representing the FSM were President Bailey Olter; NFC President and Chief Executive Officer Peter Sitan, and NFC Vice President and Chairman of the board Reed G. Nena. Representing the Government of Japan and the private sector were Mr. Kiyoshi Nishikawa, Charged' Affaires, Embassy of Japan to the FSM; Tatsuo Saito, Vice President and Special Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on International Affairs; Michimasa Ogushi, Vice President, Overseas Fishery Foundation, and Mr. Yoshiaki Nakano, President, Project Supporting Company.

President Olter in his remarks praised the parties Shonan of Okinawa, NFC proposed partner, Newquick, Inc., and Ryan International, the Government of Japan, the OFCF and Fisheries Agency for their willingness in providing tuna air freight service to the FSM.

"Today's event embodies a bold and concrete step in strengthening private sector development of fisheries in the FSM"Olter noted adding"...it represents a significant private sector venture by Japanese Fishing Companies." It also has the support of the private sector, the fishing industry and the Government of Japan.

President Olter cautioned that just starting a new project is not enough. Keeping it operatingl successfully is a challenge that require diligence, hard work and perseverance. Air freight service links are vital to the establishment of longline fisheries in the FSM.

Olter pledge that his administration wholeheartedly support the project and expressed his hopes that the Government of Japan will do likewise in the times ahead.

The Embassy of Japan's Charge d'

Affaires ad interim Kiyoshi Nishikawa in his remarks congratulated "the historical launching of the first commercial charter air freight service for fresh tuna transshipment."

Fishery industry can be FSM's leading industry due to the abundance of yellowfin tuna in its Exclusive Economic Zone. If fully developed, it will assure the FSM of a self-sustaining economy. And the commercial air freight transshipment service will be one significant step towards achievement of this goal. It will create employment and gain foreign exchange contributing to the attainment of economic independence for the FSM.

Nishikawa noted that close and friendly relations has existed between Japan and the FSM since its birth and that Japan will continue to help the people of the FSM in their nation-building efforts.

"...may I take this opportunity to wish the brightest future to all concerned with the implementation of this very significant project and much success in their self-supporting efforts," Nishikawa concluded.

Vice President of the Overseas Fishery Cooperative Foundation (OFCF) Michimasa Ogushi in his remarks noted that the ceremony culminates three years of leg work. Promising that OFCF will assist the newly established supporting company that will enhance transshipment of catches by Japanese Fishing Companies who now have fishing agreements with the Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA). Mr. Ogushi expressed his gratitude to Shonan Fisheries Company, New Quick Incorporated, Rockfield Incorporated who conceived and undertook the project.

NFC Chairman Reed G. Nena thanked officials from Japan, the FSM and the private companies for their devoted involvement in the establishment of proposing the new joint-venture and expressed his strong hope for its future success, "... this modern aircraft is so vital to the fishing industry."

Also present at the dedication ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. Shimizu of New Quick, Inc., owner of the aircraft; the Consulting Firm, Rockwell International; Ron Ryan and Jeff Crippin of Ryan International Airlines who will operate the aircraft; Mr. Kahnanna from Shonan Fisheries Corporation of Japan and NFC's Consultants Micheal Quinn and Don Beck, and about a 100 people.

The new airfreight service is possible through a grant to NFC from the Japan Oversea's Fishing Cooperative Foundation through a supporting company in Japan. The Japanese and the FSM longline fishing vessels will contribute funds to the air freight service. The day-to-day management of the air freight service will be managed by NFC. However, the policy decisions of the operation will be jointly done by NFC and Shannon when and if the Joint Venture documents are approved by National and State governments. Meanwhile, everything is under NFC's management.

Guam relaxes the requirements on importation of FSM taro

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Government of Guam has relaxed the import requirements for taro from parts of Federated States of Micronesia into Guam, the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, Sebastian Anefal, informed President Bailey Olter on December 14, 1995.

Importation of fully peeled fresh or frozen and sliced taro from Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei into Guam is now allowed. Prohibition still exist for fresh taro imported from Yap into Guam. However, fully cooked taro remains admissible from all States of the FSM. Importation of cassava or tapioca into Guam from the FSM is permitted, however, any cassava or tapioca imported must be free of soil and pests, and permits and certificates may be required, says Russell K. Campbell, Ph.D., Entomologist and Chief, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Government of Guam.

Such treatment will preclude the introduction of any taro diseases that require transmission through plant propagative material.

FSM & Vietnam establishes *President's nomination of Moses & llon yet to be approved* 11 diplomatic relations PALIKIP Pohnnei (FSM, year of teaching at Xayier High School

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Government and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam established diplomatic relations on September 22, 1995, according to a release from the FSM Mission to the United Nations.

A joint communique was signed between the two countries in New York expressing their desire to develop and strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation of mutual benefit between the two countries.

The Charge d' affaires a.i. of the FSM Embassy to the United Nations David W. Panuelo, signed the Joint Communique on behalf of the FSM Government, while His Excellency Ambassador Ngo Quang Xuan, Acting Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the UN, signed on behalf of his government.

The establishment of diplomatic relations was done in accordance with the purpose and principles of the UN Charter and the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961.

The two diplomats exchanged remarks regarding the significance attached by their respective governments to the establishment of diplomatic relations and their pledge to closely cooperate in areas of mutual interest.

The Foreign Ministers of the two countries, H.E. Nguyen Manh Cam and H.E. Asterio R. Takesy, are to exchange greetings in writing subsequent to the exchange of the Joint Communique.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Emilio Musrasrik of the FSM Mission and Mrs. Hoang Thi Cu and Mr. Nguyen Duy Chien of the Vietnam Mission.

Coming after the Kingdom of Cambodia in the list of countries that have diplomatic relations with the FSM, Vietnam is the 42nd country to have established diplomatic relations with the FSM. The FSM is the 157th country to have established diplomatic relations with VietNam. A joint Diplomatic Notes was issued to the Secretary General of the UN, His Excellency Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on the same day announcing the establishment of diplomatic relations between the FSM and Vietnam.

Vietnam has recently been admitted into the membership of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The US Government has recently normalized relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -President Bailey Olter on November 16, submitted for the advice and consent of the Congress, his nominations of Resio S. Moses to the position of Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; and Epel K. Ilon to the position of Deputy Secretary of the Department of External Affairs.

Moses at present is the Consultant for the President and Epel Ilon is the Assistant Secretary for American and European Affairs at the Department of External Affairs.

For over 25 years, Moses has served the public in teaching, public administration, elective positions. Until recently, he served as the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, for over three years. Previously, he was Governor of Pohnpei, President of the Community College of Micronesia, a Department Director and an Executive Office of the former Trust Territory of Pacific Islands, District the Administrator of Pohnpei, Congressman and a teacher, at both college and high school levels.

Alongside his public employment, he was the President of the FSM 1990 Constitutional Convention and has served on various councils, boards, commissions, conferences, committees, authorities and consortia in Pohnpei, FSM, TTPI, United States, the South Pacific and on institutional and nongovernment organizations.

A native of U, Pohnpei, the nominee attended primary and secondary schools in Pohnpei. His post-secondary education included undergraduate studies in Guam and graduate work in Ohio and Hawaii, where he studied government, politics and administration.

Distinguishing himself as an effective diplomat, the nominee has ably represented the FSM at numerous international fora, including successfully presiding over the negotiations of the Waigani Convention which bans the transboundary movements of toxic and hazardous wastes in the region, signed in September 1995 by the Forum Member Governments in Papua New Guinea.

Moses is married to the former Susan J. Rice of Illinois, USA and they have four children, ranging in ages from twenty one to eleven.

Ilon's work experience includes a

year of teaching at Xavier High School in Chuuk, an instructor for the Community College of Micronesia Extension in Chuuk, two years of counseling at Truk High School, a summer with U.S. Interior Department as an intern, three years on assignments in Washington, D.C. with External Affairs as Assistant Liaison Officer.

For five years he served as Representative of the FSM in Washington, D.C. and thereafter he moved to the home office in Pohnpei to assume his present post Chief of U.S. Relations which has been re-designated as Assistant Secretary for American and European Affairs, a post he has occupied for the past eight years.

In these various posts he has consistently served with distinction and outstanding performance. His experience in supervisory policy formulation roles spans more than fifteen years.

Ilon has traveled on official business of the FSM throughout the world representing the government in various capacities including heading delegations to bilateral and multilateral meetings. He has also traveled to all the four states of the nation and to our Micronesian neighboring countries and territories.

His long experience in foreign services at various levels and capacities equips him well in managerial, supervisory and policy making/ formulating hands on experience. With his excellent verbal and writting skills, he is able to articulate matters and work with other people in a positive manner. He is a man of principle, integrity and reliability.

Ilon graduated from Saratoga Springs High School in New York, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Chaminade College in Honolulu, and went on to earn his Master Degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from State University of New York at Albany. He continued at the same institution for another year studying for a specialized degree in Counseling and Personnel; however, while finishing most of the required courses, he did not fully complete the requirements.

Ilon was born in the Mortlock Islands, Chuuk State in 1952 and is married to the former Bennina Amond. The couple have two adopted daughters. Ilon is an avid tennis player, fisherman and golfer.

¹² Olter expressed appreciation for FSM Games

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -President Bailey Olter expressed his personal appreciation to the members of the Federated States of Micronesia Amateur Sports Association for their "excellent" work in organizing and holding the games in July of 1995 in identical letters addressed to Board Members.

President Olter stated that from the final report of the Games he recently received indicated that more than 500 individuals volunteered with over 20,000 man-hours of work in support for the Games, 22 working committees and 12 sport tournament committees. The enormity of the preparations and holding of the Games was not anticipated at the outset.

Regarding the future of sports, the President said plans are being made for the FSM to become a member of the International Olympic Committee. "This affiliation should bring needed assistance in sports development especially in officiating, coaching and athlete training. Our goal is for the FSM to win a medal in the 1999 South Pacific Games in Guam," Olter stated.

The FSM officially entered and participated in the August 1995 South Pacific Games held in Papeete, Tahiti. The FSM Amateur Sports Association sent a Delegation headed by Shelten G. Neth as its Official Representative; Sports Director Jim Tobin as Team Manager; Distance Runner Coach Christer Friberg, distance runners Elias Rodriquez, Randy Germinaro and Eneriko Ardos.

No medal was captured but the exposure provided the marathon runners the feel of SP Games class.



MICRONESIAN SUMMIT - Signing an agreement during the Micronesian Summit held in Palau were from left to right: President Bailey Olter, President Kuniwo Nakamura, and Minister of Transportation and Communication Kunio D. Lemari representing the President of the Marshalls Amata Kabua.

Red Cross Rep. visits Pohnpei expediting FSM Red Cross Society

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Head of the Regional Delegation of the International Federation of Pacific and Red Crescent Societies, Terry Butt, was in Pohnpei expediting the organization of the FSM Red Cross Society.

Butt paid a courtesy call on Acting Secretary Epel IIon of the Department of External Affairs and visited the Department of Health Services and the President's Special Assistant for Disaster and Special Programs Chutomu Nimwes who sits on the FSM President's appointed Red Cross Organizing Committee.

The FSM Congress recently ratified the Red Cross Agreement opening the way for the FSM to become part of the International Red Cross and for the FSM to establish its Red Cross Society, Nimwes said.

The FSM needs to adopt its articles of Incorporation and its by-laws. Sample of articles of incorporation and by-laws are now available to the Organizing Committee.

The FSM Red Cross Society, when established, would be a non-government organization. But, it will receive support from both the private and the government organizations to assist relief programs during disasters and emergencies.

Secretary Eliuel Pretrick of the Department of Health Services is now the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

THE NATIONAL UNION

Published by: The Office of the President/Information FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA P.O. Box 34, PALIKIR STATION PALIKIR, POHNPEI FM 96941

The National Union is being proof read by the Business Support Agency in Pohnpei