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FSM Congress designates Vice President as Acting President of the FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Ninth FSM Congress in its Fourth Regular Session, on November 8, 1996, adopted Congressional Resolution No. 9-93, designating Vice President Jacob Nena as Acting President of the Federated States of Micronesia after a Declaration signed by all members but

one, was transmitted to Speaker Fritz declaring that President Bailey Olter is presently unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.

Congress Resolution No. 9-93, was premised upon the declaration of no less than two-thirds of the Members of Congress and transmitted to the Speaker
(See *ACTING PRESIDENT*, Page 8)

Acting President heads delegation to Summit in Rome

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Acting President Jacob Nena, accompanied by Mrs. Lerina Nena, led a high level delegation from the Federated States of Micronesia to the first World Food Summit (WFS) held in Rome, Italy, according to a release from the Permanent Mission of the FSM to the United Nations.

The Summit - from 13 to 17 November 1996 - brought together Heads of State and Government and other world leaders at the Rome Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The objective of the Summit was to renew high-level commitment around the world to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and to the achievement of lasting food security for all people.

Other members of the FSM Delegation to the Summit included Ambassador Resio S. Moses from the FSM Mission to the United Nations in New York, Secretary Eliuel K. Pretrick and Mrs. Kesia Pretrick of the Department of Health Services, Mr. Robert Richie from the Office of the Attorney General and FSM Nutritionist Mrs. Jane Elymore from the Department of Health Services.

At the Summit the Acting President delivered the following statement:

(text) "It is a great honor for me to

(See *FOOD SUMMIT*, Page 2)



AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN VISITS FSM - Speaker and the members of Congress greeted an Australian Parliamentarian Delegation upon its arrival at the Pohnpei International Airport at Deketik during their November 3-7, 1996 visit to the FSM. The head of the delegation from Australia was the Honorable Eoin Cameron, MP. Front row, (left to right): Robert Baldwin, Mrs. Cameron, Floor Leader Joseph Urusemal, Mrs. Baldwin. Back row (left to right): Ambassador of Australia to the FSM Perry Head, Eoin Cameron, and Speaker Jack Fritz.

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represent the Federated States of Micronesia, and on behalf of the citizens of Micronesia I bring greetings to this distinguished body of delegates who have gathered to reaffirm the fundamental right for everyone to be free from hunger.

"I would like first to express our sincere appreciation to the Director General for the organizational and preparatory work FAO has undertaken to refocus world attention on securing the most basic of human needs - food. I would also like to thank our gracious host, the Government of Italy, for its hospitality and cooperation in organizing the World Food Summit and for the courtesy that has been extended to my delegation.

"The Federated States of Micronesia is proud to add its voice in adopting the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Plan of Action. We pledge our national commitment to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of food security for all. We commit ourselves to implement, monitor, and follow-up this plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

"The Federated States of Micronesia is a small Pacific Island Nation comprised of over 600 small islands and atolls. By international standards ours is a nation of economically impoverished. We are, however, a nation blessed with abundant agricultural and marine resources that allow us to maintain a simple — and hunger free — lifestyle. Hunger is not a national problem, but we have, over time, substituted the consumption of traditional local foods with unnecessary reliance on imported foods of poor nutritional value. This has resulted in malnutrition and significant health problems. The impact of these poor nutritional choices is by no means limited to a small percentage of segment of the population. Diabetes, high blood pressure, anemia, vitamin A and iron deficiencies, low birth weight babies and high infant mortality rates are endemic to the nation.

"This Summit comes at a critical period in our short seventeen year history as an independent nation, as we undertake fiscal reforms and transition from a public sector economy to a private

sector economy. This transition will reduce the size of government, reduce subsidies to consumers, increase the cost of imports and stimulate local productive industries.

"One may ask what relevance this economic transition has to food security or the nutritional adequacy of food supplies in Micronesia. The answer is that, even in the face of our limited utilization of available resources and poor decision-making in nutrition choices, political will, well-conceived policies and coordinated actions can drastically reduce malnutrition and ill-health.

"Instituting a program of economic reform in Micronesia will increase the cost of imports, particularly food and other substitutable products, and thereby encourage consumption of traditional, local foods. The increase demand for local products will improve the financial viability of local productive industries, as well as increase food exports. Both the resulting economy and nutritional health will be stronger and more resilient to changes in the international environment.

"Access to nutritionally adequate and safe foods does not simply mean availability or affordability, it also means the individual has the knowledge and ability to select food that supplies all necessary nutrients and energy. This will require increased awareness among policy makers and planners as to the extent and severity of nutritional problems.

"Promotional and educational programs must be developed so that nutritional objectives can be achieved through public demand, based on enhanced consumer awareness and knowledge. The more vulnerable populations must be educated to make informed dietary choices. Women, as the main providers of meals, care and nutrition information, have a fundamental role in assuring improved nutritional status for all. These objectives can be accomplished by encouraging the full involvement of communities and the participation of the people in the identification of their own nutritional problems as well as the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of appropriate educational programs.

"The effort can be assisted by investment in agricultural research

necessary for the development of technology and systems applicable to small scale agriculture, thereby encouraging traditional production of food at the household and community levels. The assistance provided under UNDP/FAO development projects has increased self-sufficiency in agricultural and livestock production, thereby bringing us closer to these goals.

"Of particular importance to the Federated States of Micronesia is the implementation of international conventions and agreements on food standards, trade and responsible fishing, straddling and migratory fish stocks - all which contribute to ensuring sustainable food production. Access to international markets should not be unfairly restricted because of the lesser technologic capabilities of developing countries. Fishing policies and management strategies must be formulated which will enable the fisheries sector to make optimum long-term contributions to food security and eventually lead to increased marine fisheries through better and sustainable management.

"Of course, meeting these and other commitments conducive to improved food security may exceed the institutional and resource capacity of small, developing countries. Our efforts will require technical assistance from the international community so that we, and countries similarly situated, are in a position to meet international product quality standards and take advantage of new market opportunities.

"Finally, we must all recognize that universal food security is an interdependent issue of concern to all members of the international community. The effective implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action will require supportive international cooperation for achieving accelerated and sustainable universal food security, mutual help and sharing of expectations and experience is essential to accomplishing our goals.

"The Federated States of Micronesia acknowledges that in the international community ours is a tiny voice and we wield little influence in matters of global impact. Yet it will only be through the commitment of all nations - no matter what their size on influence - that the
(See ROME, Page 10)

Over 100 people gathered to dedicate FSM Postal Headquarters

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The permanent FSM Postal Services Headquarters in Kolonia was dedicated on October 17, 1996, with more than 100 people in attendance including FSM and Pohnpei State officials, traditional, and church leaders, and the general public.

The Master of Ceremonies was Postal Services Chief Inspector Herlino Makaya. The invocation was offered by Pastor Isamu Welles from the Calvary Baptist Church, followed by a number by the Parau Youth Christian Society Choir.

FSM Post Master General Bethwel Henry, delivered the welcoming remarks followed by remarks by Pohnpei Lieutenant Governor Dion G. Neth, Congress Speaker Jack Fritz, and FSM Vice President Jacob Nena,

Vice President Nena called the occasion a milestone in the history of the FSM Postal Service as this is the first time that the FSM Postal Service Headquarters will be housed in a permanent building of its own since it was established in 1983 and took over operations from the U.S. Postal Services in 1984 during which time it has been renting office space from the private individuals. To those individuals, the Vice President expressed his gratitude. Special commendations were made to the U.S. Postal Services represented by Jim Crawford who has assisted the establishment of the FSM Postal Services and the U.S. Government who by an agreement with the FSM Government has been helping in the delivery of FSM mail and training of FSM Postal Services staff. Nena concluded his remarks by thanking the H & K Builders for its achievement.

Congress Speaker Jack Fritz in his remarks said Congress is pleased to fund projects which bring greater and tangible benefits to the people of FSM including the FSM Postal Services Headquarters which play a vital link in communications, trade and economic development.

Lt. Governor Neth in his remarks stated that Pohnpei is happy to host the FSM Postal Services and the dedication of the new facility is indeed a happy occasion for both the FSM Government who funded the construction of the

facility and Pohnpei State who dedicated the land on which the building sits. Without such cooperation, the dedication would have not been possible. Neth said that Pohnpei looks forward to working together with the National Government on projects that "... serve the comprehensive interests of our state and nation."

The keys to the new two-story, 7,680 square foot facility constructed by H & K Builders, were presented by Hatler Gallen to the FSM National Planner Bermin F. Weilbacher, the contracting officer for the FSM Government. The

Chen hosts 47th anniversary of PRC in Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Ambassador Chen Young-Chen of the People's Republic of China (PRC) hosted a dinner reception at the Across the Street restaurant on September 27, 1996 at the celebration of the 47th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The invited dignitaries and guests included the FSM Vice President Jacob Nena, FSM and State Government officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps and friends.

In his welcoming statement Ambassador Chen said, "It's a great privilege to have you all with us this evening in celebrating our national day, the 47th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. I also wish to express my appreciation for the assistance and cooperation you extended to me with cordiality. And I believe we will work together even closer in the days to come.

"China and the Federated States of Micronesia are good friends. The relationship between us is still young, but it has grown steadily on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. China attaches importance to our relations with the FSM. Just a couple of weeks ago our Vice Foreign Minister visited your beautiful country. His meetings with your esteemed national leaders and the exchange of views between him and his counterpart are very useful. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the FSM Government again for all you did to make his visit successful.

"Both China and the FSM are engaged in building up our national economy, to

cutting of the ribbon at the entrance of the building was performed jointly by Mrs. Marine Henry, wife of the Post Master General and Mrs. Bershina Edward, wife of Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Bernell Edward, followed by the Benediction given by Reverend Welter John, General Secretary of the United Church of Christ of Pohnpei (UCCP).

A luncheon was hosted by the Post Master General and his staff for the honored guests, dignitaries and members of the general public who attended the dedication ceremony.

improve the living standard of our people, which calls for a peaceful international environment. Economic development and lasting peace are the matters of our common concern, and we can work together in our endeavors to attain these goals. The economic assistance China can offer is limited, but we sincerely wish to do something useful for you. In rendering help, China expects nothing in return except friendship.

"China is among those countries in the East hemisphere who are doing well in managing their economy. The more we achieve in economic development, the stronger economic ties we need to forge with outside world. Everybody can be benefited by cooperating with us. And all of us will suffer without exception if we choose to contain each other, or to put a spoke in each other's wheel. China is always ready to work together with all countries in the world on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence. And with gradual growth of our economic strength, we will be able to do more and more for the common good of mankind."

FSM Vice President responded with the following words, "It is my honor and pleasure to join Your Excellency and Mrs. Chen this evening in commemorating the 47th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

"On behalf of the President and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the People of China

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4 Vice President Jacob Nena delivers Independence Day Message

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The governments and people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) observed the Fifth FSM Independence Day, on November 4, 1996, as a holiday because the actual day, November 3, 1996, fell on a week-end and normal government policy provides that if a legal holiday falls on a Saturday, it will be observed on the preceding Friday and if it falls on a Sunday, its observance will be on the following Monday, the latter being the case this year.

In observance, this year, of the FSM Independence Day, Vice President Jacob Nena delivered a statement which was carried over V6AH Radio and the ICTV and duplicate copies of the audio and video tapes were forwarded to other radio and TV stations in other FSM States with a request for them to air as appropriate.

The following is the text of Vice President Nena's speech: "Dear Friends, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen: It is with great pleasure that we, the citizens of FSM, face another day celebrating our Independence as a sovereign nation. Despite our slow progress towards our own self-sufficiency, and the learning-process we have undergone as we grow towards self-governance, we have made great strides during the past decade. Independence has pointed to the need to build up our own private sector and to eliminate our government's dependency on the U.S. Government to insure its continued functioning. Even though government down-sizing and the compact step-down payments may be causing some citizens hardship, it is so very important for us to begin to look for alternative means of support to keep ourselves vital and even competitive in terms of commerce and trade.

"The less we rely on foreign assistance for our needs, the closer we will get to truly being able to make our own decisions and direct the course of our own growth and sustainable development. Independence for us means that we can choose to retain our traditional customs and practices that

have worked for us in the past, while adopting those aspects from technology and the 'outside world' which are in keeping with our own needs and stated direction. We no longer are forced to have someone else's ideas about "what is good for the FSM people" thrust upon us. The choices are now truly our own and by our functioning democratic processes we can insure that the people's choices are reflected in their leadership and the decisions which are taken.

"For yourselves, there is a responsibility to exercise your citizenship, by realizing that your vote for the leaders you choose to represent you is a very important element of the process. Your active participation and involvement in the election process is how you, as FSM citizens, can be empowered to exercise independence. There is a strong need for the citizens of FSM to recommit to the ideals and values that were considered dear to us, when we first began to negotiate our independence.

"Independence is equated with freedom, and freedom is something that people need to establish their own sense of identity. No people or persons wish

to have their life's decisions made by another nation, dictator, or group of people. So, when having to cut back some to a more realistic life-style in terms of expenditures, remember what we have gained by our movement away from our colonial status. We are now free, and can all be proud of that fact. There are still nations and groups of indigenous people around the world who are living within the borders of other nations. They struggle daily as someone else exploits their natural resources and drains their economy. We have won this battle by declaring our own Independence, and now we must find the best ways to achieve our goals, even if that implies some best-tightening and austerity.

"So to all of you, the citizens of FSM, and our valued visitors, I ask you to take care of yourself during this holiday. Please be mindful of your families' safety and take a moment during this day to reflect on the blessing we have knowing that we are free human beings, and that our nation is on a path which is its own path, not someone else's, as we determine our future and our children's future. Thank you!"

Governing body of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program appoints new Director

APIA, Western Samoa (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The governing body of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) - the SPREP Meeting - has appointed a new Director to head the organization, during its meeting in Tonga.

Mr. Tamarii Pierre Tutangata is a Cook Islander, married with five children. He has an extensive working background in his home country and in the Pacific region. From 1971 to 1980, Mr. Tutangata held senior positions in the Cook Islands Administration, and has worked in two Pacific regional organizations; the Forum Secretariat (1975 to 1978) and the South Pacific Commission (1980 to 1987) in which he was directly involved with the implementation of SPREP.

From 1971 to 1974, Mr. Tutangata held senior positions in the Cook Islands Administration, including the Premier's Department and the Ministry of Planning and External Affairs before taking up a post with the Forum Secretariat from 1975 to 1978. At the completion of his contract in 1978, he returned to his home country to work until 1980. He was successful in applying for employment with the South Pacific Commission (SPC). At the SPC he was the Director of Programs as well as Director of Administration, in which he was responsible for the implementation of SPREP.

Having served his term at the SPC, Mr. Tutangata returned to the Cook Islands where he again occupied various senior positions in government first as Adviser to the Prime Minister and to the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (1987 to 1989); then as Chief Executive Officer to the Prime Minister and Secretary of the Prime Ministers Department (1989 to 1991); and Director of the Sixth Festival of Pacific Arts (1991 to 1992).

In 1993, he was appointed as Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Cultural Development, a position he has now vacated to take up the post of Director, of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program.

Museum for traditional sailing canoe established in Japan

TOKYO, Japan (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Embassy in Tokyo reported on the establishment of a museum for a Yapese canoe in Japan. On 23 October 1996, ceremonies for the opening of a museum for a Yapese traditional sailing canoe, the Pethaw, were held on the campus of Sonoda Women University in Amagasaki, a town between the metropolis of Osaka and Kobe.

The Pethaw undertook a voyage in 1986 from Yap to the Japanese island of Ogasawara. She was navigated by Chief Bernard Gaayan of Yap, who was schooled in the Carolinian traditional system of navigation, with a crew of nine other men, including a Japanese. The voyage covered approximately 3,000 kilometers and lasted for nineteen (19) days, excluding about a week that the crew stayed on Guam to obtain their Japanese visas and await better wind direction.

Mr. Gaayan, now 81, was 71 years old when he undertook the voyage, which was sponsored by the Japan-Oceania Society for Cultural exchange, which is based at Sonoda Women's University. Because of his age, Gaayan said he was initially discouraged from undertaking the voyage. He was encouraged, however, by former FSM President Tosiwo Nakayama.

The dedication ceremony was attended by more than 150 people, mostly faculty and students of the all-women's college. Among the distinguished guests were the President of the Japan-Oceania Society, Mr. Ichitani; the Mayor of Amagasaki, the Honorable Miyata; and the President of Sonoda Women's University, Dr. Hiyashi.

The FSM Embassy in Japan was represented at the dedication ceremonies by its Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. James A. Naich, who was on hand to receive Mr. Gaayan and his delegation and to join the officials of the Society and University in welcoming them to Japan.

The guest of honor and featured speaker was Mr. Gaayan. Fluent in Japanese, he expressed his pleasure in seeing the Pethaw again and taking part in the opening ceremonies for the museum. The Pethaw Canoe Museum is located

on the second floor of the University's Central Building.

In his speech, delivered in Japanese, Gaayan observed that in the big countries people learn how to drive cars and fly airplanes. But in Micronesia, especially in the old days, the islanders had to learn how to navigate or sail canoes because their livelihood depended significantly on the seas around them. He expressed sadness that today the Micronesian system of navigation, lore of seafaring, even canoe-building, seem to be slowly disappearing. He hoped that interest will be rekindled in the young generations of Micronesians to learn their own traditions that still work and are important.

Mr. Ichitani, whose late father was the President of the Society when Gaayan came to Japan in 1986, expressed happiness to see Gaayan again, noting that his father was the same age as Gaayan. It is his hope that the friendship between his father and Mr. Gaayan will further expand and will contribute to strengthening the relations between the people of the two countries. Mr. Ichitani noted that the Pethaw has become a symbol of Sonoda Women's University.

Observing that the dedication of the museum coincided with the 10th anniversary of Pethaw's voyage, Minister Naich remarked that the "voyage symbolized the close affinities between the people of our two countries...and that Navigator Gaayan and his crew have given concrete meaning to the Micronesian belief that 'the seas bring us together, they do not separate us.'" Pointing to the historic relations between the FSM and Japan and to their geographical proximity, Naich urged: "let us not think of the portion of the Pacific Ocean between Japan and Micronesia as a wall of separation but, rather, as a bridge that connects us. This is not a new bridge but, rather, an old one built at the turn of the 20th century."

Thanking the Society and the University for displaying the Pethaw at the museum which "will introduce to many visitors an important aspect of our island cultures which distinguishes us as Micronesians, and as a seafaring people," the Minister concluded by encouraging the Society to continue its

worthwhile projects that would help the FSM preserve its traditions.

Previous Yapese sailing canoes, from Satawal, had sailed to Japan — one in 1975 to participate in the Okinawa Expo and the other, also in 1986, as part of the Fukuoka Expo.

4 FSM citizens complete fisheries training in Japan

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Four FSM citizens were among 32 trainees from eight countries who were awarded their certificates after completing a 5-month fisheries training course in Japan. The graduation ceremonies were held at the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF) in Tokyo. The training is conducted every year under the aegis of the OFCF, according to a release from the FSM Embassy in Tokyo.

Those from the FSM who completed the training program were: Raymond David (Pohnpei); Joe Tolenna (Kosrae); Alder Rokulong (Kosrae); and Mr. John Muun (Yap). After one month of intensive training in the Japanese language, the trainees spent the last four months in their particular technical fields. All the trainees from the FSM specialized in fishing vessel engine operation and repair.

The FSM was next to the People's Republic of China and Indonesia in terms of the number of its trainees. The FSM and the Solomon Islands were the only Pacific Island countries participating in the training program. The FSM participants were sponsored by the Japan Far Seas Purse Seine Fishing Association, also known in its abbreviated Japanese name as Kaimaki.

Representing the FSM Embassy at the graduation ceremonies was Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission James A. Naich. He was joined in congratulating the FSM participants by Mr. Kiyoshi Ishida of Kaimaki. Mr. Ishida expressed his great satisfaction that FSM's participants this year did exceptionally well and hoped that what they had learned will contribute positively to the development of the FSM's fishing industry.

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on this Special Occasion of which we are proud to celebrate.

"The Federated States of Micronesia is a mere nine year-old nation in comparison to China's over 5,000 year history. We in the FSM look forward to learning from your nation's long history and experience as we strive to develop our Nation and improve the living standard of our people.

"Although our countries are distant in geography, we are both members of the Asia/Pacific Region and our bi-lateral and multilateral initiatives and shared commitments in our region and in the world have brought our two nations together in a bond of friendship.

FSM Girl Scouts & Coordinator extend gratitude

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - A word of appreciation on behalf of the 23-member FSM Girl Scouts and their leaders who participated in the Girl Scout Events on Guam conducted from August 30 to September 1, 1996, was extended by FSM Girl Scouts Coordinator Ann B. Luior, in a release dated September 27, 1996.

The Girl Scout members were actively involved in the activities of the occasion while their leaders participated in some training programs conducted during the three-day event.

Words of thanks were extended to businesses, parents, supporters, and friends whose assistance made it possible for the members of the FSM Girl Scouts to attend the events on Guam.

Since their return to their respective states of Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Chuuk, the first officers for the FSM-wide Girl Scout's steering committee, community services program has started in Pohnpei, promotion and mobilization of youth groups and non-governmental organization (NGO) to join the FSM Girl Scouts and fund raising activities.

About 22 business organizations, groups, offices and individuals were specifically mentioned in the release.

"Your Excellency, the people of the Federated States of Micronesia join me in expressing our most sincere gratitude to the People's Republic of China for the many generous support and cooperation extended to us in the past years. China's assistance to the development of our nation over the past years and the potential for continued cooperation in the future is a manifestation of our strong and lasting friendship and cooperation between our two nations.

"Guided by our One-China policy, our countries will continue our common task to develop our nations and improve the lives of our two peoples in pursuing our shared national objectives of securing prosperity and well being to the future generations of our peoples."

The Vice President concluded by proposing a toast to the good health of His Excellency President Jiang Zemin, to the friendly relations between the two countries, and to the prosperity and success of the people of China.

Congress approves receipt of 1995-96 Goods and Services Agreement between MMA & Japan

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) -The Ways and Means Committee of Congress in Standing Committee Report No. 9-217, approved the receipt of 1995-1996 Goods and Services Agreement worth US \$700,000, between the Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA) and the Japan fishing Organizations while rejecting the MMA recommendation that Kosrae State be the recipient following the rotation followed over the preceding four years.

MMA records showed that the State of Kosrae received the 1991-1992 Goods and Services; 1992-1993 was Chuuk State; 1993-1994 was Pohnpei State; and 1994-1995 was Yap State. MMA

recommended that Kosrae be the recipient of the 1995-1996 Goods and Services. However, the Committee decided that the state of Chuuk should receive the 1995-1996 Goods and Services Assistance. The Committee report also stated, "the Chuuk Congressional Delegation will determine the kind of goods and services to be provided and to dispose of the same."

The report was signed by Chairman Nishima Yleizah, Members Isaac Figir, Redley Killion and John Petewon while Member Claude Philip signed "Do Not Concur" saying that no understanding nor discussion was held to change the rotation sequence.



FRENCH AMBASSADOR LAST VISIT - Ambassador Antoine Frassetto (right), is greeted by Deputy Secretary of External Affairs Epel Ilon (left), at the External Affairs Office during his last visit to the FSM November 5, 1996.

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Over 50 Special Education students, and their teachers and parents visited the National Government in Palikir on September 30, 1996 to see their Capital and to meet with the Vice President and other officials in the Executive Branch to voice their concerns regarding funding of the Special Education Program in the FSM.

They were welcomed by Special Assistant for State Matters John Mangefel who explained to them the composition and functions of various departments and offices in the FSM government. In doing so, Mangefel informed the visitors that due to prior commitments, Vice President Jacob Nena could not personally meet with them but sent his greetings and best wishes. Specialist Henry Phillip translated with sign language to the students the remarks by Mangefel.

When asked by one of the parents whether the concerns voiced will be considered, Mangefel responded by saying that concerns about funding will be raised with Congress which appropriates funds from the FSM General Fund.

One of the students sang two numbers

on behalf of the group before they were given refreshments of cookies and soft drinks. Each also received a set of books, pencil, ruler, and crayons. A group photo was taken in front of the President's Office culminating the visit.

FSM Special Education Coordinator Makir Keller who accompanied the group said that funding for Special Education program expires at the end of FY1996, September 30, 1996. The FSM, as a State in this context, must apply for new funding to the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) in Washington, DC., when the procedures and guidelines become available.

During the previous three years the FSM received about \$4.2 million each year through a formulae grant. Funding for year 1997 amounting to \$7.22 million was set aside for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the Freely Associated States of Palau, Marshalls and FSM to apply for on a competitive basis, even though American Samoa, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands also receive Special Education funding through their regular appropriations from the Federal Government, Keller added.

When asked what will happen to the

Special Education Program, Keller said that the level of Special Education Services will be decreased or discontinued unless FSM Congress or the State Legislatures offer help. Discontinuation of the program may affect 1,940 students and 179 jobs will be lost, Keller said. It is estimated that \$500,000 will be needed to continue the program at the current level from October 1996 to March 1997 at which time he expect to hear from the US Office of Special Education Program the result of the FSM's application.

Special Education Programs in the FSM include programs for pre-school children, home bound children, the deaf and blind, a resource room program geared for students with learning problem, a transition program which prepares high school students for work upon completion of their schooling.

Although Special Education Program in the FSM has been funded by the US Federal Government, the FSM Public Law No. 8-21, requires that all children up to 21 years of age with disabilities must receive free and appropriate education. With this mandate, it could be deemed unlawful to curtail such services without appropriate remedy, Keller said.

Three groups paid courtesy call on Vice President Nena

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Three separate groups of visitors paid courtesy calls on Vice President Jacob Nena at the FSM Capital, October 25 and each group sang a few church songs while staff of the office of information recorded the visit on video tape and took group photos.

About 50 Senior Citizens from Lelu Town in Kosrae with President Justus Abraham and Vice President Manabu Abraham paid a courtesy call on Vice President Jacob Nena and members of his Cabinet in the Office of the President.

The group was accompanied by the Mayor of Lelu, Joab P. Sigras, Councilman Paul Tilfas, State Senators Albert Welly and Steven Sigras also from Lelu.

Following their visit to the Office of the President they visited FSM Congress, the College of Micronesia-FSM, and the Embassy of Japan in Kolonia.

Among the group was Katherine Hilton Phillip, the mother of Vice Speaker Claude Phillip who is a widow. Mrs. Phillip is the sister of the late Dwight Heine, who was a Special Consultant to the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory Government.

ANOTHER Group of visitors visiting the Vice President was the Ta Church Group in the Mortlocks in Chuuk State with their Senior Pastor Reverend Albert Achim. The 40-member group was being hosted by the Sokehs-Pah Church. They also visited Congress in the morning. They returned to Chuuk on

Sunday's flight, October 27, 1996.

The third group that visited the FSM Capital was from Faichuk in Chuuk State and arrived Pohnpei on October 23, 1996. They were hosted by the Sekere Church. The 36-member group on Thursday visited Pohnpei Jail and the Pohnpei Hospital and sang a few numbers at each location.

The prisoners expressed their deep gratitude, through a spokesman, for the lovely songs and requested that taped copies of their songs be made available to the prison for their use. At the Pohnpei Hospital, the group also sang a few numbers for the patients. Wasahi Sokehs, a patient, expressed thanks to the group saying that except during Easter Week, it is rare for church groups

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Telecom begins internet access for FSM

KOLONIA, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Telecom Corp. will begin providing Internet access for the Federated States of Micronesia on December 01, 1996. In order to be able to access the Internet, customers must first subscribe to the service. The cost of a subscription is \$19.95 startup fee, \$19.95 per month for five free hours, and \$1.95 per hour thereafter. Customers must have a valid VISA or MasterCard credit card, or an FSM Calling Card account. Persons who do not have a credit card or calling card must come to their local FSM Telecom Office to apply for an Internet Service account, according to a release from the telecommunication headquarters office in Pohnpei.

Customers must also have access to a personal computer (MS Windows or Macintosh) and at least a 14.4Kbps modem. They will connect to the service via dial-up telephone lines.

Customers will be provided with a copy of the Microsoft Internet Explorer, a graphical browser program that is used to display information on the Internet, send and receive E-mail, and

participate in news group discussions.

Customers can also publish information on the Internet. For example, suppose a hotel in the FSM wishes to advertise on the World wide Web. The hotel's owner or management can build one or more Web pages and store them on a server, FSM Telecom's World Wide Web server will be a logical choice for most organizations in the FSM. For such services, FSM Telecom will charge a setup fee, a monthly rental charge, and a development fee (all to be determined).

In addition, FSM Telecom is the administrator of a new Internet domain (FM) and is in charge of assigning names within the domain and providing access to the names and name related information to users both inside and outside the FM domain.

CompuServe customers are hereby notified that after January 14, 1997, FSM Telecom will no longer provide free access to CompuServe. People wishing to continue to access CompuServe directly will have to place a long-distance call to a CompuServe access telephone number in Guam, Hawaii, or the US mainland.

SPREP action plan targets environmental issues affecting the South Pacific region

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - South Pacific Ministers attending the SPREP Meeting in Nuku'alofa, Tonga late November last year, endorsed the new SPREP Actin Plan for 1997-2000, and appointed Mr. Tamarii Pierre Tuntangata of the Cook Islands as the new Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), according to a release from SPREP.

The new SPREP Action Plan is the South Pacific region's framework for a regional approach to address environmental issues that affect the region. It focuses on five key elements: Conservation of Biological Diversity; Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Management; Waste Management; Environmental Management, Planning and Institutional Strengthening; and Environmental Education, Information and Training.

The overall goal of the plan is to build

national capacity in environmental and resource management in order to improve and protect the environment. Endorsement by Ministers at the SPREP Meeting is a positive step following the decision made by the leaders of the region at the 27th South Pacific Forum - to achieve rapid progress on economic reform and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Decisions made by the Ministers which have significance to the operation of the organization include: a new annual budget reporting format to reflect the structure of the new Action Plan; SPREP meetings to convene on a biennial basis (previously held annually); and amendment to the Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific Region (Apia Convention) and Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (SPREP Convention), to transfer the Secretariat role for both Conventions to SPREP.

Acting President . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

of Congress. The declaration further stated that the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office, if the inability to discharge the powers and duties ceases, as certified by his (President) written declaration, that he is able to discharge the duties of the Office of the President, executed within 180 days of the transmission of the declaration, pursuant to section 104(1) of title 2 of the FSM Code. The declaration was made on November 8, 1996, bearing the signatures of Jack Fritz, Speaker; Joseph Urusemal, Floor Leader; Leo A. Falcam; Yosiwo P. George; Simeon R. Innocenti; Redley Killion; John R. Petewon; Peter M. Christian; Isaac V. Figir; Dohsis S. Halbert; Roosevelt D. Kansou; Wagner W. Lawrence and Nishima E. Yleizah.

Olter who suffered a stroke on July 16, 1996 has been undergoing medical treatment at Straub and The Institute of Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Houston, Texas, the United States of America, respectively.

Section 105(1) of title 2 of the FSM Code provides that the Vice President cannot become Acting President unless a declaration is made by a majority of the principal officers of the executive departments appointed by the President under article 10, section 2(d) of the Constitution, or a declaration of two-thirds of the Congress pursuant to section 104(1) of title 2 of the FSM Code. Congress thus took it upon itself to make the declaration in absence of a declaration by the principal officers of the executive departments.

The Ministers issued a Statement on Environment and Development which places the environment again at the forefront of the regional agenda as it heads towards the 21st century. It stated that Ministers are in agreement that economic and other costs and benefits of environmental initiatives should be considered during economic policy decisions.

The positive decisions made by the Ministers in Tonga augur well for the future state of the region's environment. SPREP, in connection with the other regional organizations, is now in a position to confidently face the challenges that lay in the future to achieve its mandate as specified by its member countries.

South Pacific Forum Meets in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The 27th South Pacific Forum was held from September 3 to 5, 1996, in Majuro, the Republic of the Marshalls, hosted by that country's, deceased President His Excellency Amata Kabua.

The Vice President of the FSM, Jacob Nena headed the FSM Delegation to the Forum, accompanied by Secretary of the Department of External Affairs Asterio Takesy; Pohnpei Governor Del Pangelinan; FSM Ambassador to Fiji Alik Alik, FSM Ambassador to the United Nations Resio Moses, FSM Attorney General Camillo Noket, Executive Director of Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA) Bernard Thoulag, Kosrae State Lieutenant Governor Gerson Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Pacific Affairs Jeem Lippwe, and the Special Assistant to the Vice President Josiah Waguk and the Vice President's wife Lerina Nena.

In welcoming the leaders from 15 other independent Pacific nations, President Kabua reportedly said: "How true is the saying that real joy gives wings to the spirit, for the happiness of our hearts has, today, traversed immense ocean barrier; the restraining pull of cultural differences is all harmonized, fine tuned so to speak, into one sea of unity." He continued, "Pacific solidarity for the common good".

The agenda for the Forum Meeting included a nuclear free Pacific, economic cooperation among member states, fisheries, and donor countries' contributions.

The 27TH South Pacific Forum is a meeting of leaders of governments of the Pacific Island countries including the FSM.

The 16 heads of government attending this year's Forum Meeting included Federated States of Micronesia Vice President Jacob Nena; Australian Prime Minister John Howard; Cook Islands



CHINA AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CHECK - Peoples Republic of China Ambassador Chen Yong-Chen presents a check of \$2,000 to COM FSM President Susan Moses in support of the COM FSM Endowment fund. The check presentation was held at the China Embassy in Kolonia. From left to right are Ambassador Chen, Moses and Mrs. Chen.

Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry; Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua; Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan; Western Samoa Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana; Tuvalu Prime Minister Kamuta Latasi; Vanuatu Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman; Nauru President Lagumot Harris; Kiribati President Teburoro Tito; Fiji Foreign Minister Filipe Bole; New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger; Tonga Prime Minister Baron Vaea; Niue Premier Frank Lui; Palau Education Minister Billy Kuartei; Solomon Islands Deputy Prime Minister Danny Philip and Forum Secretary General Ieremia Tabai.

Following the Forum Meeting the Dialogue Partners met various Forum members to discuss specific issues of interest including financial assistance to member countries.

The Partners included Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Japan. France was not welcome to participate in this year's dialogue in protest for the nuclear tests conducted in Muroroa Atolls in French Polynesia, according to an article appeared in the September 6, 1996, issue of the Marshall Islands Journal.

Outbreak of Oriental Fruitfly in Palau

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - There is an outbreak of Oriental Fruitfly also known as *Bactocera dorsalis* in the Republic of Palau of which the FSM Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development have been informed.

This Oriental Fruitfly, *Bactocera dorsalis*, has a very wide range of hosts, and is considered one of the worst species of fruitflies in the world. It affects and destroys bananas and vegetables and many other crops.

To prevent spreading of this Oriental Fruitfly to the FSM, effective immediately, the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, Sebastian L. Anefal, Government of the FSM, under the authority vested in him by Title 22, Section 409, of the FSM Code, an emergency measure stopped all fruits and vegetables from the Republic of Palau from entering into any State in the Federated States of Micronesia.

This Emergency Notice took effect on November 5, 1996, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Copies of the Emergency notice were forwarded to appropriate State officials for official use and dissemination to the general public.

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goals of this Summit will be met. The Federated States of Micronesia makes that commitment and will make every effort to implement the decisions and policies adopted at this Summit. Thank you."

The FSM was invited to the the Summit which addressed such issues as sustainable development, food security, water development, and population and sustainable agriculture.

Acting President in a communication to the four states informed them of the invitation and also that the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is not providing funds to pay for the participants' travel expenses, therefore, each state had to absorb the travel costs of its participants if it chose to accept the invitation to attend the Summit. Nena also recommended that participants include government officials and private sector representatives and non-governmental organizations (NGO). Nena said that the FSM National Government would bear the costs of its participants.

Nena also forwarded to the Governors for dissemination to the public, documents including: Basic Information on the World Food Summit; a draft of a Policy Statement and Action Plan; Food Security Assessment; Investment in Agriculture: Evolution and Prospects; Water Development for Food Security; Food, Agriculture and Food Security - The Global Dimension; Overall socio-political and economic environment for food security at national, regional and global levels; and Technical background Papers (Annotated Outlines), for clarifying the Summit to be sure that relevant government officials and interested key private sector people are duly alerted.

Nena also invited comments or questions from Yap State Governor Vincent Figir; Chuuk State Governor Marcellino Umwech; Pohnpei Governor Del Pangelinan; and Kosrae State Governor Moses Mackwelung.

The Summit provided an historic opportunity for governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society to join forces in a concerted campaign to ensure food

security, access at all times to the food required for a healthy, active life for all the world's people, said Jane Elymore, FSM Nutritionist.

The 1992 International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in Rome was an important milestone in the global effort to reduce hunger and malnutrition. Participating governments and the international community committed themselves to intensifying efforts to achieve this goal by unanimously adopting the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition.

At the ICN, member governments pledged to make all efforts to eliminate before the end of this decade problems of famine and famine related deaths; starvation and nutritional deficiencies in communities affected by natural and man-made disasters; and iodine and vitamin A deficiencies. The FSM does not have iodine deficiencies but has the highest problems of Vitamin A deficiencies, Elymore continued.

This year's World Food Summit will follow up progress made after 1992 ICN and further discuss realistic plans of action on food and nutrition for ensuring achievement of the nations goals. For presentation at the Rome Summit, the FSM National Government prepared a National Plan of Action on Nutrition for period 1996 to 2001 which FSM will endeavor to achieve.

The Plan contemplates a continued access to food supply that is sufficiently safe and nutritious and will ensure the healthy well-being of its citizens. The Plan also strives to achieve environmentally sound and socially sustainable development to improve nutrition and health of the people.

An ad hoc committee comprising high government officials prepared the Plan which was completed in October said Elymore who is coordinating the development of the National Plan.

One aspect of the Plan is the Breast Feeding Management Promotion and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiatives which was emphasized in the 1992 WHO/FAO 1992 Nutrition Conference which Elymore said have begun in the four FSM States.

Since the 1992 World Conference on Nutrition, she has attended a number of training programs and workshops under

the auspices of relevant UN agencies. Subsequently, workshops and training programs have been conducted in the various hospitals in the FSM to promote breast feeding and combating Vitamin A deficiencies and to bring the competence levels to par with the UNICEF and WHO standards. This effort, Elymore said, will continue until the hospitals and their staffs are certified by UNICEF Office in New York.

To date, only Fabella Hospital in the Philippines, the Lautoka Hospital and Tavua Hospital in Fiji, have been certified by the UNICEF, Elymore said.

Visit

(Continued from Page 7)

to visit the hospital and sing for the patients. He told the Lepin Fo Church group he was speaking on behalf the patients and also the traditional leaders of Pohnpei.

The group also visited Governor Del Pangelinan's office where they also sang and shook hands with the governor himself which they considered a rare and unique opportunity. Although a similar visit was made in 1987, most members of the group were new and young. They were excited about their visit, adding, that Pohnpei is beautiful and clean, according to Rev. Dakio Syne, Senior Pastor at the Sekere Church who was with the group.



SPEAKER HOSTS RECEPTION - In a reception at the Accross the Street hosted by Speaker Fritz for the visiting Parliamentarians from Australia, Nov. 5, 1996, the head of the delegation, Eoin Cameron, MP, (above) extended an invitation to Congress for a delegation to visit the Australian parliament in Australia. Speaker Fritz in a statement said, "...friendship and cooperation between our two nations is of course of the utmost importance to us, and I believe that exchanges between parliamentarians is critical to maintaining and developing further our good relations."

Secretary Takesy addresses the 51st United Nations General Assembly ¹¹

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Honorable Asterio R. Takesy, Secretary of External Affairs, addressed the 51st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) during its 9th plenary meeting in the afternoon of September 25, 1996. In his intervention, the Secretary joined other speakers in congratulating the new President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Razali Ismail of Malaysia and also expressed appreciation to their Excellencies, Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Professor Diogo Freitas do Amaral of Portugal for their leadership during the 50th United Nations General Assembly.

Secretary Takesy highlighted certain substantive issues in which the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has been active at the global level because of their relevance to the sustainable development of small island developing states. The Secretary's message focused on the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 on climate change, the environment, fisheries and development of small island states which emerged from the Rio Conference in 1992, and from the Barbados Conference of Small Island Developing States in 1993 and from related global declarations.

On the issue of nuclear disarmament, the Secretary, along with other world leaders, congratulated all member states of the UN for the accomplishments in nuclear disarmament, including the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on September 24, 1996 by many member states including all the Big Powers of the world.

The Secretary further emphasized the need for the global community not to abandon the progress that has been made in the area of human rights for children, women, and for other disenfranchised groups in the world.

On administrative reform and restructuring of the United Nations organizations, Secretary Takesy urged nations to be forthcoming in their financial commitments without conditionalities and he also cautioned against pessimism creeping into the members' consciousness about what the UN has done, what it is doing, and what

it must be able to do as the world marches toward the 21st Century.

FSM Vice President Jacob Nena in a September 12, 1996 Diplomatic Note informed His Excellency Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations in New York that the FSM would be sending a delegation to attend the 51st session of the General Assembly.

The Delegation was headed by the Secretary of the FSM Department of External Affairs Asterio Takesy, who was joined in New York by the FSM's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Resio Moses, Deputy Permanent Representative Tadao Sigrah, Deputy Assistant Secretary Jeem Lippwe, FSM Department of External Affairs, Minister James Stovall, III, FSM Permanent Mission to the UN and Mathias Maradol, Minister Counselor, FSM Permanent Mission to the UN. Moses, Sigrah, Stovall and Maradol are stationed in New York.

The Delegation also included members of the FSM Congress: Senator Isaac Figir, Chairman, Committee on External Affairs; Senator Redley Killion, Chairman, Committee on

Resources and Development; and Senator Leo Falcam, Vice Chairman, Committee on External Affairs.

The UN General Assembly's regular session begins each year on the third Thursday in September and continues usually until mid-December.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative organ. It is composed of representatives of all Member States, each of which has one vote.

Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new Members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority. Decisions on other questions are reached by a simple majority.

At the start of each regular session, the Assembly elects a new President, 21 Vice Presidents and Chairmen of the Assembly's seven Main Committees. To ensure equitable geographical representation, the presidency of the Assembly rotates each year among the five groups of States, namely, African, Asian, Eastern European, Latin American, and Western European and other States.

The FSM became a member of the United Nations on September 17, 1991.

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4TH SPASAI CONGRESS - The 4th SPASAI Congress conference was held in Pohnpei November 25-26, 1996. Left to right, first row: Jean Mugnet representing New Caledonia; Herolyn Movick, Pohnpei State Public Auditor; Siliga Tala, Acting Auditor General, Tuvalu; Rensley Sigrah, FSM Public Auditor; and Pohiva Tuionetoa, Auditor General, Tonga. Second row: Harry Francis, FSM Senior Auditor; Takinoa Toatu, representing Kiribati; Steve Myerson, FSM Consultant; Rekenibai representing Kiribati; Richard Gagne, Canada Director of Programs; and Lobe D. Geno, PNG Deputy Auditor General. Third row: Kevin Brady, New Zealand Assistant Auditor General; Brian Smith, New Zealand Director, Special Duties; Jim Muchell, Deputy Auditor General, NSW; and James Blair, FSM Audit Manager.

¹² *FSM Congress receives Guam Legislature Resolution No. 453*

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PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM Congress Speaker Jack Fritz included in the Oct. 25, 1996 Order of Business for information of Congress, a copy of Guam Legislature's Resolution No. 453. The Resolution was adopted on July 19, 1996, during the Second Regular Session of the Twenty-third Guam Legislature and was transmitted to Congress Speaker Fritz on August 20, 1996, according to a release from Congress.

Guam Resolution No. 453, introduced by Senators T. S. Nelson, T.C. Ada and J. P. Augon, entitled, "Relative to reaffirming the commitment for continuing the relationship between the Peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the People of the Territory of Guam; and expressing the sentiments of the Guam Legislature relative to the Compacts of Free Association in offering our resources to every individual in Micronesia who so desires post-secondary education, health care, trade and commerce, employment opportunities, visiting family and

friends, as well as pleasure, recreation, and leisure."

Guam Legislature's Resolution No. 453, retraced the traditional and cultural ties amongst the Micronesians before external influences set them apart in today's political entities.

It showed an affirmative stance regarding its relations and sentiments towards other Micronesians who are residents of Guam by offering Guam resources to Micronesians in the areas of post-secondary education, health care, trade and commerce, employment opportunities, visits with friends and families, as well as for recreation, and leisure.

The final resolving clause states, "Resolved, that the Twenty-Third Guam Legislature does also recognize the many benefits and positive impact of the emigration of Freely Associated States (FAS) citizens into the Territory of Guam since 1986, due to the commencement of the Compacts of Free Association; ..."

Copies of Resolution No. 453 were sent to all political leaders in the Central Pacific.

FSM Non-Communicable Disease Council established

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - A Council has been established at the National Government to serve as an integrating entity to initiate, maintain, support, and guide the goals, objectives, tasks, and activities of the on-going non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention programs throughout the Federated States of Micronesia, with a special emphasis on the diabetes control programs.

As such, the Council is responsible for sustaining the on-going preventive health programs targeting non communicable diseases, including diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

The overall goal of the FSM National Non-Communicable Disease Control Council is the reduction in the burden of non communicable, chronic diseases through the development of a healthy lifestyle and diet among the whole FSM population, supported through an accessible system of community-based primary health care. The attainment of this goal is directed towards the reduction in prevalence of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, through the processes of communication, coordination, and collaboration.

In the first meeting, the participants discussed the importance of taking early action to prevent and control diabetes and other NCD with a view towards formulating a national diabetes control council.

At the second meeting, the following issues were discussed: by-laws and purpose of the Council, officer/leadership structure of the Council, and overview of action plan of the Council.

Officials of the Council were also selected during the second meeting.

President Olter establishes FSM Task Force for FSM Red Cross Society

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter established a Task Force consisting of FSM residents to meet and take the necessary steps to form an FSM Red Cross Society. The Red Cross is a non-profit, non-governmental worldwide institution which provides community services.

President Olter's Red Cross "Task Force" has been meeting regularly, and has produced a set of By-Laws and a Constitution, which will soon be presented for approval by the Intentional Red Cross. Membership in the FSM Red Cross Society will be open to everyone. President Olter and his task force hopes to see a Red Cross Chapter in each of the FSM's four states.

The Red Cross Society's activities are as varied as the many countries that they serve. These activities include emergency relief in the case of natural disasters such as typhoons and hurricanes, first aid and health education, disaster preparedness programs, social assistance to needy individuals, blood bank services and youth programs.

When established, the FSM Red Cross Society will be part of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and will be recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, both based in Geneva, Switzerland. There is a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in almost every country of the world today. The Republic of Palau is one of the International Red Cross Society's newest members. The International Red Cross embraces "The Seven Principles" of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Services, Unity, and Universality.

It is important that a wide variety of people be involved in the decision making process, so the group asks that any person interested in joining in this effort telephone them. Please call the co-chairpersons: Ann B. Luior (691) 320-5520 or Jeem Lippwe at (691) 320-2613 for more information.

Congress passed 22 bills and adopted 8 resolutions

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Palikir, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The 4th Regular Session adjourned, Nov. 12, 1996 after passing 22 bills and adopting eight resolutions. Some measures were deferred to the Fourth Special Session, scheduled for, Dec. 6, 1996 for five days according to adopted Congressional Resolution No. 9-97. No further appropriations were passed after Vice President Jacob Nena sent a letter to the Speaker Fritz, dated Nov. 6, 1996, recommending a delay on appropriation bills and reconvening for a special session, according to a release from Congress.

Bills passed:

C.B. 9-177, to appropriate \$27,860,533 (Veto CD5 for the Sect 7) OVERRIDE operations of the executive branch, legislative branch, judicial branch, Public Auditor, agencies of the National Government, and for special programs, grants, subsidies, contributions, and refunds of the National Government during FY-97; to establish a budget for Compact sections 214(b), 215(a)(2), 216(a)(2), 216(a)(3), and 221(b) and to appropriate special funds available therefore under the Compact; to establish a development budget and to appropriate funds available therefore under the Compact; and to establish employment ceilings.

C.B. 9-234, to amend P.L. No. 9-095; concerning primary and secondary schools, by CD3 amending sections 1, 2 and 3, and by adding new sections 3 and 4, to appropriate an additional \$500,000 to provide funding for school needs in the states, to further modify and expand the uses of certain of the funds appropriated therein, to designate new allottees and to make certain clarification regarding the duties of the allottees, and to set forth the appropriations for the states in separate sections.

C.B. 9-239, to amend P.L. No. 9-100, by amending sections 1 to 6 to appropriate an additional \$1,100,000 for the infrastructure development needs of the states, to further apportion the funds appropriated therein for the states, to change allottees, to make certain conditions on allotments, and to expand

the permitted uses of the funds.

C.B. 9-238, to amend P.L. No. 9-096, by amending section 16, to change allottees and lapse provisions of funds appropriated therein.

C.B. 9-243, to appropriate \$12,000 for funding vessel fuel and provisioning for congressional travel to outer islands.

C.B. 9-246, to amend P.L. No. 9-79, by amending section 4, for the purpose of changing the C D 1 allottee of funds for the Houk and Ta Airports, and for other purposes.

C.B. 9-259, to further amend P.L. No. 6-28, as amended, by amending section 4, as amended by P.L. Nos. 6-66, 8-22 and 9-006, for changing the allottee of funds therein for Ta and other Mortlock Islands airports.

C.B. 9-249, to amend P.L. No. 9-078, by amending section 3, to modify the use of funds.

C.B. 9-262, to further amend P.L. No. 9-027, as amended by P.L. 9-083, for modifying the use of funds appropriated therein.

C.B. 9-247, to further amend P.L. No. 9-052, as amended by P.L. Nos. 9-071, 9-086 and 9-094, amending section 4, as amended by P.L. No. 9-086, to modify the use of certain moneys appropriated therein.

C.B. 9-240, to further amend P.L. No. 9-030, as amended, by amending section 12 to further apportion certain funds appropriated therein and by further amending section 16, as amended by P.L. Nos. 9-046 and 9-091, to designate a new allottee for certain funds.

C.B. 9-280, to further amend P.L. No. 8-75, as amended, by further amending section 2, as amended by P.L. Nos. 8-79, 8-116, 8-145, 9-013 and 9-065, for changing allottee of funds.

C.B. 9-233, to further amend Title 30 of the FSM Code as amended by P.L. Nos. 5-122, 6-80, 6-109, 7-25 and 8-47, by amending section 117 allowing the Board of Directors of the FSM Development Bank to designate alternative dates for regular meetings of the Board when events prevent the holding of proper regular meeting on the second Monday of January, April, July and October of each year.

C.B. 9-245, to appropriate \$300,000 for paying the medical expenses incurred for the care and treatment of the President since he was hospitalized in July, 1996.

C.B. 9-261, to further amend P.L. No. 9-052, as amended by P.L. Nos. 9-071, 9-086 and 9-094, further amending subsection 1 of section 2, as amended by P.L. No. 9-094, to reallocate certain funds appropriated for Pohnpei State, Election District No. 1, by further amending section 3, as amended by P.L. No. 9-086, to modify the purpose for which certain funds were appropriated, and by further amending section 6, as amended by P.L. Nos. 9-071 and 9-094, to change the allottee of certain funds apportioned under subsection (1) of section 1 of said act.

C.B. 9-267, to further amend P.L. No. 8-115, as amended by P.L. Nos. 9-014, 9-033, 9-041, 9-060, and 9-092, by further amending section 1, as amended by P.L. No. 9-092, to modify the purpose of certain funds appropriated therein for the State of Chuuk.

C.B. 9-269, to amend P.L. No. 9-102 by amending sections 1, 2 and 3 for distributing the United States Dollar equivalent of 5,000,000 RMB Yuan from the Foreign Assistance Fund of the FSM to the State of Pohnpei only rather than equally among the four states, as required by the terms of a grant from the People's Republic of China.

C.B. 9-270, to further amend P.L. No. 6-67, as amended by P.L. Nos. 7-77 and 8-92, by further amending section 2, as amended by P.L. Nos. 7-77 and 8-92, to transfer funds between line items to reflect a prior reprogramming action by the allottee, to modify the use of certain funds appropriated therein for Yap State public projects.

C.B. 9-272, to further amend P.L. 8-100, for changing the use of certain funds appropriated for educational needs then travel or vehicles in Election District No. 1 of Pohnpei State to use in road construction and improvement needs in Sokehs.

C.B. 9-273, to further amend P.L. No. 6-49, as amended, by further amending section 5, as amended by P.L. Nos. 6-55

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and 6-99, by further amending sections 7 and 8, as amended by P.L. Nos. 6-55, 7-69 and 7-85, to reprogram the remaining balance of funds appropriated therein, for use in public projects in Fefan, Chuuk State, and for other purposes.

C.B. 9-275, to amend P.L. No. 9-067, by amending section 5, for the purpose of changing the allottee of certain Chuuk State education funds to the Governor of Chuuk State, and for other purposes.

C.B. 9-279, to amend P.L. No. 9-066, for school construction in Kolonia Town, to modify the use of funds appropriated therein, and for other purposes.

Resolutions adopted:

C.R. 9-42 CD1, requesting the President of the FSM to initiate negotiations with the United States of America regarding reciprocal recognition of Social Security credits earned by the citizens of the FSM and the United States of America.

C.R. 9-72 CD1, to ratify the "Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks."

C.R. 9-86, encouraging the President to pursue one or more loans from the ADB for the purpose of supporting government restructuring, including a program for early retirement of government employees, and for other purposes.

C.R. 9-90, approving the FSM Job Training Partnership Action Program for the time period July 01, 1996, through July 01, 1998, pursuant to section 211(2) of Title 55 of the Code of the FSM.

C.R. 9-91, approving the FY-97 Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant application pursuant to section 211(2) of Title 55 of the Code of the FSM.

C.R. 9-93, to transmit to the Speaker of the Congress, pursuant to Section 104(1) of Title 2 of the Code of the FSM, the written declaration of the

Members that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and to enable the Vice President thereupon to assume immediately the powers and duties of the President as Acting President.

C.R. 9-96, setting the ceiling of the total funds estimated to be available for appropriation from the General Fund of the FSM for FY-97.

C.R. 9-97 CD1, calling for a 4th Special Session of the 9th FSM Congress

During the interim, some Members traveled to the FSM States and elsewhere to discuss the measures pending before Congress with the state representatives and relevant outside agencies.

The Committee on Resources and Development (R&D) traveled the FSM and to Honolulu to discuss Money Laundering (CB No. 9-260), Insurance (CB No. 9-276), and Bankruptcy (CB No. 9-281) Acts. The R&D Committee, headed by Chairman Redley Killion, was scheduled to meet with representatives of SBA, Bank of Hawaii, and various institutions in Honolulu on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of November. Arrival in Yap State was scheduled for

the 29th, November departure on the 1st of December for Chuuk State. The committee was in Kosrae on the 4th for their last off-island hearing before arriving back in Pohnpei on the 5th of December. The committee is being staffed by Attorney Randall J. Cherry.

Senator Roosevelt D. Kansau, Senator Simeon R. Innocenti, and Floor Leader Joseph J. Urusemal will be departing FSM for Palm Springs in Southern California. The group will be discussing the purchase of a landing craft to help deliver heavy construction equipment in the outer islands of the nation. The delegation will be staffed by Attorney C. Michael Higgins.

The Committee on Transportation and Communication will be conducting a hearing on CB No. 9-283, the Civil Aeronautics Act, in Kosrae State. The committee, chaired by Senator Peter M. Christian, is scheduled to meet with the Speaker and Members of the Kosrae State Legislature, as well as with the Governor or his representative on the morning of Thursday, 05 December 1996. Legislative Counsel Brian N. Zanze will be staffing the committee.

Message from UNDP Administrator on International Volunteers Day

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSMINFORMATION SERVICE) - Following is a message from the Administrator, United Nations Development Program, James Gustave Speth, on the occasion of International Volunteers Day, December 5, 1996, according to a UNDP release.

"Poverty eradication is at the top of the United Nations Development Program agenda," he said, adding that "actions against poverty cannot be imposed on communities. People must participate in the battle. Thanks to millions of volunteers at the grassroots, the most disadvantaged among us are gradually becoming empowered to lift themselves out of poverty."

He said, "Wherever people and communities have helped each other initiate, organize and nurture development, they gain the confidence they need to take advantage of opportunities that become available to them. This is what "participatory development" is all about."

"Volunteers are working with communities everywhere to make participatory development a success: Volunteers work directly as peers with the people development programs are designed to help. And they are self-reliant, so they know how to draw on their own skills, knowledge and experience", he said.

"Much UNDP-supported work would come to a standstill without support from the United Nations Volunteers. Volunteers are helping the poor and disadvantaged by providing health care for mothers and children, supplying food in emergencies, assisting the elderly, and expanding rural credit programs to the poor", he said.

"I have seen volunteers in action in all regions of the world and recognize their value and commitment. On International Volunteers Day, I honor their efforts, which have bettered the lives of millions," he stated.

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - In addition to the four FSM citizens who received their certificates of completion following a 5-month fisheries training in Japan conducted under the aegis of the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation (OFCF), two others were also awarded their certificates in a graduation ceremony held at the OFCF Headquarters in Tokyo, according to a release from the FSM Embassy in Japan.

While the previous four FSM trainees specialized in fishing vessel engine operation and repair, the recent graduates specialized in small-size fishing vessel maintenance and island fisheries.

Those receiving awards were Michael Hasurmai and Stan Peyalmai, both of Woleai, Yap. Both are also employed at the Yap Division of Marine Resources.

Hasurmai and Peyalmai were among fourteen (14) participants from seven (7) Pacific Island countries in the OFCF training programs. Aside from the FSM, the other participating countries are Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. All are also members of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) Group.

In his remarks to the graduates, OFCF Vice President Takahashi, who represented President Unno as he was on an overseas trip, expressed pleasure in seeing the graduates completing their training program. Seeing sustainable development of fisheries resources as a major contribution to food security in the 21st century, he urged the graduates to play a greater role in the development of fisheries in their respective countries, forewarning them also of certain elements within the environmental projectionists who may push the argument to its virulent form by declaring that the world fishing industry is also an "evil".

The Government of Japan was represented by Mr. Hirofumi Kawakami of the Fisheries Agency. Stating that there is still little understanding about food requirements for the future, he added that Japan expects the almost three months of training to contribute to the proper development of the fishing

industries of the participating countries. Also in attendance at the graduation ceremony were representatives from the Japanese fishing industry and the embassies and honorary consular offices of the countries taking part in the training. The FSM Embassy was represented by Ambassador Masao Nakayama and Minister (Deputy Chief of Mission) James A. Naich.

In his remarks, Ambassador Nakayama conveyed on behalf of his diplomatic colleagues from the

participating countries their sincere gratitude to the OFCF and the Government of Japan for providing the special training program to the Pacific Island Nations. Noting the importance of fish resources for the island countries, he observed that there is greater need for proper sharing and conservation of such resources. He concluded by congratulating the graduates and urging them to go home and put to good use what they had learned from their training.

FSM represented at the Consultative Group Meeting in the Philippines

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM Secretaries of the Departments of Finance and External Affairs John Ehsa and Asterio Takesy, respectively, National Planner Bermin Weilbacher, Assistant Secretary of the Department of External Affairs Lorin Robert, EMPAT Project Director Gustav Papanek and Team member Kevin O'Keef represented the FSM at the Consultative Group meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in the Philippines, October 1996.

At that meeting the FSM officials updated the Bank's officials and representatives of the donor countries on the desire of the FSM to adopt earlier recommendations by the ADB and its desire to reduce the size of the public sector eventually to 50 percent of the current size in employment as recommended by EMPAT.

The FSM Delegation also showed the donor country representatives Congressional Resolution No. 9-86, adopted on October 22, 1996, a resolution encouraging the President to pursue one or more loans from the ADB for the purpose of supporting government restructuring, including a program for early retirement of employees.

Resolution 9-86, supports the State borrowing for government restructuring including retirement of State Government employees, in the amount of \$15 million to be divided between the

States and National Governments as follows: Chuuk, \$5 million, Pohnpei, \$4 million, Yap, \$3 million, Kosrae, \$2 million, and for FSM, \$1 million private sector support for retirees.

Congress Resolution No. 9-86, further stated its support for the National Government to borrow approximately \$3 million for restructuring, including early retirement of at least 20 percent of all National Government employees and increase National tax revenues by at least 40 percent by the end of the two or three year program.

Resolution 9-86 supports further borrowing of up to an additional \$7 million to further reduce employment to 50 percent of the present levels.

The final clause in the resolution encourages the President to negotiate with ADB and the States and submit the resulting documents for approval of Congress.

Nena congratulates Ezra as a Notary Public

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM Vice President Jacob Nena in an October 3, 1996 letter informed and congratulated Sintaro K. Ezra for his appointment as a notary public for the Federated States of Micronesia which the Vice President approved on behalf of the FSM President.

Ezra's appointment is valid for two years unless removed or terminated for cause provided by law.

Nena concluded his letter by offering Ezra the assistance of the Office of FSM Attorney General if needed.

16 **Olter informs Speaker that funding of the 3rd patrol boat has been approved by Australia**

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PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM President Bailey Olter, in a May 22, 1996 letter to Congress Speaker Jack Fritz, informed him that word had been received that the Department of Defense, in the Government of Australia, has approved funding and signed a contract for construction of the third patrol boat for the Government of Federated States of Micronesia. The boat is expected to be completed by April 1997 and handover is scheduled for May 1997. In addition to the current surveillance fleet will beef up the patrol of FSM's large expanse of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a rich fishing area in the Central Pacific Ocean.

Tobin attends ONOCSD workshop in Fiji

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM National Government Sports Director Jim Tobin attended an Oceania National Olympic Committee Sports Development Workshop in Suva, Fiji, from October 25 to November 1, 1996.

The workshop, funded by the **UMDA Aces vs. PNI-All Star**

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The United Micronesians Development Association (UMDA) Aces, the 1996 Saipan Major Baseball Champions, visited Pohnpei, November 8th, to 10th, to play a baseball goodwill games with the Pohnpei All-Stars and the Pohnpei Liberation Day baseball champions, according to Jim Tobin, FSM National Sports Director.

Tobin and Phil Ching, Chief of Recreation and Sports for Pohnpei State coordinated the games.

International Olympic Committee, will help the FSM plan the final step to organize the FSM National Olympic Committee, apply to become a member of the International Olympic Committee and participate in the year 2000 Sydney Olympic Games in Australia.

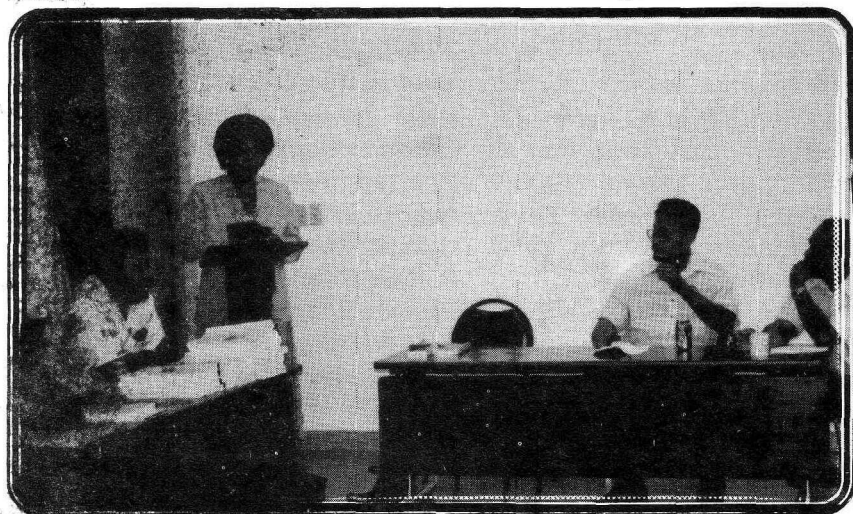
Tobin's expenses, approximately \$3,000, for his trip will be paid for by the workshop's sponsor.

Fitness program for National Government Employees commences

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Vice President Jacob Nena informed department, office and agency heads of the national government that a fitness program for FSM National Government employees commenced September 23, 1996, and granted administrative leave to National Government employees from 4 to 5 p.m. to participant on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The announcement came in a September 19 memorandum which outlined the fitness program's activities that include warm-up and stretching exercises for 5 to 10 minutes followed by walking and jogging for 20 to 40 minutes around the Capital Complex. The Department of Health Services is coordinating the program. As part of its coordinating task it will take employees' blood pressure and weight readings every Friday.

Benefits to be derived from the program are increased employee work capacity, a decrease in employee sick leave, better employee health, less risk of heart disease, trimmer and stronger bodies and more energy said Jim Tobin, who coordinated the Fitness Program.



STATISTICAL OPERATIONS & PROCEDURES COURSE - A one month course on *Statistical Operations and Procedures* funded by AUSAID was held in Pohnpei. Ms. Vilimaina Rakeseta, SPC Population Specialist opened the course, reading a message from Dr. Bob Dun, Secretary General, SPC, stating that SPC began statistical training in 1977, and since then SOAP has been conducted in almost every country in the region, adding that the course has been broadened to meet the needs of the wider public service. He also introduced the course instructor, Ms. Janine Lloyd, from Australian Bureau of Statistics. From left to right: Timothy Semuda, Chief of Statistics Division; Rakeseta; Robert Hadley, Water Project Engineer (Acting Chief of Construction); and Kapili Capelle Director of Administrative Services.

THE NATIONAL UNION

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