Galleon search will bring cash, other benefits to NMI

IF WE started four years ago the CNMI might have $120 million now, according to Jack Harbeston, managing partner of IOTA Partners, said Friday.

In addition, local investors would have also made money from participating in the Manila galleon salvaging project, first proposed by IOTA in 1989.

Harbeston arrived in Saipan last week to follow up on the proposed contract with the government. Sources said the contract between IOTA and the Department of Natural Resources could be signed this week.

In an interview, he said the search for the remains of the Manila galleons in the waters of the Northern Marianas was a very high-risk project, but "the CNMI can't lose" because IOTA and its partners would take all the risks.

He mentioned the $120 million in reference to the multi-year financial assistance agreement awaiting congressional approval. Under that agreement the CNMI will receive $12 million in federal grants in seven years.

The government's share in the IOTA venture, however, could be much more than $120 million because IOTA will proceed with recovery efforts only if the following criteria are satisfied:

- There must be at least two shipwrecks of value;
- All wrecks combined must be worth $1 billion on today's market; and
- At least one target must have unique archaeological or historical interest.

At $1 billion, the CNMI's 25 percent share would be $250 million, or more than twice the federal grant under the multi-year package.

In addition, the project could enhance the CNMI's image in the mainland, which has been tarnished by reports of labor abuses.

IOTA's project will use the most modern equipment for oceanographic survey and recovery (robs will likely be used) and involve "the best researchers and archaeologists.

The oceanographic survey alone needs a minimum of $1.5 million but the actual amount will most likely be double, he said.

After the signing of a contract with the government, IOTA will increase its archive search in the US, Europe and the Philippines to determine the location of the sunken galleons.

As research goes on the company's researchers may be able to determine targets for an oceanographic survey. Actual salvaging operations could proceed on identified targets while research for other ships continues.

In its five-year schedule submitted to the government in 1990 IOTA projected distribution of proceeds from the sale of artifacts to start in the third year.

The project does not only involve sophisticated equipment; it also needs an international marketing and promotions campaign to ensure the best returns.

"Here we want to invite archaeologists from all over the world to write about the findings," Harbeston said.

"Together with complete records about the recovered items (including the exact location in the ship where it was found), the writings by noted archaeologists will establish authenticity for the artifacts.

"The biggest bidders for archaeological items are the museums. They are only going to get $1 million for the right item," Harbeston said.

He said there had never been a recovery of a Manila galleon, which adds significance to the Northern Marianas project.

Harbeston said the Manila galleons were the "juggernauts of the sea," at 150 feet and 500 tons the biggest ships during their time, made of hard wood that could repel cannons.

They are also precious. A typical galleon, east-bound (Manila to Acapulco) should be worth $200 million because of the gold it carries. The west-bound (Acapulco to Manila), loaded with silver, could be worth less, although during its time the price of silver was not too far from gold.

About 300 galleons (mostly built in the Philippines) sailed between Manila and Acapulco during the late 16th century up to the early part of the 19th century.

The king of Spain at that time during the late 16th century up to the early part of the 19th century.

The king of Spain at that time

--The COMMONWEALTH needs to educate US lawmakers George Miller and Lewis Payne on local labor laws and the true conditions in the CNMI garment industry, lawyer Robert O'Connor said Friday.

O'Connor was invited by the Society of Professional Journalists to talk about the garment industry, said the industry had one message to Congress: "We do not compete with the US; never have and never will, and it is ridiculous to presume that we do.

"O'Connor is a member of a five-man executive committee formed by the Garment Industry Association to coordinate efforts with the government in lobbying against Payne's bill.

The committee is collecting contributions from garment factories amounting to $30 per garment worker. O'Connor said the committee expects to collect close to $200,000 for its lobbying and other expenses.

He said efforts "which seeks to remove the CNMI's duty-free privilege, was based on that presumption as well as myths about the CNMI garment industry."

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Guerrero assures Miller, wage reforms

GOVERNOR Lorenzo I. Guerrero has assured Congress Dialy George Miller that the government is acting on labor, wage and other pertinent bills cited by the US congress in July 30, 1992. "We have worked only since July 30 to match words with actions. We have made good faith efforts to correct the errors of events. We have, produced action. More remain to be done," Guerrero said in a March 21 letter to Miller, who chairs the Committee on National Resource. Guerrero, asked Miller for support for the new federal financial assistance package for the CNMI. He also asked for Miller's patience on the renegotiation of the CNMI's minimum wage bill as it is currently under the committee's consideration.

Miller, a Republican from Massachusetts, who chaired the House Committee on Natural Resources, said in a letter to the governor that he was "cautious" about CNMI's wage bills. "I am similarly cautious about the US Congress acting on labor bill S 2969 which has been referred to our subcommittee." Miller added that he was working "very closely with the committee chairman and our Democratic colleagues to try to resolve the issue of the CNMI's minimum wage bill." He also asked Miller for specifics on the new financial assistance package for the CNMI.

The governor said that his administration has been working hard on several issues, including the CNMI's minimum wage bill, which has been reported the past few days on Beach Road, mostly involving the committee's concerns.

"There was a comment last week that only one of the two committees acted in the matter," he said. "Thus, a Russian expansion in the Far Eastern colony who wanted to go home by way of the US would meet all its obligations to the natives where it could then be identified as the largest one. What if we didn't know the true facts?"

The governor also developed a unique skill in weaving. Guerrero said that, "Throughout our history, we've never really been able to understand the true facts in our history. The facts are always changing."

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be maintained in the Marianas

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on the traffic lights. No enforcement. Four months

So far, we have worked the past few days on Beach Road, mostly involving the minimum wage bill. "We have fought the good fight, and now we have to face the hard task of enforcing the law," he said. "We have had to face the hard task of enforcing the law."

On March 21, he said he would not support the increase of the CNMI's minimum wage bills because of the US Congress's action on labor, wage and other pertinent bills cited by the US Congress in July 30, 1992. "We have worked only since July 30 to match words with actions. We have made good faith efforts to correct the errors of events. We have produced action. More remain to be done," he said. "I am similarly cautious about the US Congress acting on labor bill S 2969 which has been referred to our subcommittee." Miller also asked for the governor's support for the new federal financial assistance package for the CNMI.

"We have worked and are the largest economic forces we've been participating, we must raise the bills and also we must raise the national car insurance," Miller said. "We have the large, federal insurance, you will have the CNMI insurance, and we will not challenge the national insurance."

"I want to match words with actions. We have made good faith efforts to correct the errors of events. We have produced action. More remain to be done," he said. "I am similarly cautious about the US Congress acting on labor bill S 2969 which has been referred to our subcommittee."

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DPS urges motorists to drive carefully

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Man puts new twist on Earhart mystery

The plot was dropped from Nova when producers realized the feature was 600 times larger than originally intended. The Minaret facility that built the Zero fighters, Kaye-Anse said. He said he found the information in old Japanese textbooks that were left behind on the island before returning to Japan.

There are numerous other theories on Earhart's fate. One school of thought is that the twin-engine Electra's engines failed in the Pacific, and the plane crashed into the ocean. The crash site was discovered in the 1970s by a private expedition led by Richard Gillespie, head of the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, who said he found the plane's remains off Nikumaroro, an uninhabited island in the Gilbert Islands.

In his book, being distributed this fall, Gillespie's searches and theories there this fall. His searches have included some that portray Ms. Earhart and Noonan mysteriously disappearing between New Guinea and Howland Island while Earhart was flying over the South Pacific in search of her airplane. His findings included a Japanese navy broke into Ms. Earhart's plane before she disappeared near Nikumaroro.

On Thursday by New York publisher St. Martin's, Gillespie wrote that he found the information in old Japanese textbooks that were left behind on the island before returning to Japan. Kaye-Anse said that he will not name.

The author of the said the Twin-Engine Electric plane before she disappeared near Nikumaroro. Earhart was a pilot for the Zero fighters, Kaye-Anse said. He said he found the information in old Japanese textbooks that were left behind on the island before returning to Japan.

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**Compromise on Clinton's job bill seen**

By Jim Luther

WASHINGTON (AP) - Lacking enough votes to break through a Republican filibuster, President Clinton negotiated a compromise on the job bill that is likely to pass today. The compromise, which deals with health care reform, is a major victory for the president and his Democratic allies in Congress.

The compromise, announced late yesterday, includes provisions to extend jobless benefits and provide new funding for job training programs. It also includes provisions to control health care costs and expand access to health care for the uninsured.

**Guerrero, Babauta to report tomorrow**

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3 Bulgarian soldiers killed in Cambodia

By Sheila McNulty

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia (AP) - Three Bulgarian soldiers were killed in Cambodia on Friday when a grenade exploded in their unit with minor and automatic weapons fire, U.N. officials said Saturday. Friday's attack was the sixth since UN presence in Cambodia. Two parachutists were killed in the previous attacks.

The UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia, named Akashi, called on Cambodia to ensure the safety of their forces. Klung Kong, residence to another Hmong Paen, near Phnom Penh, Cambodia, their identity was not confirmed pending release of information.

The other two were burned by a grenade. One had a shrapnel wound to his hand and is in hospital. The UN peacekeepers are involved in a conflict with the Khmer Rouge insurgency.

The UN said that the Khmer Rouge leader oversaw the Cambodia's former Interior Ministry in the 1970s. The UN peacekeepers are involved in a conflict with the Khmer Rouge insurgency.

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Davies: "It's something that we'll be using quite a lot," said Davies, who is entering the starting lineup for the first time in two seasons. "It will come and go for us."

Aries (March 21-April 19): You are an imaginative individual, with a restless and curious nature. You are rarely conscious and unconscious factors are represented by an eight-man team. Davies led the team effort.

You're spending too much time concentrating on straightforward duties. Today, try patience, and wait for the opportunities."
Taiwanese takes lead in RP Open

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Taiwanese rockie Yeh Chang-ling shot a four-under-par 68 to grab a two-stroke lead after the third round of the Philippine Open Golf Championship.

Yeh, a 27-year-old native of Tainans who is playing his first year as a golf professional, posted a six-under-par 66 after three days of play at the par-72, 7,181-yard Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona, south of Manila.

"My putting has been very good for the first three days and I think that's the reason why I'm on top," said Yeh, who won Open's amateur honors last year. American Steve Plesch, from Kentucky, is in second place after shooting a 70, for a 208 aggregate.

Fellow American Dennis Paulson also shot a 70, including a 30-foot eagle putt on the 15th hole. His three-day total of 210 placed him in third place followed Mexican Carlos Espinosa who had a 212 after scoring 75.

Second day leader Bradley King of Australia struggled with a 77 and fell to a share of fifth place with compatriot Anthony Gilligan, Canadian Ray Stewart and Frankie Minoza of the Philippines.

Davis leads Oakland win over Giants

By Wendy E. Lane

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Storm Davis is back in Oakland with a new weapon - the split-finger fastball.

The right-hander, returning to the Athletics after two seasons with Kansas City and one with Baltimore, showed how well it can work. Davis pitched a two-hitter through six innings as the A's evened the Bay Bridge Series with a 4-2 victory Saturday over the San Francisco Giants.

Hill retains light heavyweight title

By Salvatore Zanca

LEVAILLOIS-PERRET, France (AP) - Virgil Hill re­tained his WBA light-heavyweight title with a split decision over Frenchman Fabrice Tiozzo Saturday.

Hill scored knockdowns in each of the first two rounds and controlled the early rounds. Tiozzo came on in the middle rounds and appeared to take command.

"It was tougher than I wanted it to be," Hill said. "He was a very, very game opponent."

Hill came back in the final two rounds and won easily on two of the judges' cards. Judge Henk Meijers had it 115-112 in favor of Hill, Ed Molen scored it 115-110 Hill, and Amadéo Continanza of Italy had it 115-113 Tiozzo.

"I was a bit worried they might take the fight away from me because of the points being taken away," Hill said.

Hill was penalized twice for low blows in the sixth and ninth rounds.

"I was jabbing for the body and he kept ducking," Hill said.

Hill raised his record to 35-1, his only loss being to Thomas Hearns in June 1991. Tiozzo is now 23-1-1.

"I took the WBA light-heavyweight title from 1987 to 1991 before losing to Hearns. He regained it last September to defeat No. 4 Chrysler and under category enjoying a refreshing drink after the race.

Russia loses wrestling title to US

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) - The United States de­feated defending champion Russia 21-19 Saturday to earn the team title in the 1993 World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling.

The United States had a perfect 4-0 dual meet record in the five-nation event. Russia placed second with a 3-1 mark followed by Canada (2-2), Cuba (1-3) and Japan (0-5).

In a key final match at 180-1/2 pounds (82 kilograms), Olympic champion Kevin Jackson defeated Olympic silver medalist Elmda Jabrailov by forfeit after the Russian wrestler left the mat.

The match was tied 0-0 in overtime when officials broke a hold by Jabrailov that was ruled illegal. Jabrailov walked off in protest and refused to continue.

"It didn't feel good to win that way," Jackson said. "I feel that I am better than him, but I didn't make the opportunity to show that."

The controversy recalled a scene during the 1992 Olympic Games when Jackson defeated Jabrailov in overtime for the gold medal. Unified Team coaches prompted the win, and Jabrailov initially refused to accept his silver medal.

The first three wrestlers in the American lineup earned victories to take a 9-3 lead. Russia responded with two victories to take a 9-3 lead.

Jennifer Capriati 2-6, 7-5, 6-0

Graf recovered to force a tiebreaker and led 3-0 before Sabatini closed to 7-6.

But Sabatini crumbled, double faulting for the fourth time and missing a pair of forehand returns to end it.

"I felt like when I won the game at 6-7, I was hitting the ball better," Graf said. "I was just having more security in my strokes at that moment." And that's because Sabatini took that security away by stretching out points and not settling for the quick winners.

continued on page 11