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Saipan, MP 96950
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NMHC sues MPLT

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Housing Corporation filed suit yesterday against the Marianas Public Land Trust and its trustees for allegedly refusing to sign a \$10-million loan intended for low-income families and homesteaders.

The NMHC asked the Superior Court to issue a permanent injunction requiring MPLT and its trustees to loan \$5 million at 4% per annum interest and another \$5 million at 6% per annum interest, pursuant to the Home Financing Act.

Named as defendants are Board Chairman Juan S. Torres and trust-

Gov't agencies tangle over release of \$10M loan money



Juan S. Torres

ees Vicente M. Calvo, Maria H. Aguon, Joaquin I. Pangelinan and Herman R. Guerrero.

In its complaint, NMHC sought court determination on whether the \$10 million loan "would be prudent, reasonable and careful investment, by taking into consideration factors other than the maximum financial return on investment."

The complaint stated that the

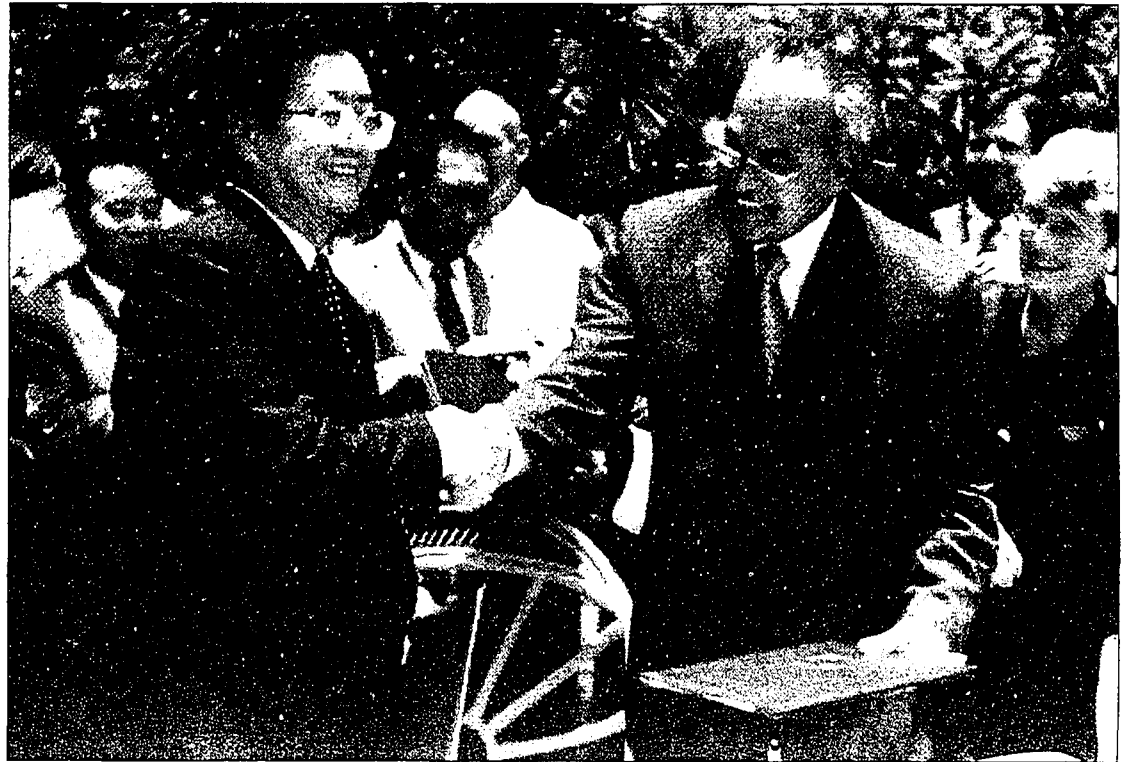
Home Financing Act authorized NMHC to make housing loans with an emphasis on low-income families and homesteaders.

The loans to low-income families were to be at an interest rate of no greater than 6% per annum, with some loans to be made with an interest of 3% per annum.

NMHC counsel David A. Wiseman said in the complaint there is overwhelming public support for the Home Financing Act, which provides low-interest loans to families of low income, homesteaders and other CNMI citizens, "so that they can finance the purchase, construction, or renovation of a home."

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China, CNMI sign MOU



IT'S A DEAL. Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio shakes hands with visiting Chinese Vice Minister Liu Shanzai shortly after the two signed a memorandum of understanding between the governments of the CNMI and China.

Photo by Zaldy Dandan

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio and visiting Chinese Vice Minister Liu Shanzai yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement that both claimed would prevent future labor problems involving the 7,000 Chinese workers in the Common-

wealth.

In elaborate, but delayed, ceremonies that included a walk on the red carpet for the governor and the vice minister, the signing was held at the Hafa Adai Hotel garden area, and was witnessed by administration officials, other members of the Chinese delegation, and by U.S. Labor Depart-

ment officials.

Speaking through an interpreter, Liu said the MOU "laid out in clear terms the administrative methods of cooperation between CNMI and China regarding Chinese workers" in the Northern Marianas.

Liu, who is vice minister for

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Hillblom's alleged son in Vietnam files claim

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A PATERNITY and heirship claim against Larry Hillblom's \$450-million estate was filed in Superior Court Wednesday on behalf of an alleged son of the late multimillionaire in Vietnam.

James E. Hollman, through counsels Bruce L. Jorgensen and Bruce Berline, asked the court to appoint him as guardian for the three-year-old Vo Minh Tan.

Hollman stated in his petition that Tan is the son of Hillblom and Thai Thi Thuydung of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Tan was born on April 27, 1994.

The petition requests that the court issue a declaratory judgment as to the issues of

paternity and heirship in favor of Tan as Hillblom's natural child.

Hollman sought a court order requiring Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan (BOS) to distribute such share of the estate as rightfully to Tan's.

The court entered an order on June 26, 1995 declaring Hillblom dead as a result of a May 21, 1995 plane crash.

Hollman said Hillblom's last will, executed in Jan. 15, 1982, made no provision for Tan nor did the petition for probate mention the child as heir of the late multimillionaire.

Under CNMI statute, Hollman pointed out that Tan, as a pretermitted child, is en-

Continued on page 52



ONWARD. Independent gubernatorial candidate Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja (center) and running mate Benigno Sablan (left) prepare to lead a march of their supporters to the Board of Elections office where they filed their candidacy petitions yesterday. (See story page 6.) Photo by Rick Alberto

Public Auditor to 'look into' MPLC land deals

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Auditor Leo LaMotte said Wednesday that his office will look into all the land transactions of the defunct Marianas Public Lands Corp., as requested by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona.

"We're obligated to do it," LaMotte said. "It's going to be a tremendous undertaking, but we'll

do it."

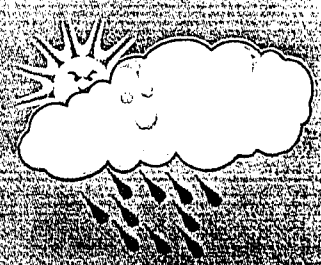
He said it will take at least a year to go through the land deals of MPLC, which was created in 1978 and abolished by the governor in 1994.

During the Senate's public hearing Tuesday on public lands, Manglona (R-Rota) asked LaMotte if Tenorio did request OPA to investigate MPLC.

LaMotte said he has not re-

Continued on page 53

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Kuwaiti mines emitted chemicals, say Marines

By BRUCE SMITH
CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) - Marine Master Sgt. Michael Bradford recounted how his unit plowed through an Iraqi mine field and past burning oil wells into Kuwait during the Gulf War. Then, as they raced headlong through a black rain, Bradford quickly sounded the alarm to the column: Gas! His six-wheeled vehicle, which was equipped with computers to monitor chemicals on the battlefield, had detected mustard and nerve gas, he and other witnesses told a presidential commission Wednesday looking into Gulf War illnesses. But others from the military questioned the account. They said the reading may

have been false and no chemical mines were ever found among the hundreds of thousands the Iraqis left buried in the sand. "There were chemicals in that breach," Bradford firmly told the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses. He believes there were two chemical mines in the field. In January, the committee that is investigating illnesses suffered by thousands of Gulf War veterans said the Pentagon must stop dragging its feet investigating incidents and err in favor of telling troops involved about risks to their health. "It's very clear we're going to have to be following up on (Continued on page 57)

FBI looks for Israeli informant in US gov't

WASHINGTON (AP) - The FBI is investigating whether Israel has an informant in the U.S. government supplying it with American secrets. The Washington Post reported it this edition Wednesday. The investigation is focused on a communication between Israeli spies indicating that possibly a U.S. government official could obtain for them a copy of a secret letter from then Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat last January, the newspaper said. It said the probe was begun after the National Security Agency intercepted a communication between a senior Israeli intelligence official here and his superior in Tel Aviv referring to someone code-named "Mega." The text of the conversation, which was translated



Warren Christopher



Yasser Arafat

from Hebrew to English, indicated that "Mega" could be a U.S. government official and had been a source to Israeli spies in the past, the newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying. In the intercepted conversation, the Israeli intelligence official told his superior that he had been asked by Eliahu Ben Elissar, Israel's ambassador to the United States, if he could get a copy of Christopher's letter to Arafat. "The ambassador wants me to go to Mega to get a copy of this letter," the intelligence officer says in the transcript, according to a Post source who has seen it. The Tel Aviv office (Continued on page 57)

Bill on temporary board Ok'd

By Zaldy Dandan
 Variety News Staff
 THE SENATE yesterday passed a bill that would allow for a temporary appointment of Board of Public Lands directors.

Cing asks IG to probe all land deals signed by Tenorio



Jesus R. Sablan



David M. Cing



Mark Broadhurst

Introduced by Senate President Jesus R. Sablan (R-Saipan), Senate Bill 10-87 names Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja (Ind.), Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos (D), Tinian Mayor Herman M. Manglona (R), Saipan Mayor Jesus S. DL Guerrero (D) and the Northern Islands Mayor Joseph T. Ogomoro (D) as temporary directors of the board. The five would serve until Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio appoints full-time members for the board. Passed on second and final reading, S.B. 10-87 now goes to the House of Representatives. The governor's spokesperson yesterday called the bill "kind of ridiculous," particularly coming after the governor's statement that management of public lands should be given to only one person, even if it's not the governor, for more accountability and more efficiency. Mark Broadhurst said the

bill is a lame "springboard reaction" to the governor's testimony Tuesday before the Senate. "Imagine giving authority to a board composed of five politicians," Broadhurst said. "Obviously, not much thought was given to this bill." The Variety tried to get a

comment from Senate President Sablan, but was unable to contact him. BPL was created by Public Law 10-57, the bill for which was vetoed by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio. With the override of the veto by the Senate and the House of Representatives, authority over public lands was taken away from the governor and transferred to the board. Claiming that the new law is unconstitutional, Tenorio has refused to make appointments to

the five-member board. He said the Legislature should instead recommend names to the board. Without a board, all public land transactions are on hold. The status of the Division of Public Lands, whose director is responsible to the governor, has been in "limbo" since the veto override. In the Senate's hearing Tuesday on public lands, Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) said he will come up with names in a week's time. Meanwhile, Cing has requested the U.S. Office of the Inspector General to audit Tenorio's management of public lands since he abolished the autonomous Marianas Public Lands Corp. in January 1994. In a letter yesterday to Insular Area Audits Director Arnold van Beverhoudt Jr., Cing said the audit would be of "tremendous assistance" to the CNMI. The governor's spokesperson yesterday said Cing's request is a "welcome move." "The governor has nothing to hide, unlike MPLC," Broadhurst said.

6 PSS schools need major repairs, renovation, say WASC inspectors

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
 Variety News Staff
 ACCREDITATION committees from California have recommended repair and renovation of facilities in six public schools.

The committees' findings and recommendations stress the need for the government to work with the (Public School System) to make sure funding is available for new classrooms," said John DeLeon Guerrero, PSS accreditation coordinator. The accreditation committees from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges concluded on April 30 their inspections of public schools. "Recommendations made by different committees for the six schools emphasize the need for the students to have a conducive learning environment and safe facilities," Guerrero said. "The government can save more by replacing dilapidated buildings instead of repairing them on an annual basis," he

added. Schools inspected by WASC committees were San Antonio, Tanapag, Koblerville, William S. Reyes, Tinian elementary schools, and Tinian High School. Each committee has prepared a preliminary report for each school. These reports will be reviewed by a WASC panel in California which will decide whether or not to adopt the accreditation terms recommended by the committees. Six years is the highest accreditation term that a school can get. Guerrero said the committees have made recommendations on the accreditation term for each school but would not disclose them until the WASC review panel acted on them. "Our schools get positive remarks in terms of instructions and teaching staff," Guerrero said. The committee that visited Tinian High School commended the school for "its consistency and firmness in implementing its disciplinary policies," as well as the "dedication and commitment of its staff and administration to improve instruction in spite of the many obstacles." WSR was urged to give the highest priority in adequately augmenting the annual budget in order to address numerous school plant renovations and meet the curricular and material needs of the school. It was also recommended that the WSR administration and PSS ensure the facility and instructional concerns of the students are met in timely fashion. Tinian High School was urged to "seek avenues to assure fiscal stability to guarantee the continuance and enhancement of high quality instruction." It was also recommended that THS develop a comprehensive maintenance plan in order to ensure proper and timely maintenance of facilities and equipment. The committee for Koblerville Elementary School said the completion of ongoing projects such as classroom, stage, and storeroom should be ensured.

Cop in 'ice' case changes his plea of 'not guilty' to 'guilty'

By Rick Alberto
 Variety News Staff
 A POLICE officer charged with drug trafficking has changed his earlier plea of not guilty to guilty under an agreement with plaintiff United States government.

Newhart Iva Techur, 33, was indicted last Feb. 14 for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crystal methamphetamine, or ice. Under the plea of agreement filed with the federal district court last May 1, Techur entered a plea of guilty to possession of ice with intent to deliver. The maximum sentence for conviction involving less than 10 grams of ice, as in the case of Techur, is 20 years' imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a \$1-million fine. According to the agreement, Techur's sentencing will include a minimum three years' supervised release after he has served his prison term. Earlier on Feb. 18, Techur pleaded innocent during his arraignment. He was released on a \$50,000 unsecured bond under the custody of his wife, Carolina. Techur's Feb. 14 indictment alleged that he participated in an ice-smoking session with convicted Alfred Aldan and Andrew Petersen between Feb. 1 and 10; bought ice from Aldan and Petersen several times; and delivered ice to a certain Barbara Q. Sablan. With the new entry of guilty plea, Techur waived his right to an indictment and trial by a jury. The court has set the sentencing for Aug. 7.

Guerrero thinks about whether or not to support Tenorio



Froilan C. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
 Variety News Staff
 THE DEMOCRATIC Party's gubernatorial ticket is seeking the endorsement of a Republican former governor. Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he is "looking forward" for the support of Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero, the man he ran against in the 1989 and 1993 gubernatorial elections. "I want the former governor to know I'm seeking his endorsement, and that I'll appreciate it very much if he and his supporters will support my candidacy," Tenorio said. He admitted he recently met with the former governor and key supporter

Ramon S. Guerrero, "so you can draw your own conclusions." Tenorio's running mate, Saipan Mayor Jesus S. DL Guerrero, yesterday told the Variety he is also asking the former governor, his first cousin to support the Democratic Party ticket. The mayor has been a staunch supporter of the former governor's past political campaigns, the most recent of which was last November's Republican Party primary won by another former governor, Pedro P. Tenorio. Former governor Guerrero's running mate in the primary was educator Rita Hocog-Inos, whom Gov. Tenorio said he considers a sister. However, former governor Guerrero has yet to make an announcement regarding the coming elections. In an interview last March, he said his supporters are urging him to run for governor under a new party. A Democratic Party source told the Variety that a Guerrero candidacy might help the party, in light of Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja's decision to leave the party and run as an independent candidate for governor. "The last time the Democratic Party split was in 1981, and we lost horribly," the source said. But a similar split in the Republicans could "eventually play a field," the source

added. Borja, Tenorio's running mate in 1993, recently said his supporters are still waiting for Guerrero's next move, before they decide whether or not to challenge former governor Tenorio's eligibility to run. The Republican Tenorio has already served as governor for two terms (1982-86, 1986-90), which is the constitutional term limit. His successor was Guerrero who defeated the Democrat Tenorio in the 1989 election, but lost to the same candidate four years later. Borja is running as an independent candidate for governor.

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US optimistic on Korea talks

TOKYO (AP) - The United States is optimistic North Korea will join four-way talks on bringing lasting peace to the Korean Peninsula and providing emergency food aid to its people, a U.S. official said Thursday. North Korea has been reluctant to join, but the U.S. is hoping Pyongyang negotiators will soon agree to the talks with its longtime enemy South Korea, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. South Korea has said large-

scale aid will follow peace efforts, but the North is seeking food aid prior to joining the peace talks. Experts have said North Korea is on the brink of a major food crisis after two years of flooding have devastated farmlands. In addition to the Koreans, peace talks would include the United States, which supported the South during the Korean War, as well as China, which was allied with its communist partner North Korea. Last month, the North backed out of joining peace talks pro-

posed by Seoul and Washington, and talks on food aid between Red Cross societies of the two Koreas ended without agreement Monday in Beijing. The United States is closely coordinating its North Korea policy with South Korea and Japan, which has a strong interest in ensuring stability on the neighboring Korean Peninsula. Diplomats from the three countries held talks Wednesday in Tokyo on providing food aid to the North.

Mother's Day Special

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Borja-Sablan submit candidacy

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
GUBERNATORIAL candidate Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja and his runningmate former Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno Sablan filed their candidacies with the Board of Elections yesterday, well over four months before the deadline and the first tandem to do so. Accompanied by some 50 placard-bearing supporters, the duo marched from the American Memorial Park to the BOE

offices in Garapan at 10 a.m. They submitted a nominating petition signed by over 1,000 supporters who are eligible voters. But Elections Board Executive Director Juan M. Diaz said that all his agency needs to check are at least 100 signatures which have to match with those in the voters' affidavits of registration. Borja and Sablan are considered certified candidates if within 10 days the elections board does not take any action

to deny the nominating petition. Borja said yesterday marked his and Sablan's official candidacy. "This is a very historic and important day for us because it officially opens our campaign and candidacy." Borja, who is running as an independent Democrat, said if ever he wins, it would be the first time that someone "not affiliated with a major party" is catapulted to the governorship.

Sablan said they filed their candidacies this early because "we got more than enough (nominators)." "We got more than 1,000 persons, and we think this is the right time," he said. Jack C. Muna, chair of the Committee to Elect Borja-Sablan said he thought the team has "very high" chances to win the November elections. Damiana Quitano, 47, said she

supports Borja and Sablan because "they're good workers." One of the Borja-Sablan team's battlecries is "Right Time, Right Choice." There are three other gubernatorial-vice gubernatorial tandems who have until Sept. 17 to file their candidacies. They include current Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and his runningmate Saipan Mayor Jesus S. DeLeon Guerrero.

GTC's PTSA meeting

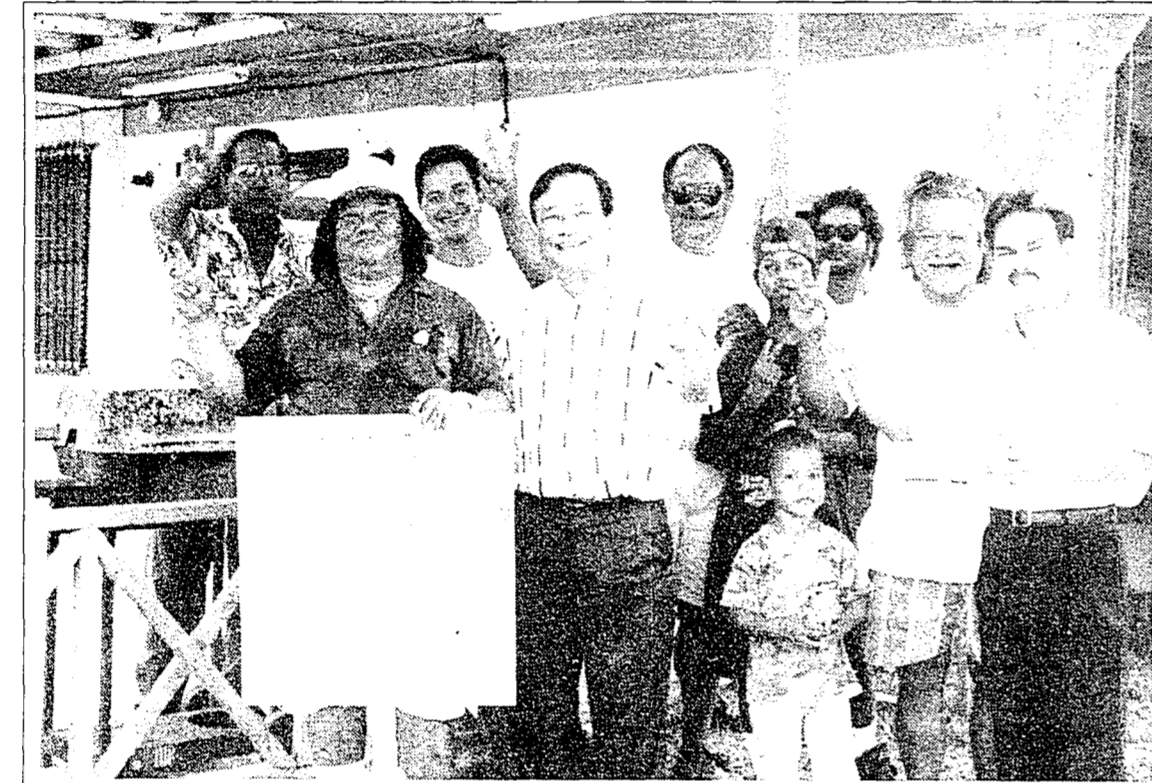
GREGORIO T. Camacho Elementary School is announcing that its next general meeting of the PTSA will be this Thursday May 15, at the GTC Elementary School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Refreshment will also be provided. Parents are asked to check with their children for agenda and additional information they will be bringing

home from school. "We hope you will join us to see what are the latest issues affecting your school and to help us make decisions that affect the education of our children." Furthermore, the new airconditioning installation in the cafeteria should be completed by this meeting," the notice from the school read.

Tanapag PTA to meet Tuesday

THIS is to inform all parents, guardians, and teachers of students attending Tanapag Elementary that there will be a PTA meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 1997, at 6:30 p.m. in the

school cafeteria. All parents, guardians, and teachers are strongly encouraged to attend. The Tanapag School and community appreciate your support.



Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja and supporters flash the victory sign after their petition march that ends at the Board of Elections in Garapan.

Invitation

Teno and Sophie, Jess and Annie, invite all members of the community to a friendly get-together this Friday, May 9, at 6:00 p.m., at Teno and Sophie's residence in As Lito. Please come and meet the Republican candidates in the upcoming general elections.



We extend a special invitation to all those who participated in the Primary last November, and to all registered voters.

Dr. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ, Chairman
Committee to Elect Teno-Pepero

Dems' slate not yet complete



Juan S. Demapan Eliceo D. Cabrera Herman R. Guerrero

BY Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
WITH ONLY a day left before the Democratic Party announces its slate of candidates for the November elections, a Senate slot for Saipan remains open, it was learned yesterday. The party's titular head, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, yesterday said businessman Luis P. Crisostomo is one of the party's two senatorial candidates for Saipan, but added that there is still no word on who the other candidate is. Crisostomo ran in the 1995 midterm elections for one of Precinct 1's six House seats, but placed 11th in a 13-man race. Variety sources said party leaders are still trying to convince an incumbent Republican legislator to fill in the second slot, but the legislator has already filed candidacy for a House seat. In an April 24 news story, the Variety reported that former senators Juan S. Demapan and Herman R. Guerrero are the "leading contenders" for the two Senate slots. But according to party chair Daniel O. Quitugua, the party has yet to finalize its list of

candidates. Quitugua, however, confirmed that Demapan and Guerrero are in the list of possible senatorial candidates. Aside from the two, Quitugua said the governor's special assistant for management and budget Eliceo D. Cabrera and former representatives Pete S. Arriola and Pete C. Arriola are also being considered. Former representative Frank A. Flores earlier announced his intention to run for the Senate, but has recently told the Variety that he will instead run for a Precinct 3 House seat. The party will announce the names of all its candidates in a fund-raising mini-convention tomorrow. Citing the "non-cooperation" of the Republican-dominated Legislature, Governor Tenorio said he will see to it that the Democratic Party seize control of at least the House of Representatives in the coming elections.

Guam hotel may face ADA lawsuit

BY Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
HOTEL Nikko Guam is facing a possible lawsuit for noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Guam hotel has three months to comply with the law and avert any court challenge, according to the Guam-based Protection and Advocacy of the Marianas. "We would respectfully request that you voluntarily proceed toward compliance before we receive an actual complaint from a person, be it a tourist, guest, a resident attending a meeting, a vendor to supply you or someone desiring to enjoy one of your restaurants, who has a disabling condition and cannot do so due to barriers," PAM Executive Director Eddie del Rosario said in a May 6 letter to Masayoshi Katsuta, general manager of Hotel Nikko Guam. Del Rosario recommended that Hotel Nikko do a survey of the hotel's premises, as did the Hotel Nikko Saipan. Hotel Nikko Saipan was sued by PAM's counterpart on Saipan, the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, Inc. in July of last year. The suit is still ongoing, but Hotel Nikko Saipan has commissioned an architectural firm to survey its premises as a preliminary step to settlement. "We would suggest that you do the same," Del Rosario told Katsuta. Del Rosario said PAM would defer court action while waiting for a survey report, and a statement of full commitment in two months after the survey. Any action that may be pursued by PAM, Del Rosario said, would involve only "simple statutory ADA violations." He warned that the hotel might still have to deal with lawsuits that involve persons who may have suffered actual physical or mental injuries, or any other entity not affiliated with PAM. "I have no control over such. You will still be at risk from decisions made outside of our P&A control," Del Rosario said. William C. Campbell, legal counsel for NMPASI, promised to extend technical assistance to any lawyer who would be hired by PAM in the event it pursues a court action. "We decided to experiment by trying the path of least resistance. That is, I don't wait for a complaining plaintiff to sue," said Campbell, who is handling the ADA case against Nikko Saipan. Campbell said Nikko Saipan did not pay attention to "several wake up calls," prompting NMPASI to take a court action against it. "Nikko being probably the most prestigious resort on the island makes a good example to create a domino effect to encourage others to 'get busy and get accessible,'" Campbell said. "There exists the possibility that Nikko Guam will really move faster because they see that we really do mean business about suing," the NMPASI lawyer said. "I would not be surprised if they have already started their survey some months ago. That would have been the prudent thing," he added. Campbell said John Osborn of Carlsmith law firm, lawyer for Nikko Saipan, had said that this hotel-client would have done something had the matter been discussed prior to court action. "Mr. Osborn gave me the idea to do it this way," Campbell said. Campbell felt, however, that pre-suit talks are "a real time waster." "The important thing is to get these lovely hotels ready to fully accept persons with disabilities," Campbell said.

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11th, 1997

GIOVANNI'S

Mother's Day Brunch
Pamper Mom at the fabulous Gourmet Sunday Brunch at Giovanni's. Our Chefs have a special menu planned with mouth watering desserts and all the champagne you can drink for just \$26.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under twelve years old. Also, every Mom will receive a special gift to remember the day. Open from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Advanced reservations are recommended.

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Mother's Day Brunch
Our experienced Chefs have prepared a spectacular Sunday Brunch for Mother's Day at Kili Cafe & Terrace. Mom will receive a keepsake gift to remember the occasion. Only \$26.00 for adults and \$13.00 for children under twelve years old. Open from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Advanced reservations are recommended.

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THE CHINESE RESTAURANT

Japanese Mother's Day
Miyako is offering the ever popular Japanese Lunch Buffet with some special Mother's Day items for only \$22.00 for adults and \$11.00 for children under twelve years old. Japanese delicacies such as Seafood Bouillabaise Tempura, Sashimi and Sushi. A special keepsake gift is also included for Mom to cherish her special day. Open from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Advanced reservations are recommended.

Chinese Mother's Day
Our Chinese Chef has created a special Mother's Day Lunch Buffet at the Chinese Restaurant for just \$18.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children under twelve years old. Mom will also receive a free gift to take home. Open from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Advanced reservations are recommended.

Mother Was a Lady

For reservations or inquiries, please call 234-1234 ext. 26

Community plans launched by DPS

THE Department of Public Safety hopes to familiarize the community about DPS and to build an even greater camaraderie among personnel.

In a press conference yesterday, Sgt. Lawrence M. Camacho, chairperson for the Police Week Committee, announced the activities scheduled during the celebration.

Camacho said a high mass will kick-off the week this Saturday and other activities include public education programs at both public and private schools.

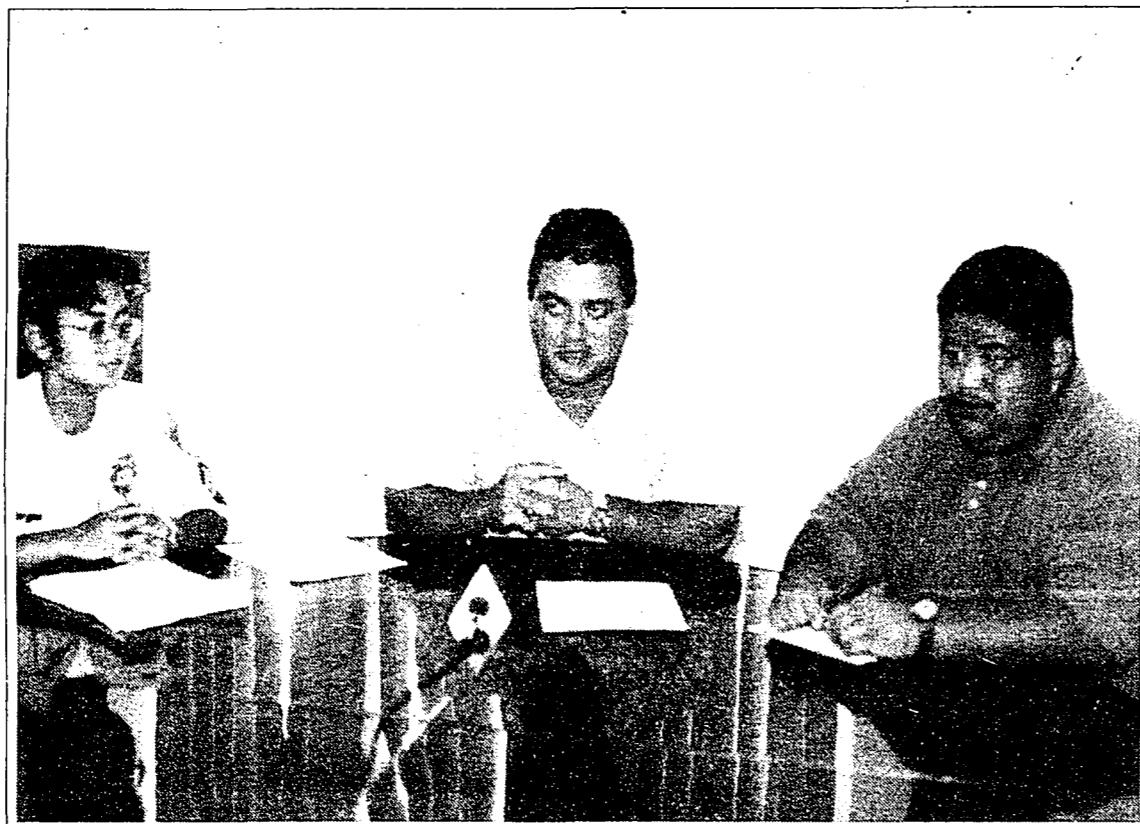
Camacho said there will be athletic competition among divisions within the department.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio declared May 11-17 as CNMI Police Week, which was first proclaimed in 1962 by the late

President John F. Kennedy. Camacho said it is a time set aside to honor and recognize police officers especially those who were killed in the line of duty.

"The job of a police officer is not an easy task. Officers are held to a higher standard of conduct. They take an oath to enforce the laws of the land, protect life and property and to serve the community in more ways than one; always keeping in mind the oath which they have taken," said Camacho.

"The job of an officer is filled with perils but those who do choose this profession dedicate their life to maintaining peace and order, employing justice and tenderness whenever necessary," he added. (FDT)



Sgt. Lawrence Camacho (middle) announces the activities of the Police Week celebration during yesterday's press conference at DPS conference room. Also in photo are PO3 Cathy Sheu and Claudio Norita.

—Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

Democratic Party fundraiser

THE Democratic Party will launch their official announcement for some candidates and for Governor Froilan C. Tenorio running mate at their Fundraising Event scheduled for this Saturday, May 10, 1997 at Pacific

Islands Club (PIC) at 6:00 p.m. There will be lots of food, drinks and live entertainment for everyone's listening pleasure for evening. Donation is \$100.00. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Judge: Appleby to remain with DOC

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Edward Manibusan wants Shawn Appleby to remain under the custody of the Division of Corrections to serve a 40-

year jail term in a 1996 murder case.

In a four-page order, Manibusan said upon the court's acceptance of the 17-year-old Appleby guilty plea, the teenager became an adult offender with a criminal conviction.

As a convicted adult offender, Appleby is not entitled to be confined separate from adult offenders, said the judge in the order issued Wednesday denying a motion for reconsideration.

Appleby requested the court to remand him to the custody of the Division of Youth Services.

Appleby, through counsel Kevin E. Moore, argued he has a constitutional right to be confined separate from adult offenders under the CNMI statute.

Article 1 section 4(j), Moore said states that "persons who are under 18 years of age shall be protected in criminal judi-

cial proceedings and in conditions of imprisonment."

In his ruling, Manibusan said the section applies to Appleby because he is under 18, but it does not specify what protection he is entitled to in conditions of imprisonment.

Manibusan concluded that once a juvenile is certified as an adult, the juvenile is no longer entitled to protections as a juvenile in criminal proceedings afforded by the statute.

Appleby was among the five youths charged for gunslaying Byung Ok Suh during a robbery at the victim's store in San Antonio Last Nov. 13.

Appleby pleaded guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to 40 years of imprisonment with a minimum of 10 years to be served.

He was committed to the custody of Division of Corrections, an adult penal institution.

FCC OKs telecom subsidy

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

LOW-INCOME households in the Commonwealth will now be able to afford residential telephones through subsidy from the Federal Communications Commission.

In the same manner, public schools will be able to get wired to the Internet at the lowest costs.

The Lifeline and Link-Up support services, and the inclusion of the Commonwealth in the universal service program are the two major components of the ruling issued yesterday by FCC.

With the Lifeline and Link programs, once implemented, each consumer will receive a total of \$7 in subsidy, which includes the additional contribution of \$1 from federal fund, and a matching \$1 from local funds.

Dave Ecret, special assistant for telecommunications, said FCC's new ruling would ensure an increase in the telephone subscribership rate in the CNMI.

Ruling includes CNMI in universal service program



Dave Ecret

"The CNMI is No. 2 from the bottom in terms of subscribership. The national average of households with telephones is 92 percent. Subscriber rate in the CNMI is only 60 percent," Ecret said.

This is due to high costs of telecommunications in the CNMI, he said.

"The Governor's office argued that the Commonwealth's combination of low income and high prices produce rates which were unaffordable to many residents," Ecret said.

Ecret said apart from low-income earners, senior citizens will also benefit from the program.

Eligibility criteria for the program, Ecret said, would be determined by social service and welfare agencies.

"It is urgent that we go ahead and ask the Legislature to pass the governor's proposed Commonwealth Regulatory Commission which was submitted to them last February," Ecret said.

The proposed commission would be tasked to issue rules and regulations on, among others, awarding of subsidy grants based on FCC ruling. The Public School System's tech-

nology masterplan will benefit from the universal service program which offers general discounts for schools and libraries.

The discounts ranging from 20 to 90 percent of retail rates may be applied to purchase of all commercially available telecommunications

services, Internet access and internal wiring.

"We are confident that our schools will qualify for subsidy between 75 to 90 percent," Ecret said.

A separate FCC ruling reforms interstate access charges which refer to the prices that long distance tele-

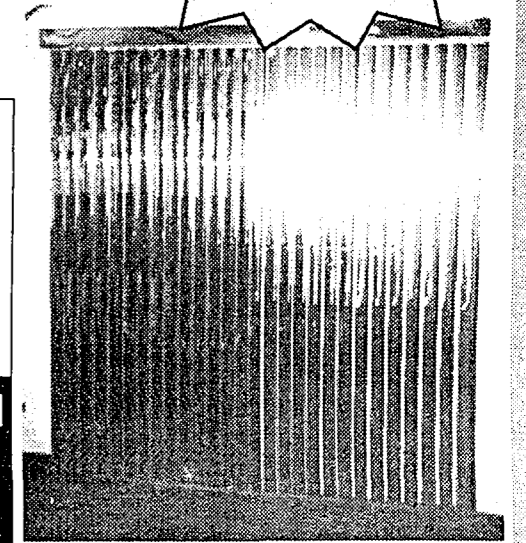
phone companies must pay in order to connect with local telephone networks.

"Since high access charges have been passed along to consumers in the form of higher long distance costs, FCC's ruling will decrease long distance calling rates throughout the US, including the Commonwealth," Ecret said.

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Big Mountain to perform at the Gardenia

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Well, they are. Tonight, Saipan will get another chance to see and listen to America's premier reggae band.

Meet them at Pacific Gardenia at 8:30 p.m.

The make up of this band is as diverse as its music.

Big Mountain is led by the dynamic Quino, a San Diego native of Mexican/Irish descent. Being as fluent in Spanish as he is in English, Quino incorporates many Spanish lyrics to his songs providing that an American group can reach into the hearts of the Latin world.

Other band members include Quino's younger brother James McWhinney on percussions and back-ground vocals. The high level of energy that James possesses often brings audience to great heights of enthusiasm allowing him to share his own dancehall styles. On keyboards are Billy Stoll and Michael Hyde. Michael brings with him many years of experience and great expertise from his native Belize.

Los Angeles native Lynn Copeland is on bass guitar and often surprises audiences with great skills, honed by her many years as a jazz musician.

The combined 1994-1995 worldwide sales of their Wake Up and Unity albums along with the Reality Bites soundtrack were in excess of seven million units.

It is expected that the band's latest album Resistance and current single "Get Together," will continue to reach new heights.

In 1995 Big Mountain performed two concert tours of Japan, one alone and the other as the headliner of the "Reggae Sunsplash Tour."

Big Mountain was fortunate enough to be invited to headline the Reggae Sunsplash Festival in Jamaica for the second straight year, and honor for which the band takes pride.

Last August marked the release (outside of North America) of Big Mountain's latest CD, Resistance on Giant records, with 16 tracks expressing the diversity of Reggae music today.

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Borja ignores Tenorio call

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

L.T. Gov. Jesus Borja said yesterday he's ignoring Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's latest suggestion that he should resign since he (Borja) "no longer has faith" in the administration.

Borja, who belonged to the Democratic Party as Tenorio does, has opted to oppose the governor as an independent candidate in the coming November elections.

Borja just filed yesterday his candidacy with his runningmate Benigno Sablan, who resigned as secretary of lands and natural resources.

"As I've stated in the past, I was elected by the people and if the people want me to resign, the people would tell me," Borja, a lawyer by profession, told the Variety.

"I would not listen to any

Says he would not heed Gov's suggestion to resign



Jesus Borja

person who asks me to resign, especially when the purpose of the resignation is for his or her own political expediency," Borja added.

Borja said his case applies to the governor, who was likewise elected by the people. "If he wants to resign, it's up

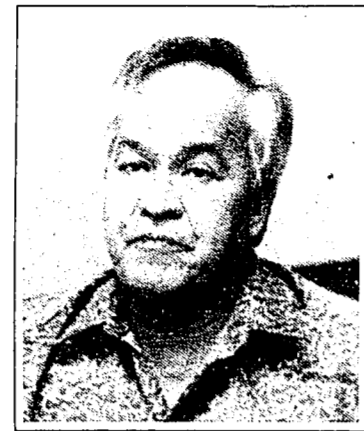
to him. If the people want him to resign, then the people would tell him to resign come November."

Sablan said the governor's call for Borja to resign is a constitutional issue since the Constitution allows for a governor and a lieutenant governor.

Sablan pointed out that this is a democratic country and that Borja has a right to oppose Tenorio.

"This is a democratic country, it's not a Communist or a socialist country. Every citizen in this country is allowed—provided he or she is law-abiding—to run for the top office," he said.

He added that Borja is "very capable" and "very eligible" to run for the governorship. "I think he should continue



Froilan C. Tenorio

it."

Tenorio said Monday that if he were the lieutenant governor and running against the governor, he would resign.

"I'm not asking him (Borja) to do that. I'm just saying that it's proper that if he doesn't approve of this administration,

then he shouldn't be a part of this administration," Tenorio was quoted as saying.

Guerrero may be held liable for misplaced equipment, says Public Auditor

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE Public Auditor has determined Director of Aging Jose Guerrero may be held accountable for 27 missing government equipment worth nearly \$11,000 and the "improper" turnover of 10 more pieces of government equipment worth \$3,000.

In his report to Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Thomas A. Tebuteb, Leo L. LaMotte, Public Auditor, recommended that he review the case to determine if personnel action, including suspension or demotion, can be taken against Guerrero for the act.

He also moved that the finance department conduct further investigation on the matter to determine if there is any personal liability over the missing government property.

The matter, the report stated, has already been referred to the Attorney General's office which has filed a case with the Superior Court against Guerrero for misconduct in public office months ago.

The matter stemmed from the transfer of the Office of the Aging from its old building to a new \$1.5 million one last year where Guerrero allegedly failed to make an inventory of the equipment which thus resulted to the loss.

The OPA report showed that Double M Ltd., the construction project's contractor, allowed OA to temporarily use its company complex in April so that the government agency may continue operation.

OA finally moved to the new building on May 15, a few months after it was discovered that the mentioned equipment were missing.

OPA, upon complaints received on the matter in August, conducted a probe, the result of which established that:

* The 27 items of OA equipment were missing; and

* Guerrero had allowed the removal of 10 pieces of OA equipment from its custody to the temporary use of the contractor.

"This occurred because OA did not monitor the movement of its equipment from its premises to a temporary storage facility," stated the report.

The missing equipment include a \$1,600 riding mower; a \$1,400 oven; a \$1,000 Xerox typewriter; at least seven office chairs; a water pump; deep freezer; grinder; mixer; two filing cabinets; two air conditioners; a desk; a cassette player; TV and VCR.

The DCCA has earlier moved to hold any action that can be taken against Guerrero pending results of court proceedings on the misconduct case; and a verification from Double M Ltd. on whether permission was in fact granted to use the property.

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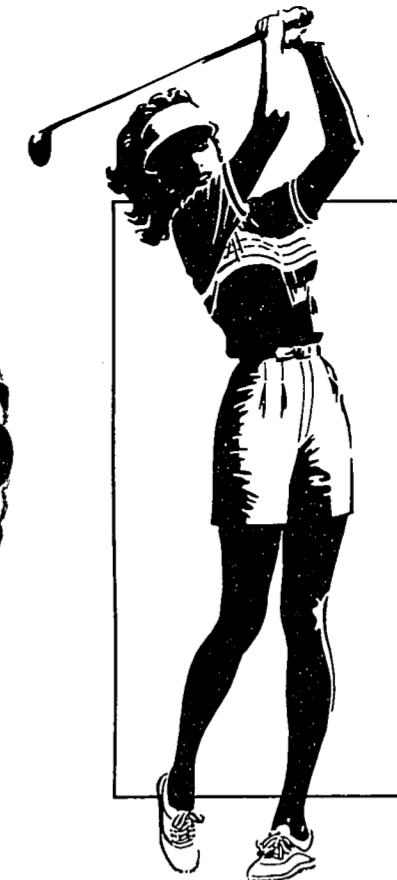


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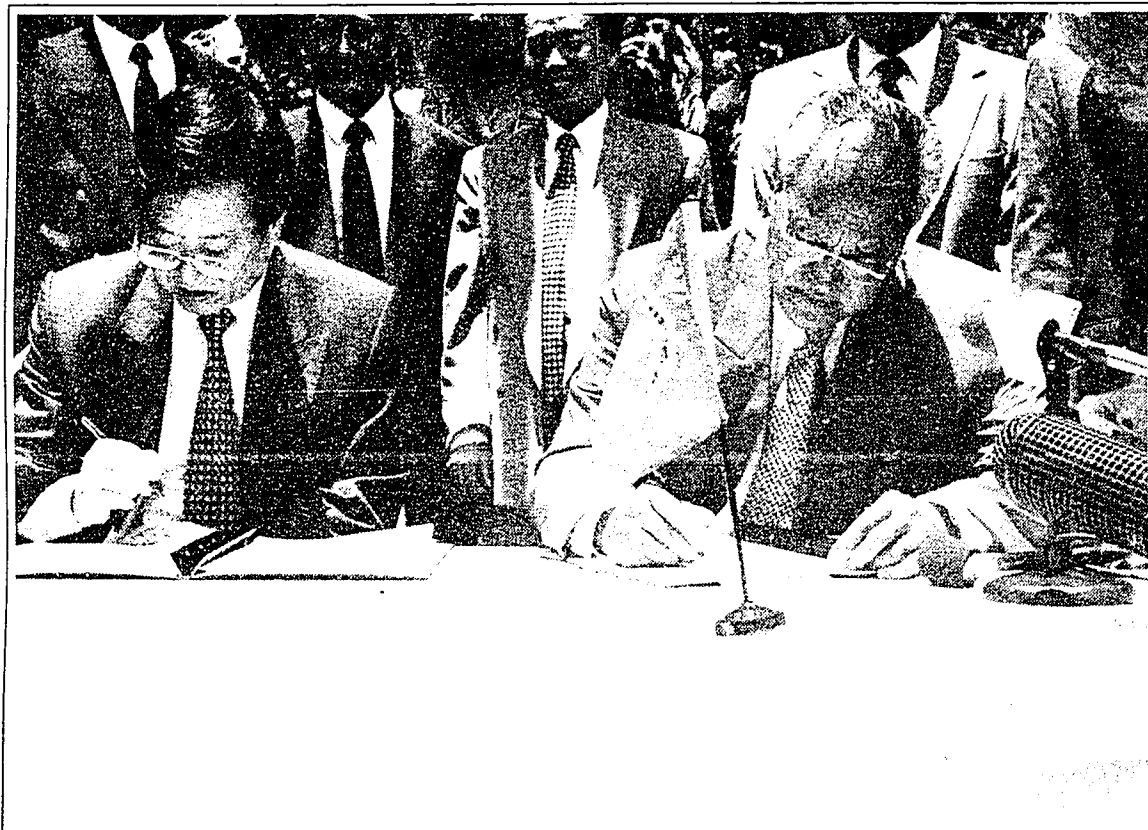
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US Labor welcomes China MOU



Gov. Tenorio (right) and visiting Chinese Foreign Trade Vice Minister Liu Shanzai sign memorandum of understanding in ceremonies held yesterday at the Hafa Adai Hotel. The agreement establishes a cooperative effort between the CNMI and China on matters relating to the entry of Chinese workers into the islands.

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
THE AGREEMENT forged between CNMI and the mainland Chinese government on the creation of a liaison office in the Commonwealth has opened a leeway for a thorough probe on reports Chinese workers in the Commonwealth are being stripped of their right to freely associate. "We want to educate the Chinese representatives (in CNMI) on what US laws are. So it (agreement) is a start," said Terence J. Trotter, Enforcement Director of the US labor department's Wage and Hour Division, in an interview. "We will speak with them (Chinese representatives) regarding issues that their office was made to address," he added. Among these issues include the illegal employment of overstaying Chinese nationals, and, which is also more controversial, allegations made by advocacy groups that Chinese workers in CNMI were made to sign contracts restricting their movements and barring them from marrying,

among other suppression of basic human rights. "They (Chinese representative) need to be educated on what US standards are so that they can, if there is any breakdown in communication, regulate what the problems are," Trotter said. "Everybody needs a commitment and they have to follow through," he added. Official estimates place the number of mainland Chinese nationals legitimately employed in CNMI at 7,000. Actual figure, however, is pegged as close to 10,000 including Chinese tourists and business applicants who have managed to secure employment. Gov. Froilan Tenorio and a delegation of the mainland Chinese government yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement calling for the creation of what is called as the Chinese Economic Development Association. CEDA is primarily tasked to ensure that labor recruiters comply with the Chinese government's manpower export laws. All Chinese workers will now have to go through CEDA prior to employment in the Commonwealth.

Flame Tree Arts Festival set to start tomorrow

THE 16TH Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival will take place this Mother's Day weekend, May 10 and 11 at American Memorial Park. The annual event features the best of the CNMI's visual and performing artisans. This year's Festival will include performances by the JFK Highschool Jazz Band, the Talabwog Men Stick Dancers, the Korean Association Dancers and almost 40 other performing groups. This year's booths will include master woodcarver Sven Orquist from American Samoa, traditional toolmaker and artist Noel Quitugua from Saipan, crafts maker Blandina Dela Cruz from Tinian and approximately 100 other artists housed in over 70 booths. A number of local food vendors and community organizations will also take part in the event, providing food and drink. The Festival will be run from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 and from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 11. The opening ceremony will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the Flame Tree Festival Stage. The Festival is free of charge to all. This year's Festival is made possible through donations from IT&E Overseas Inc., Mobil Oil Mariana Islands and DFS Saipan Ltd, as well as, through assistance from the National Park Service, American Memorial Park and the National Endowment for the Arts. For further information, contact the Arts Council at telephone numbers 322-9982/9983.

Police promotion questioned

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
TWO top police officials are questioning the promotion of an officer from administrative to a high ranking police position at the Department of Public Safety. DPS Deputy Commissioners Lino S. Tenorio and Francisco C. Duenas are referring to the 90-day provisional appointment of Claudio K. Norita as Assistant Police Chief for Special Programs which they said violated a memorandum issued March 29 by Personnel Management Director Luis Camacho. Tenorio and Duenas wrote to Camacho "to express our concern in the way the department is attempting to transfer Mr. Norita from his 'ungraded' administrative position in charge of the Office of High Safety, to that of the high ranking police officer position of assistant chief." The DPS officials said Norita's promotion "is clearly in contradiction" to Camacho's memorandum which states that promotion and selection policies are "designed and intended to identify the most qualified applicants for a vacancy." The memo also provides that selection should be made from a "number of qualified persons." Tenorio and Duenas said they were not aware of any list that was prepared or any interviews conducted, leading them to conclude that Norita, though not eligible, was "pre-selected" for the position. DPS usually practices a "rise

through the ranks" promotion system, which consists of going from POIII, to sergeant, to lieutenant, to captain, to assistant chief. They said DPS has at least 10 police officers with the rank of captain who are eligible to apply for the position currently occupied by Norita. Tenorio and Duenas said Norita's experience as a police officer "is not higher than a POII." Before his most recent "ungraded position" as Highway Safety Coordinator at DPS, Norita was special-agent-in-charge of the Criminal Investigative Division. "It is our understanding that a 'provisional appointment' is restricted for the purpose of filling a permanent position in the absence of an appropriate eligibility list," the two DPS officials said. "It is our intent to look out for the welfare of our subordinates, fellow officers, and other taxpaying citizens," Tenorio and Duenas wrote. "To not follow established rules and regulations can have devastating effects on the morale of the department," they added. The Variety called Norita but he won't give any comment. The Variety also contacted Duenas and Tenorio for further details, but they refused to discuss the issue with the press. "This is an internal matter which we do not want to discuss in the newspaper. We're still waiting for feedback," Tenorio told the Variety.

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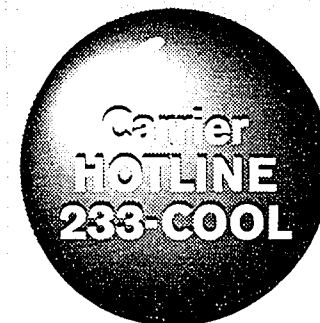
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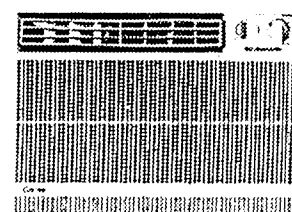
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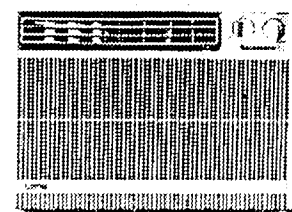
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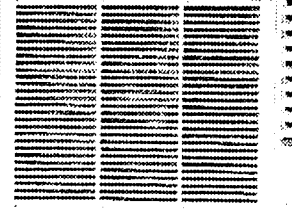
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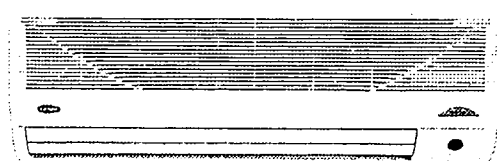
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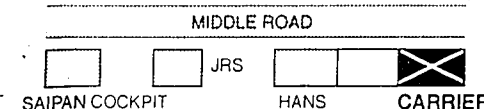
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PSS: Students doing better

MOST of the students in the Public School System can read, with some needing varying degrees of additional assistance from instructors, according to the results of a recognized standard reading test administered in PSS schools last year.

Scores on the Degrees of Reading Power test that was given to PSS students in 1992, then again in 1996, indicate that the average student can read at his or her grade level by grade 11. The test was given to students in grades 5, 8 and 11.

Commissioner of Education William S. Torres said the results of the DRP test show that PSS has few non-readers among its students.

"It is easy to characterize PSS students as kids who can't read, but it simply isn't consistent

with the DRP results," Torres said in a news release.

He also noted that the movement in PSS to promote literacy, especially in grades K-3, should be viewed as "an effort to continue and to improve upon the positive efforts and results that are already happening, because we want the best possible instruction for our children."

At the school level, most principals feel that some encouraging progress is being made, but still more improvement is needed.

Koblerville Elementary School Principal Brigida Ichihara said that at her school, "Most can read, but many need extra help."

"That's why we have remedial and tutorial programs like the after-school program. Stu-



William S. Torres

dents are improving, but they need more opportunities and variety. The new phonics materials are very good."

San Vicente Elementary School Vice Principal Janet Villagomez said that even with teachers focusing on reading and

phonics in the early grade levels, it still isn't enough without parental and family involvement.

"Those students with good parental support are often reading at or above grade level, while those without much parental and family involvement often need remedial help. This shows that parental involvement is vitally necessary. In fact, sometimes there are parents who also cannot read very well. For them, the college offers free assistance."

"Parents only need to take advantage of it, because parents who can read well are great role models for their children," Villagomez said.

The DRP reports for Rota High School and Tinian High School show that the students

tested have improved as readers over a four-year period, and that most of them can read at their grade level by the end of 11th grade. The reports also find that both schools are using high-level instructional materials.

Torres also noted that many PSS students have achieved impressive scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, a well-known U.S. test given for high school students who plan to go on to college. The scores on this test are taken into consideration by colleges in deciding on student admissions.

Noting that scores of 700 or above on the S.A.T. are considered acceptable by colleges, Torres said that PSS records reveal that in 1996, 64 percent of the students from Marianas High School who took the test scored 700 or better on the S.A.T., while 54 percent of Tinian High School students who took the S.A.T.

"At MHS, they have had one student score about 1,400! Last year, the highest score was 1,280, which is still very good," said Torres.

"The results on the S.A.T., which is a very difficult test, show that our students are indeed achieving at high levels," the Commissioner of Education said. Even the controversial California Achievement Test, which is being given this year for the final time in the PSS, has yielded some positive results, he added.

C.A.T. result trends reflect noticeable improvements as students advance in grade levels, with the best average scores coming in 11th grade — the year before students graduate from high school.

On the C.A.T., results have been especially good in the areas of spelling, social studies and science, PSS said.

Torres said that the PSS has joined the national movement toward integrating core academic subjects and toward reforming performance and content standards in these core subjects — particularly language arts, math, science and social studies.

With the development of the new standards nearing completion, the next step will be the further development of performance-based assessment practices that will more truly reflect how students and teachers are measuring up to the standards.

Many of these performance-based assessment practices, including the use of portfolios and exhibits, are already being done in the PSS.

According to the release, other activities in the PSS show what children know and are able to do, including the Academic Challenge Bowls, the Geography Bee, the MathCounts competitions, the Math Olympiad, the All-Schools Speech and Drama Festival, the Junior Statesman summer scholarship program, and various student art exhibitions.

Suspect in gun case freed

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

ONE of three defendants slapped with three gun-related charges including possession of a stolen firearm was released without bail by the federal district court yesterday to the custody of his father, Juan, who lives in Kagman II.

He was released on the basis of "personal recognizance," according to Assistant United States Atty. David Wood, who represents the US government as plaintiff.

Gregorio Esteves, 26, however, was given curfew hours and other conditions to follow strictly by presiding Judge Marty W.K. Taylor, the CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice, who took the place of District Judge Alex R. Munson who was off island.

Esteves has also been charged by the United States government of conspiracy to possess a stolen firearm and conspiracy to dispose of various firearms to a convicted felon.

Esteves and his co-accused brother, Francisco, pleaded not guilty to all charges last Monday during their arraignment by District Judge Alex R. Munson. The third defendant, Martin Evangelista Reyes, has yet to be arraigned.

During Esteves' arraignment, Munson said he was open to the possibility of releasing him to an

acceptable third-party custodian. In the case of Francisco, who has previously been convicted of

felony, Munson found him a potential danger to the community. Yesterday Assistant United

States Atty. David Wood told the court the US government was neither recommending nor opposing

the release of Esteves, and was leaving it to the discretion of the judge.

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President Fidel Ramos:

RP no longer 'sick man of Asia'



Philippine President Fidel Ramos talks to reporters at a news conference during a visit to Los Angeles City Hall Wednesday on the first leg of a Western Hemisphere visit that will also include Mexico and Panama. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Philippines President Fidel Ramos said his country is no longer the "sick man of Asia" thanks to economic reforms that have encouraged foreign investment.

Ramos, speaking Tuesday to business leaders and members of the Philippine-American community at the Los Angeles Convention Center, said the Philippines has reduced import tariffs, liberalized its telecommunications and banking regulations, and modernized its transportation infrastructure.

"First and foremost, the Philippines is no longer the 'sick man of Asia.' In only four years, our country has been transformed into an emerging tiger economy," he said.

Ramos' speech helped kick off a four-day California visit that is expected to focus on attracting U.S. investors to the Asian nation.

"...Economic reforms have built a foundation that encourages buoyant investment and export performance," Ramos said.

The Philippines, he said, also offers investors a workforce that is young and includes well-educated professionals.

"Did you know that Filipinos were the first users of data processing systems in Asia?" he said. "...I say this to you with full conviction: We are prepared to become one of Asia's software development and information technology service centers."

On Wednesday, Ramos was scheduled to speak to about 1,200 people at the Carson Community Center, where he will be welcomed by Mayor Peter Fajardo, the only Philippines-born U.S. mayor and a native of Ramos' home province of Pangasinan.

"It will be an honor to meet him," Fajardo said. "It's an honor for me and an honor for the people of Carson. It gives prominence to Carson, financially and diplomatically."

Carson's population is about 20 percent Filipino, which is the second largest concentration of Filipinos in the United States. The largest group is in Hawaii.

Fajardo said he and Ramos will meet earlier in the day to discuss opportunities for commerce between Carson and the Philippines.

Representatives from the Filipino military and business community plan to meet with local business leaders to discuss military hardware, shipping and telecommunications, Fajardo said.

Ramos also is scheduled to visit Mexico and Panama before returning home.

Imelda Marcos declared as poorest member of Congress

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Former first lady Imelda Marcos, best remembered for her many shoes and extravagant lifestyle, was declared Wednesday the Philippine Congress' poorest member.

A listing of wealth declared by the 216 members of the House of Representatives showed that the widow of former President Ferdinand Marcos was the poorest with a net debt of more than 29 million pesos (\$1.1 million).

The government has accused the Marcoses of stealing billions of

dollars during the strongman's 20-year rule, but little of the alleged ill-gotten wealth has ever been recovered.

Mrs. Marcos, 65, was elected to Congress in 1995 from her home district in Leyte province after running unsuccessfully in the 1992 presidential election.

According to the government-released list, her declared assets totaled 70.5 million pesos (\$2.7 million) while her liabilities were 100 million pesos (\$3.8 million). At the height of her power, Mrs.



Imelda Marcos

Marcos gained notoriety for shopping trips to the world's swankest boutiques, glitzy parties and lavish beautification projects in the midst of the Philippines' grinding poverty.

She also is famous for her large shoe collection, including a battery-operated set that blinked and glowed while she danced.

Marcos was ousted in a popular revolt in February 1986 and forced into exile in Hawaii, where he died in September 1989.

Mrs. Marcos then returned to the Philippines, where she has been dogged by corruption charges and has sought to clear her family's name.

She was convicted of corruption in 1993 and sentenced to 18 to 24 years in prison but remains free on bail pending an appeal before the Supreme Court.

The richest member of Congress, real estate magnate Manuel Villar, declared net assets of 320 million pesos (\$12.3 million).

The list did not detail Mrs. Marcos' assets and liabilities, but clearly did not include her late husband's \$475 million in Swiss bank deposits.

The Philippine government claims ownership of the Swiss accounts, saying the money is part of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

Marcos denied all charges of corruption and wrongdoing before his death.

Discounts sought for NMI soldiers

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
REPRESENTATIVE Ana S. Teregeyo has sponsored a resolution requesting at least two commuter airlines to grant

airfare discounts to CNMI-based members of the United States Army Reserves coming in for required monthly drills and duty on Guam.

The move came following a request by Capt. Harry C. Blanco, USAR Commanding Officer, who, in his recent letter to Teregeyo, stressed the need to grant such privileges.

He noted that the 11 USAR

members shoulder their own plane fares without assistance from the military.

"Maintaining a strong national defense is also a vital necessity to citizens of the United States of America, and privileges such as airline discount rates will greatly be appreciated by the members and their families," said Blanco in his letter dated April 25 this year.

Teregeyo, in her resolution, is asking that Pacific Island Aviation and Freedom Air, grant the USAR members a fare discount similar to the



Ana S. Teregeyo

four percent reduction being given by the Continental Air Micronesia.

A substantial airfare discount, she said, "would be considered a genuine patriotic gesture of goodwill and gratitude to those who stand ready to put their lives on the line to protect our land, lives and liberty."

Aside from Blanco, other USAR members include Ssg. Joseph M. Santos, Sgt. James Calvo, Spc. Roman M. Calvo and Pvt. Edward C. Barcinas all of whom lives in Rota; Sgt. Bertha Chong-Tudela, Spc. Joellene C. de Leon Guerrero, Spc. Therese T. Mendoza, Pvt.

Alalouisious Atalig and Pvt. Hazel G. Tudela of Saipan; and Pvt. Gerald K. Crisostomo of Tinian.

Blanco, Santos, Roman Calvo and Barcinas are with the USAR Company E's 442nd Infantry.

Chong-Tudela, James Calvo, Guerrero, Mendoza and Tudela are with the 368th Military Police while Crisostomo are with the USAR Engineering Corps.

Teregeyo's resolution was also signed by Reps. Pete P. Reyes, Melvin Faisao, Dino Jones, Stanley Torres, and Juan P. Tenorio among others.

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Fiji sacks 2 doctors

SUVA (Pacnews)-Fiji's ministry of health has confirmed sacking two Filipino doctors for professional misconduct.

The principal assistant secretary for health, Haram Lingam says the Public Service Commission terminated the contracts of Doctor Mario Padua and his wife Doctor Consuelo, because of "unethical conduct and unsatisfactory performance of duties," Radio Fiji reported.

Lingam alleges Doctor Padua ex-

amined a woman's private parts without the presence of a nurse.

The ministry also claims that Doctor Consuelo failed to diagnose an appendix and was reluctant to carry out an intravenous procedure.

The pair were part of a contingent of 54 doctors recruited from the Philippines in 1989.

Meanwhile, High Court Judge, Justice Dennis Pain, has granted a request by Doctor Consuelo that her termination be reviewed.

Elsewhere in the Pacific

W. Samoa suspends immigration officers over passport, visa mess

APIA (Pacnews)-The Western Samoa government has suspended five officers of the Immigration Division following the completion of the special inquiry into the passport and visa scandal in the country.

Announcing the suspension Wednesday, secretary to government, Vaasatia Poloma Komiti said the Samoan Public Service Commission has already been fully briefed of the inquiry's findings, and charges will be filed against the five officers concerned, Radio 2AP reported.

Komiti said under normal circumstances any public comment on the commission's findings would have been left till after the submission of the report to the prime minister, who was

due to have arrived Wednesday from Savaii.

However, he said the government has decided to comment on the matter in the interest of stopping further speculation, especially in media reports which were one-sided on the issue and in fairness to the staff of the immigration division.

He emphasized that the sale of passports and visas is illegal in Western Samoa and the government has at no point in time authorized such sales.

Solomons PM rejects pay increase for MPs

HONIARA (Pacnews)-Solomon Islands prime minister Solomon Mamanoni has rejected a decision by the Parliamentary Entitlements Commission to award substantial increases in salary and other remunerations to parliamentarians.

They include a 300 percent increase in terminal grant for each of the 47 members of parliament to 2,200 US dollars.

But Mamanoni has written to the commission asking it to reconsider its decision in view of the financial crisis

being experienced by government.

However, chairman of PEC, Collin Darcy says the decision is fair since parliamentarians have never had increase in salary and remuneration in three years.

Darcy says as an independent constitutional body, the commission has made its decision.

But he says since the increases have still not been gazetted, the commission will meet soon to see how it can accommodate the prime minister's concern without falling back on its decision.

FSM sends condolences to late governor's family

HONOLULU (Pacnews)-A message of condolence has been received from Federated States of Micronesia's acting president Jacob Nena by the family of the late Peter Tali Coleman, former Governor of American Samoa.

Coleman, 77, died at his home in Honolulu on April 28 of liver cancer.

Nena, in a message delivered through diplomatic channels by FSM General Consul in Honolulu Kasio Mida, said Coleman was a Pacific pioneer, who dedicated his life to the growth and development of the Pa-

cific Islands region.

The president noted that he many of his colleagues in the FSM government once worked under the direct leadership of Coleman, who served as a top-level administrator for the former US Territory of the Pacific Islands, before becoming American Samoa's first elected governor.

Following World War Two, FSM was a part of the Trust Territory, becoming sovereign in 1979.

Funeral services for Governor Coleman will take place in Honolulu on Saturday, May 10.

Vanuatu did not budget for cost of appeal case

WELLINGTON (Pacnews)-Vanuatu's first secretary to the ministry of justice, Peter Taurakoto, has revealed that the government had not budgeted for the cost of the case involving Australian barrister, Roger de Robillard.

The court of appeal released de Robillard from jail this week after he had been jailed for more than a month for contempt of court.

The appeal court could only be convened after judges were brought to Vanuatu, RNZI reported.

The Trading Post newspaper says the Supreme Court has overspent by 58,000 US dollars to cover the costs of the case.

Taurakoto could not give a figure of the costs paid so far and says there is a hole in court funds which the government will need to fill.

Meanwhile, the public is reportedly watching to see if de Robillard is going to sue the government for wrongful imprisonment.

He left Port Vila Wednesday for Australia.

Tonga growth rate to rise

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)-The East West Centre in Hawaii has reported that over the next 35 years, fertility, mortality and migration are projected to decline in nations of the Pacific.

The decline will result in a slowing of population growth, Radio Tonga reported.

However, growth rates will remain

high in several Melanesian and Micronesian countries where population increases are expected to range between 20 and 100 percent.

The report says Pacific nations will need to integrate population policies in their overall development to meet the challenges these increases will present in the areas of education, employment and health.

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Union: PNG becoming police state

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - Papua New Guinea is on the verge of becoming a police state after the arrest of three organizers of March protests against the government, the country's speak union body warned Wednesday.

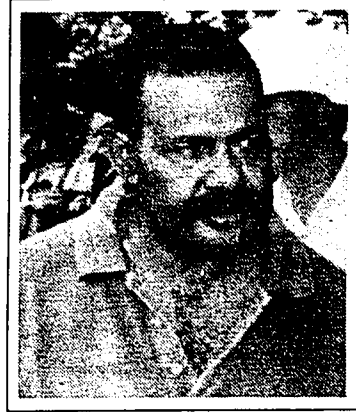
The Papua New Guinea Trade Union Congress said the arrests and police raids over the past three days were in retaliation to "grassroots" organizations that protested the government's US \$36 million contract with British-based mercenaries Sandline International.

The rallies, coupled with a military mutiny over a plan to use mercenaries to end the nine-year Bougainville rebellion, forced Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and two senior ministers to step down from office in late March.

Union general secretary John Paska said the raids and arrests were "draconian" and a greater threat to democracy than the political crisis triggered by the Sandline controversy.



Sir Julius Chan



Jerry Singirok

"It clearly demonstrates that the country is on the verge of being declared a police state," Paska said.

"A police state is no better than any undemocratic government and experience shows that countries under a police state often exercise powers that completely usurp democratic rights," he said.

Paska said the Congress would write to the government and Police Commissioner Bob Nenta to protest the arrests and raids.

Two rally organizers, John Napo and John Kawowo, were arrested Tuesday and charged by police with unlawful assembly. They were later granted bail and released.

Their arrests follow pre-dawn police raids on three legal and community groups on Monday that led to the seizure of computer discs, books and confidential files.

Another rally organizer, Jonathan O'ata, was arrested during the raids and charged with unlawful assembly. He was granted bail after appearing in court Tuesday.

Lawyers confronted during the raids said that the police search warrant gave authority to seize documents, articles and computer discs relating to the rallies, as well as firearms and ammunition. The Sandline contract, which

dismissed military leader Brig-Gen. Jerry Singirok opposed because he called it "corrupt," has been under investigation by an independent judicial inquiry, which resumes on May 20.

Chan and his two ministers agreed to step down from office pending the outcome of the inquiry, which has a May 30 reporting deadline.

Marshalls patrol boat saves downed pilot in the Pacific

SUVA, Fiji (AP) - A German pilot who was forced to ditch his aircraft into the Pacific Ocean halfway between Australia and Hawaii was picked up by a Marshall Islands patrol boat Thursday.

The Nadi Airport Rescue Coordination Center in Fiji called it a "textbook" rescue operation.

The man, who was not named, was reported to be in good spirits.

He was forced to ditch his plane after it developed engine trouble.

He was flying a BE35 Beech Bonanza with two other aircraft on a round-the-world trip.

The other pilots saw their down companion take to a life raft.

The downed aircraft was spotted Wednesday by a Royal Australian Air Force P-3 Orion aircraft about 250 miles (400 km) east of Tarawa in the Kiribati group, after Honolulu Radio received a Mayday call.

The patrol boat which plucked the pilot from the sea is one of 21 provided to South Pacific countries and Papua New Guinea by the Australian government since 1983.

Air Pacific to purchase a new aircraft

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's national airline, Air Pacific, will now proceed with its plans to buy a new Boeing aircraft.

This follows government's careful consideration of proposals from both the Boeing and Airbus manufacturers, Radio Fiji reported.

Air Pacific's plan to purchase a Boeing aircraft came under criticism from the European Union who claimed Airbus should be given the deal because of the European Union's (EU) continuous aid support for Fiji.

France which is the manufacturer of the Airbus aircraft is a member of the EU. Recently government has lashed out at Air Pacific saying the national carrier was being deliberately insensitive to the prime minister especially on recently.

Air Pacific according to government wrote to the American manufacturers securing the order it had place last year.

Meanwhile, Civil Aviation Minister David Pickering has clarified the government did not stop Air Pacific from purchasing the Boeing. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka had earlier asked Air Pacific to put on hold its plans until he was satisfied that the other proposals by Airbus were given a fair go and he is now satisfied.

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Aziz to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz will make a one-day stopover in Moscow later this week, the Interfax news agency reported Wednesday.

Aziz, who will be returning home from a visit to Beijing, will arrive Thursday night, but Friday is a national holiday and it was unclear with whom he would meet, the agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk as saying.

Russia's push to lift international sanctions against Iraq remains unchanged, Posuvalyuk said.

"Our position is that international sanctions against Baghdad must ultimately be lifted - naturally, if Baghdad implements all of the corresponding U.N. resolutions," Posuvalyuk was quoted as saying.

U.N. sanctions imposed in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait are to be

lifted if Iraq eliminates its mass-destruction weapons and their production facilities.

The sanctions ban Iraqi oil exports - except for a limited amount which Baghdad can sell to buy food and medicine and compensate victims of the Gulf War.

Russia, for whom Iraq was a lucrative arms customer before the embargo, respects the sanctions but is eager to resume trade links.

Yemen ruling party wins nearly two-thirds of parliament seats

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) - Yemen's ruling party won nearly two-thirds of the seats in parliament in last month's elections, according to final results announced Wednesday.

The Higher Election Committee, which oversaw the balloting for 301 seats, said the General People's Congress of President Ali Abdullah Saleh won 187 of them. The Congress' former coalition partner, the Islamic Islah, won 53. Five went to smaller parties and 54 to independents.

Some of the independents are expected to align themselves with the Congress and Islah.

Results in two districts, Hajja and Dhamar, were canceled because of irregularities. The election committee said new balloting would take place there within six months.

A presidential spokesman said Wednesday that the new parliament will hold its first session on May 18 and elect a speaker then.

The current speaker, Islah party



Supporters of the Islamic Islah Party cheer slogans as they wait for the results of the parliamentary elections in late April. The Islah is the main opponent of the ruling General Peoples Congress party of president Ali Abdullah Saleh. AP

leader Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, is widely expected to retain the post.

Saleh's party is believed to want to bring Islah members and others into the new government, which is expected to be formed on May 22. Islah has not ruled out participating in the next government.

Yemeni elections, held on

April 27, were considered reasonably free and fair by international monitors, despite a boycott by the powerful Socialist Party and clashes that left at least nine people dead.

The polls were the second since North and South Yemen were united in 1990, and the first since the 1994 civil war.

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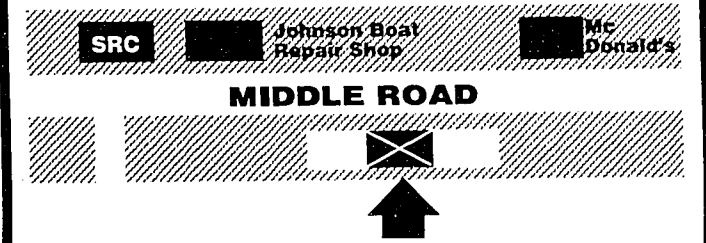
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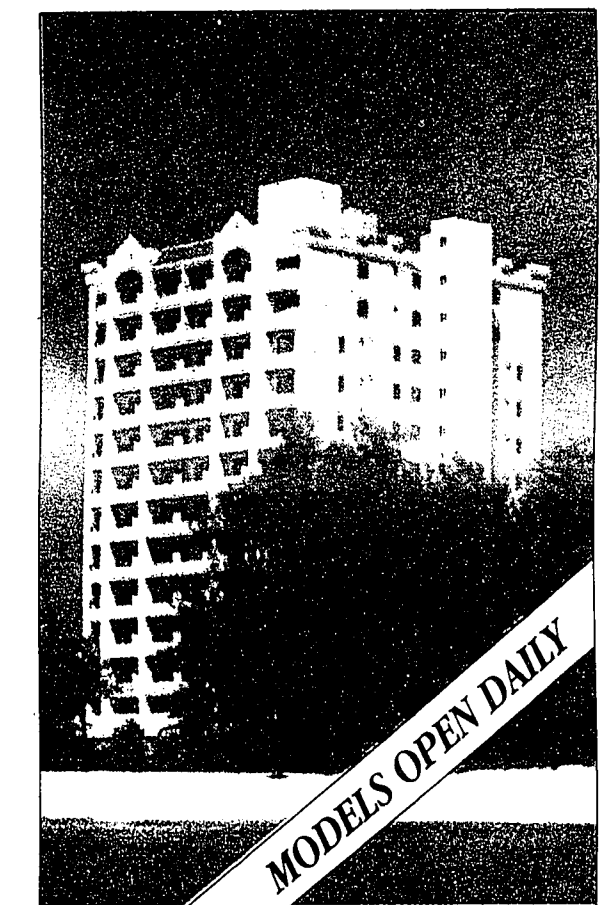
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India, Pakistan to mend ties

By ASHOK SHARMA
NEW DELHI, India (AP) - With their first summit in years due next week, Pakistan's envoy to India said Wednesday his country was prepared to discuss improving ties alongside talks on the territorial dispute over Kashmir.

The remarks by Ashraf Jehangir Qazi set a conciliatory tone for the summit, softening Pakistan's traditional insistence that the Kashmir issue be resolved as a prerequisite to improving relations in other areas.

"Without minimizing the obstacles, things are hopefully looking good," said Qazi. Pakistan's new ambassador in New Delhi, at the Foreign Correspondents Club.

The prime ministers of India and Pakistan will meet next week for the first time in four years during a seven-nation regional summit in the Maldives.

The meeting caps a series of lower-level encounters this year that ended a three-year suspension of negotiations between the two countries.

Control of the Himalayan territory of Kashmir has provoked two wars between India and Pakistan since they were granted independence by Britain in 1947. The former kingdom is now divided, with India controlling two-thirds.

Muslim militant groups began fighting in 1989, advocating either Kashmir's independence or its union with Pakistan. More than

15,000 people have been killed in the separatist war in the only province with a Muslim majority in mainly Hindu India.

Although a Kashmir solution is not a condition for improving relations, Qazi said there must be progress on Kashmir, which Pakistan considers the core of their problems.

Kashmir "needs to be addressed concurrently while dealing with other subjects," Qazi said.

"Unless we make some progress on Kashmir, we won't provide the ambience for progress in other fields," he said.

Pakistan is against India's suggestion that the Kashmir dispute be put aside while more immediate issues,

such as trade and travel restrictions, are discussed.

"We are embarking on a difficult

but possible journey. It ain't going to be easy. It ain't going to be quick. But we're working on it," he said.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, left, releases a dove as she opened a ruling Awami Party conference in Dhaka Tuesday. Zillur Rahman, right, General Secretary of the Awami Party is standing beside her. AP

UN envoy arrives in Burma

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - A special envoy of the United Nations secretary-general arrived in Rangoon Wednesday to study Burma's human rights situation and try to promote a dialogue between the military government and the opposition.

The envoy, Alvaro de Soto, was to meet Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw and Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's pro-democracy movement, during a four-day stay, said diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity.

De Soto met with Suu Kyi during his last visit to Burma in August 1995, shortly after she was released

from six years of house arrest. During that visit, he also met with Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, a top member of the ruling junta. He urged both parties to expedite a dialogue.

The junta seized power in 1988 after violently suppressing pro-democracy demonstrations. Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory in 1990 parliamentary elections, but the military refused to yield power.

Since her release from detention, Suu Kyi has called for a dialogue to solve political problems.

But the authorities have insisted that no dialogue can be held outside the framework of a national conven-

tion opened in 1993 to draw up guidelines for a new constitution.

In protest against the junta's refusal to open a dialogue, Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy withdrew from the convention in November 1995, claiming that it was undemocratic and unrepresentative.

The United States and other Western nations, as well as private groups such as Amnesty International, accuse the junta of substantial human rights abuses. The U.N. Human Rights Commission also has reported abuses and sought to encourage reforms by the government.

Over disputed islands

Taiwan hits Japan landing

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - Taiwan's National Assembly condemned a Japanese politician Wednesday for landing on a disputed islet and demanded that the Taiwan government assert its sovereignty over the archipelago.

"The deputies express their indignation at the Japanese assembly member landing on our sovereign territory," said the resolution. "We call on the government to protect our sovereign territory with all its power."

The islets are a perennial irritant in relations among Japan, China and Taiwan, all of which claim sovereignty over them.

The 334-member assembly began an annual session this week to debate constitutional amendments. Another body, the Legislative Yuan, serves as Taiwan's parlia-

ment.

Declaring it a duty to inspect his nation's territory, Shingo Nishimura of the New Frontier Party, the main Japanese opposition, landed Tuesday on the rocky, uninhabited islands known as Diaoyu in Chinese and Senkaku in Japanese. He left after about two hours.

The islands lie amid rich fishing grounds and possible oil and natural gas deposits 175 kilometers (110 miles) north of Taiwan and 300 kilometers (185 miles) from the Japanese island of Okinawa.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry expressed "deep concern" over Nishimura's act, but said it favored joint use of the islets and a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

It promised to place Taiwanese fishing interests above the sover-

eignty question and reject any joining forces with China over the issue.

China has also protested, and there have been small demonstrations in Hong Kong.

The dispute resurfaced last summer when Japanese nationalists built a lighthouse on one of the islets. Waves of demonstrations

ended with a Hong Kong Chinese nationalist jumping to his death from a ship that he tried to sail to the archipelago.

On Wednesday, about a dozen Chinese nationalists burned a Japanese military flag and hurled eggs at Tokyo's de facto embassy in Taipei.

County assembly deputy Kin Chieh-shou, who led several expe-

ditions to the island group last year, said protesters would sail there in a 30-boat fleet on May 18 and tear down the Japanese markers.

The Japanese coast guard has proved resolute in warding off such vessels, but Kin said: "Last year was when we expressed ourselves over the sovereignty question. This year is the year for action."



Taiwanese burn a paper Japanese military flag outside Tokyo's de facto embassy in Taipei Wednesday. The group pledged to do an expedition to the islands May 18, to protest a Japanese politician's visit Tuesday to the uninhabited Diaoyu islands, called the Senkakus in Japanese. AP

China explosion kills 12

BEIJING (AP) - A fire followed by a sudden explosion killed 12 people at the Long Life Chemical Factory in southwestern China, the state-run Wen Hui Daily reported Wednesday.

The fire broke out Sunday shortly before noon in a work room handling waste water for the factory.

Ten minutes later a nearby waste water ditch carrying traces of flam-

mable liquids used in making neoprene ignited and exploded, killing the workers and executives, who were fighting the fire, the newspaper said. Another six people were injured.

The factory belongs to the Long Life County government in the suburbs of Chongqing city, a bustling industrial center 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) southwest of Beijing.

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Students demand Kim ouster



Students, tying the national flag around their necks, shout anti-government slogans as they storm the bankrupted Hanbo Group headquarters in Seoul Wednesday. They demanded President Kim Young-sam's resignation and the arrest of the Kim's son Hyn-chul for bribe scandals. AP

By SANG-HUN CHOE
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Six college students stormed the head office of Hanbo Steel Industry Co. Wednesday, demanding a thorough investigation of a bribery scandal surrounding the bankrupt firm.

The students also demanded that President Kim Young-sam respond to allegations by opposition politicians that one of his sons was involved in the scandal.

"Arrest Kim Hyun-chul!" "Down with Kim Young-sam!" the three male and three female students shouted from the rooftop of the three-story building in southern Seoul, referring to the president and his 37-year-old son.

They unfurled two large banners and scattered leaflets, in which they also demanded that the president answer opposition criticism that he spent far more money than legally allowed on his 1992 election campaign.

With big South Korean flags tied around their necks, the students continued to shout anti-gov-



Kim Young-sam

ernment slogans as police hauled them away for questioning. No injuries were reported.

Also Wednesday, prosecutors questioned ruling party legislator Han Sung-soo and opposition lawmaker Kim Won-kil about money they are said to have received from Hanbo Steel.

Han served as South Korea's ambassador to Washington, the presidential chief of staff and the chief economic minister in Kim's government before he won a parliamentary seat in 1996.

The two legislators were the last of 33 politicians questioned by prosecutors after being identified by Hanbo officials as recipients of money from the failed firm. Most said they got only legitimate political donations.

Opposition parties claim the president's son has taken large sums of money from Hanbo and other businesses seeking government favors. In testimony at a parliamentary hearing in April, the son denied the accusations.

Eleven people - including a Cabinet minister and three key aides to the president - are already on trial on charges of taking or giving bribes in return for preferential loans for Hanbo.

Hanbo, the nation's No. 2 steel producer, went bankrupt in January after piling up \$ 6 billion in debt, more than 20 times the value of its collateral.

OPEC official is in N. Korea, says report

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - The director of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' international development fund is visiting North Korea, the communist country's official news agency said Wednesday.

A party was given Tuesday for the OPEC official, Y. Seyyid Abdulai, the Korean Central News Agency said.

Those attending included leading government officials, among them Vice Premier Kong Jin Thae, it said.

KCNA did not disclose the purpose of the visit.

Unconfirmed reports have said that OPEC has promised to build a \$ 6 million hospital in the impoverished North.

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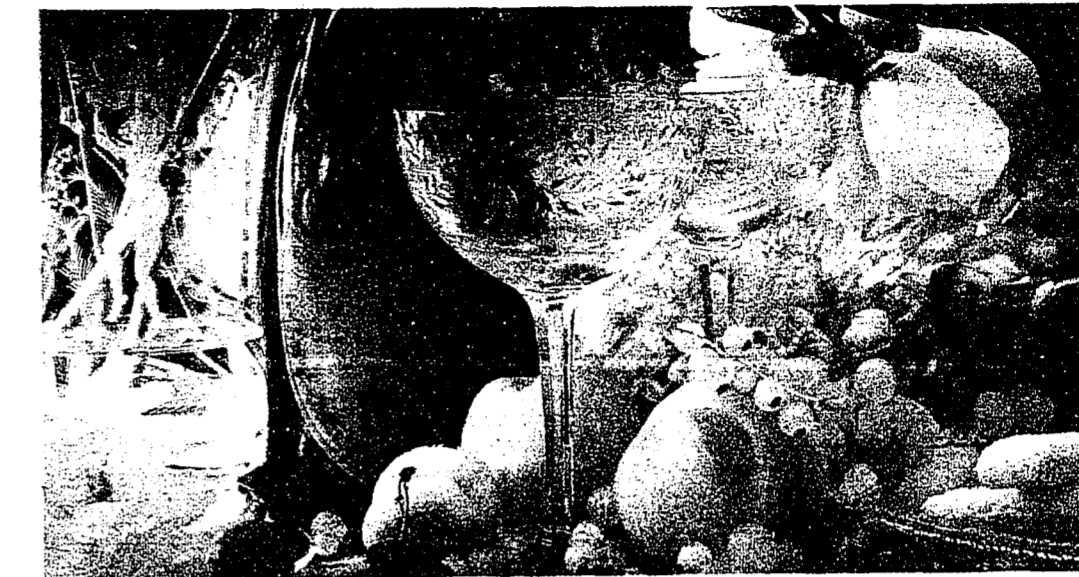
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KOREAN AIR BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION

Australia woes blamed on Asians

By VIJAY JOSHI
 SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Pauline Hanson has made a career out of political incorrectness. Just as Australia appeared to be erasing its racist past, the independent lawmaker has reignited debate by voicing what she says is the secret wish of many Australians: to stop Asian immigration and cut off the privileges of Australia's indigenous people, the Aborigines.

"She has given voice to the most strident views that have not had a mouthpiece up till this time. She is taking us back to the 50s," said David Millikan, a political analyst.

Hanson's views strike at the heart of Australia's official endorsement of multiculturalism, which was a reaction to the White Australia Policy that effectively blocked Asian immigration in favor of Europeans for 100 years. It was officially repealed only in 1973.

Australia opened its borders to Asian migrants as part of its vi-

sion to find a rightful economic and political place in Asia and to reduce its traditional European links. Today, people from 160 countries live in Australia.

White Australia today is a taboo concept, for many a shameful relic of the past. But Hanson is urging Australians to shed the guilt. "I am fed up with political correctness," she told a television program.

"People are in fear of opening their mouths for fear of being called racist," Hanson said.

One year since making her political debut, Hanson has become Australia's most talked-about politician, despite media ridicule and critics' comparisons to Hitler and the Ku Klux Klan.

Hanson's views, even if representing a minority, worry the government.

"Jeopardizing our \$46 billion (U.S.) export trade with Asia is ripping up our bread ticket for the next century and ... that is dumb," Trade Minister Tim Fischer said.

Hanson, a former fish-and-chips shop owner, won international attention with her maiden speech to Parliament last September with a call to keep out immigrants, who she says take away jobs and refuse to assimilate. She claimed that by 2040 Australia will be swamped by Asians, who made up about 40 percent of the 99,139 immigrants last year.

In a melodramatic portrayal of her stand, a book Hanson published in April warns that in 2050 Australia's president will be Poona Li Hung, a "lesbian of Indian and Chinese background ... a part machine ... produced by a joint Korean-Indian-Chinese research team."

Her harshest comments are reserved for Aborigines.

The Hanson book claimed Aborigines were cannibals who ate their women and children, and therefore were undeserving of sympathy for losing the land or for their dismal status in Australian society. Leading Australian

historians debunked the claim. She recently sold her shop to launch a political party, "Pauline Hanson's One Nation," which claims 40,000 members.

Part of her appeal is the resentment of economic hardship felt by middle-class Australians, which many blame on immigrants taking jobs and buying businesses, properties and land.

The unemployment rate is a relatively high 8.7 percent, and is up to 20 or 30 percent in parts of the rural heartland where Hansonmania flourishes. Economic growth is nearly stagnant, the unending drought in the outback is squeezing farmers, and prices of commodities are falling.

Australia has seen other extreme right-wingers but none so successful as the 42-year-old red-haired divorcee, partly because she is a woman in the male-dominated world of politics.

She is seen as the guileless woman-next-door from a rural town, who speaks from the heart: she fumbles and her voice quivers

with tension when she speaks before TV cameras. Hanson declined to be interviewed for this article.

Two recent opinion polls found that she is gaining nationwide popularity at the expense of the governing coalition, which is losing disenchanted voters.

More worrisome, however, is her impact on the superficial racial harmony among Australia's mostly white 17 million people, some 1 million Asians and 303,000 Aborigines.

Hanson is "a short-term change, but what is more important is the impact she has had on changing attitudes of people," said Gerard Henderson, the head of a political think-tank, the Sydney Institute.

Reports of racial attacks on Asians more than doubled after Hanson's September speech, said Zita Antonios, head of Australia's race discrimination watchdog.

Antonios, the Federal Race Discrimination Commissioner, said complaints in Sydney alone jumped from 10 or 15 a month before September to 40-50 now.

Hanson's campaign is "in a way an attempt to wind back the last 30 years and take us to the simple verities of Aussie culture," said Millikan, the analyst.

Thai PM, wife mull suit vs. lawmaker

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh has asked police to investigate an opposition lawmaker's allegation that his wife had illegally acquired land in a national forest reserve, his spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman, Varataph Ratanakorn, insisted that Phankrua Yongchaiyudh does not own any land in Nakhon Ratchasima, 210 kilometers (130 miles) northeast of Bangkok, where the forest reserve is located.

He added that officials of the prime minister's political party and Phankrua were consulting with lawyers about the advisability of filing defamation suits against the lawmaker. Vinai Senniam of the Democrat Party.

Vinai said last week that a "Madame PK" had grabbed more than 1,000 rai (400 acres, 160 hectares) of land in the forest reserve, strongly hinting that the woman in question was Phankrua.



Chavalit Yongchaiyudh

Former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, who heads the Democrat Party, urged Phankrua to sue.

"I give full support for the accused to seek legal action against the accusers," Chuan told local papers. "Those telling lies to the people do not deserve support from the people."

He added, however, that if anyone had acquired land illegally, it was the obligation of the government to investigate them, no matter who they might be.

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US Air Force makes rare landing in Antarctica

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) - A U.S. Air Force made a rare winter landing in Antarctica on Thursday to retrieve the body of an American staffer who died last week at McMurdo base.

The C-141 Starlifter plane was to return to Christchurch in the evening with the body of Charles Gallagher, a civilian employee of support service contractors Antarctic Support Associates.

The plane had no problems in landing despite icy temperatures which in recent days plummeted to minus 34 Fahrenheit (-34 C), said a spokesman for Operation Deep Freeze, Petty Officer Dave Lippman.

Gallagher died of heart failure last week. He was the 48th American to perish in Antarctica since Operation Deep Freeze started in 1955.

Gallagher was in charge of billeting at McMurdo Station and was also head of recreation. "He was a pretty popular guy," Lippman said.

His body will be returned to the United States.

Thursday's flight, only the third winter landing since 1955, also unloaded more than 4,400 pounds (2,000 kilos) of fresh food, mail and medical supplies for McMurdo Station and New Zealand's neighboring Scott Base.



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Thai general, 7 others indicted

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - A Thai army general and a major were among eight people indicted on charges of running an extortion racket targeting merchants at a night bazaar

in Chiang Mai, a prosecutor said Wednesday. Gen. Intharat Yodbangtoei and Maj. Chalermchai Matchaklam pleaded innocent, along with two

civil servants and four others Tuesday at a criminal court in Chiang Mai, 580 kilometers (360 miles) north of Bangkok. All were released on bail.

Police still were searching for four other suspects, two of whom are wanted for hiring gunmen to kill a merchant who refused to pay protection money. In a mixup, the wrong person was killed.

Those two suspects also are wanted for suspected involvement in the murder of a prominent television executive last year.

Prosecutors alleged that the eight

already indicted demanded that merchants at the city's popular night bazaar pay them monthly "rents" of 900 baht (dhrs 36) each, plus protection money.

They said the suspects threatened merchants who wouldn't pay with violence.

Prosecutors said they were confident they would win the case as they had more than 100 witnesses ready to testify.

Malaysian king appeals for sensitivity in Singapore ties

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - The Malaysian king said Wednesday that Singapore and Malaysia need to be sensitive to each other's feelings.

Malaysians recently were angered by Singaporean leader Lee Kuan Yew's remark that the Malaysian city of Johore Bahru was violent and crime-ridden. Lee was forced to apologize.

King Tuanku Ja'afar, speaking after accepting the credentials of the

new Singaporean ambassador, said cooperative relations have benefited both countries.

"However, being neighbors, we need always be mindful of the realities that shape our relationship," the king said.

Singapore and Malaysia were one country for a brief period in the 1960s, but broke apart after clashes between the Malay government and ethnic

Chinese opposition politicians led

by Lee.

Ambassador Kesavapany Krishnasamy said Singapore attached great importance to relations with Malaysia.

"Family ties and people-to-people links contribute to the unique relationship between our two countries, and the governments of Malaysia and Singapore both pursue economic policies aimed at promoting peace and prosperity in the region," he said.

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A couple passes by a billboard supporting an all-Malaysian expedition to scale Mount Everest, in Kuala Lumpur. The climb is currently underway and if successful, Malaysia would be the first Southeast Asian nation to hoist its flag atop the 8,848-meter mountain. AP

Guide in Malaysian Everest team killed

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - A Sherpa guide in the Malaysian team climbing Mount Everest was killed when he fell 600 meters (1,968 feet) from a height of 7,300 meters (23,950 feet), a news report said. Expedition leader Noramlie Sulaiman, who contacted the national news agency Bernama by phone from Nepal on Tuesday, confirmed the

death of Nima Rinzi, 31.

In another death on the mountain this spring, Malcolm Duff, the British leader of an international expedition trying to scale Everest, was found dead on the mountain two weeks ago.

Noramlie said Nima fell near Camp Three as he was descending after taking food and oxygen to the Malaysian climbers.

In Okinawa Landowners fight US military bases

By ERIC TALMADGE
GINOWAN, Okinawa (AP) - The sound of helicopters is never far off as Toyokichi Miyagi speaks. Sometimes his old wooden house shakes from its weathered rafters to its tatami mat floors.

The source is a U.S. military airfield that has come to symbolize the burden Okinawans bear in the name of Japan's security relationship with the United States.

After intense protests - over the noise, the fear of crashes, the horror stories of GI crime - the United States agreed last year to move the airfield.

But Miyagi isn't celebrating. Instead, he has found himself at the center of an increasingly divisive battle that could once again bode ill for America's most important military outpost in the Pacific.

Like thousands of Okinawan landlords, Miyagi has come to depend on the fairly generous rent he receives from the Japanese government for letting the U.S. military use the plot - about 1 million yen (dhrs 12,000) a year. If the land is returned, he fears he will lose that income.

The vast majority of Okinawans want the bases either reduced or removed altogether.

Under a security pact, Japan must provide the United States military with land for its facilities. But thousands of pacifist landowners have refused to renew their leases, putting Tokyo in an extremely delicate political position.

Next Wednesday, anti-military activists are expected to hit the streets to mark the expiration of thousands of leases for privately owned plots of land inside America's bases on Okinawa and nearby Ie Island.

Anger only increased after a Parliament vote last month that many here saw as discriminatory. Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a bill allowing the government to temporarily continue using the land with or without the landlords' approval.

More than a dozen demonstrators were arrested in a scuffle with guards following the vote. One of them, pacifist landowner Shoichi Chibana, has become something of a folk hero for his staunch opposition to the U.S. military presence. His arrest was front-page news.

Only about 10 percent of the 30,000 landlords holding plots on bases are against renewing their leases - and most of them are activists who own plots the size a large throw rug. Many are not even from Okinawa.

Even so, most Okinawans sympathize with the holdouts, and see the land-use bill as another example of their rights taking a back seat to political expediency in distant Tokyo.

"They stole our trump card," said lawyer Masahide Ahagon, who represents more than 100 Okinawan holdout landowners. "I wonder if they would have passed such a bill if the land were anywhere else."

Unlike the rest of Japan, Okinawa was a semi-independent kingdom until late in the last century, when its ruler was forced to abdicate and Okinawa was assimilated into Japan.

Okinawans continue to have a strong sense of ethnic identity separate from the Japanese, for which they have often been subjected to harsh discrimination.

Pacifism runs particularly strong in Okinawa because of memories of World War II. In the Battle of Okinawa - the war's last major land campaign - roughly one-third of the local population died.

The U.S. military has been a major presence on Okinawa ever since. Today, it is home to the largest contingent of Marines outside the United States and the largest U.S. Air Force base in Asia. The Navy and Army also have facilities here.

Okinawans have long complained that the concentration of nearly 30,000 troops - among 48,000 in all of Japan - on their main island is too heavy.

Such complaints had generally been ignored in the past. Other areas of Japan refused to share more of the burden, and non-Okinawan politicians did not want to anger the United States - this country's most important ally and export market - by demanding scalebacks.

But an uproar over the rape of a local schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen forced Washington and Tokyo over the past two years to do more to ease tensions on Okinawa.

Concerns over crime and the local government's right to speedy and accurate information when accidents occur have been addressed, and some especially sensitive exercises are being moved to other parts of Japan.

Along with the pledge to relocate the airstrip, Washington has agreed to return approximately 12,000 acres (4,850 hectares) of land. That comes to roughly 20 percent of the total 58,000 acres (23,500 hectares) it now controls.

Even landlords who support the status quo have bitter memories of how they initially lost their plots.

Miyagi's land, upon which stood his family's home and the ancestral grave, was literally taken at gunpoint by U.S. troops in the closing days of World War II.

He's never set foot on it since.

"It was all paved over years ago," he said. "I probably wouldn't even be able to find it anymore."

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- 2) Evidence of similar construction experience
- 3) Letters of reference for previous projects
- 4) Experience of key personnel
- 5) Financial information

Sub-contractors (minor Contractor will be subject to RD and it maybe pick-up and complete)

- 1) Company Information
- 2) Evidence of specialty
- 3) Letters of reference for previous projects
- 4) Experience of key personnel

Responsibility questionnaires can be obtained from the Planning Office, address:

Planning Office, Office of the Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

Phone: (670) 664-2245 Fax: (670) 664-2242

Questions should be directed to Ms. Evelyn J. Tenorio, Special Assistant for Planning.

Responsibility questionnaires must be returned by 4:00 p.m., June 20, 1997, or earlier to the Planning Office.

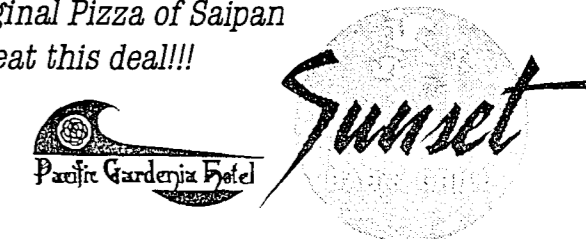
/s/Evelyn J. Tenorio
Special Assistant for Planning

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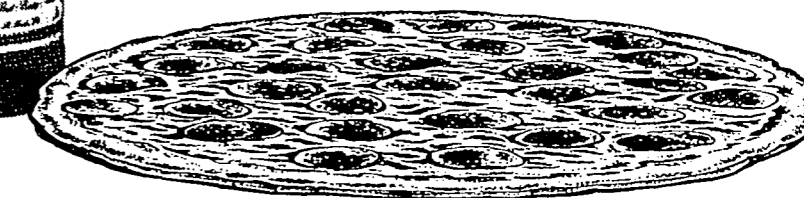
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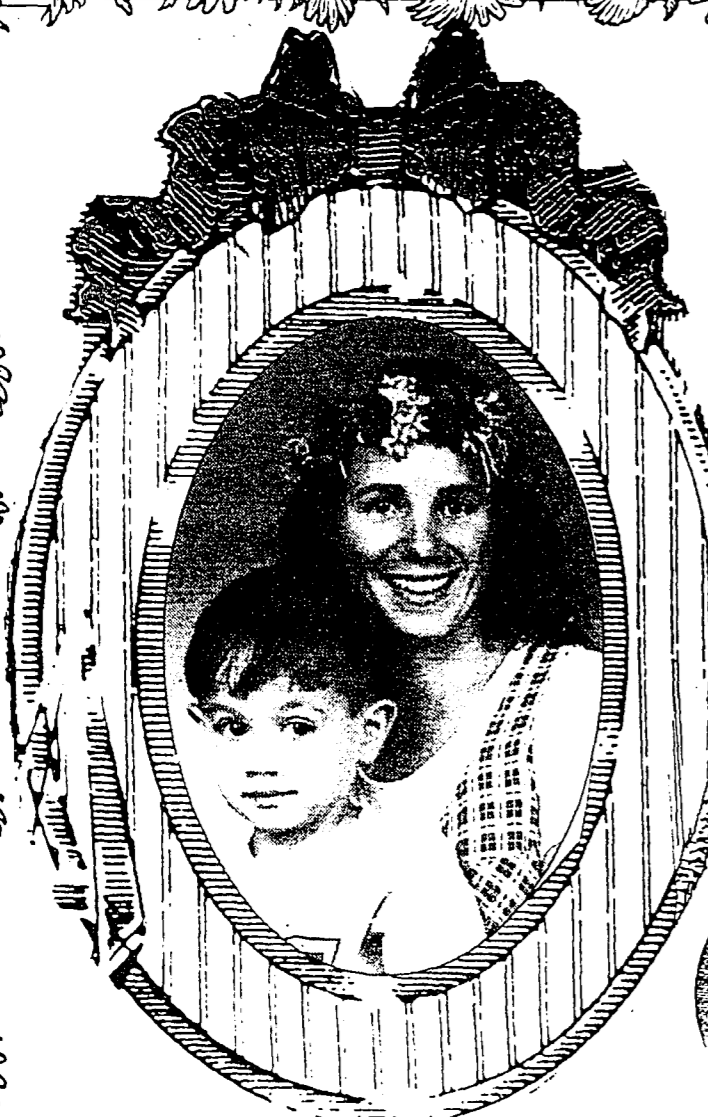
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Talibans fire artillery

By **ZAHEERUDDIN ABDULLAH**
JEBUL SIRAJ, Afghanistan (AP) - The Taliban Islamic militia fired long range rockets at enemy positions Wednesday in the snowcapped mountains that ring Jebul Siraj on the strategic Salang Highway.

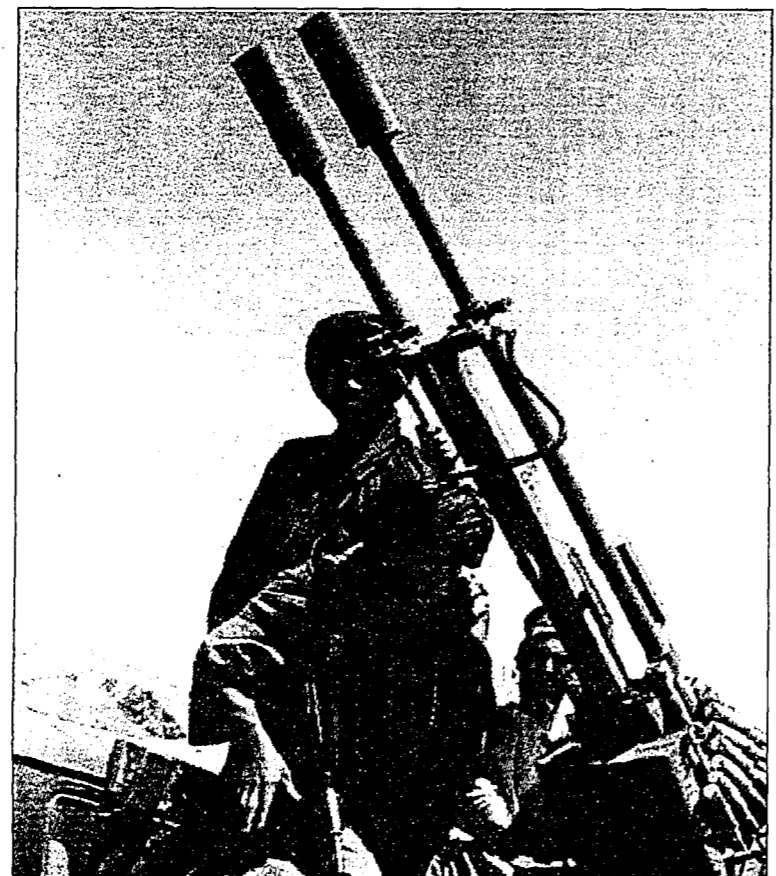
Taliban forces were fighting to recover ground lost a day earlier when the opposition launched a pre-dawn attack on Jebul Siraj, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Kabul, the commander said. "We came under ambush along the Salang highway when the enemy swooped down from the mountains as

our soldiers traveled up the road," said Mullah Khir Mohammed. "We lost about four kilometers (2.4 miles) of ground, but we have a strategy to take it back," he said. Opposition forces loyal to Kabul's former military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud were still perched in moun-

tain positions overlooking the town. The Salang Highway, the only road linking the capital to northern Afghanistan, remained closed to traffic as artillery from both sides landed along the road. Jebul Siraj, Massoud's headquarters until Taliban troops drove him north into the Panjshir Valley several months ago, was deserted.

Fearing Jebul Siraj villagers may still be loyal to Massoud, the Taliban forced the town's 20,000 residents to relocate to Kabul. As the weather warmed the crops in the fields in the area began to bud. But the fields were empty of farmers who were not being allowed into the area. International aid workers say they fear more food shortages in the war-torn country if farmers are not allowed to harvest their crops.

The Taliban, which controls roughly two-thirds of the country, is battling a northern-based opposition coalition led by Massoud and northern warlord Rashid Dostum. The fighting is raging on three different fronts, but neither side is making any major gains or suffering any big losses.



Taliban fighters on a truck mounted with an anti-aircraft cannon in the Gorband valley near Kabul. The Taliban founder said they are not a threat for anybody but said "Our army will just be the defender of the country's soil and Islamic values." AP

NATO chief eyeing closer Ukraine ties

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) - NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana arrived Wednesday for talks with Ukrainian leaders aimed at soothing Ukraine's concerns about being stranded between the alliance and Russia.

Solana is slated to open a NATO information center in the Ukrainian capital, the latest measure of the increasing warmth between NATO and Ukraine.

"Without a doubt it will signify better relations with your country, and keep on track the very solid and very firm bilateral relationship," Solana said as he was met on arrival by Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko.

Solana is to continue negotiations on an agreement to solidify relations with Ukraine and show NATO's support for the former Soviet republic of 51 million people.

Udovenko said the toughest aspect of the talks would be discussions of limitations on Ukrainian military strength under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which NATO is altering in a bid to cool Russian anger about the alliance's expansion.

"The biggest problem is that of the flank limitations, which are now being linked with our cooperation with NATO," Udovenko said.

Ukraine has not announced it intends to join NATO, but it has been an active participant in the junior Partnership for Peace program and its leaders have increasingly hinted they may seek NATO membership.

President Leonid Kuchma, who will meet briefly with

Solana during the one-day visit, has accented his goal of closer integration with NATO and the European Union.

Many nationalist politicians oppose NATO membership for Ukraine, however, and the issue is likely to become a significant in the run-up to parliamentary elections early next year.

More than 180 mostly communist-oriented lawmakers in parliament Wednesday formed an unofficial grouping called "Ukraine outside NATO" and issued a statement warning that joining NATO would "pull our country into a fratricidal war with neighboring states," the Interfax news agency reported.

The bilateral agreement is expected to be signed before or during the NATO summit in July, when the alliance is expected to invite some of Ukraine's western neighbors to join - probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Ukraine has expressed concern that NATO will refrain from further expansion in an effort to appease Russia, which vehemently opposes the eastward push.

Kiev wants the agreement with NATO to be binding and include security guarantees against a potential threat, but the alliance has said the document will not offer such guarantees, which are reserved for members.

Instead, Western officials have responded to Ukraine's concerns by stressing that NATO's door will remain open to all countries that want to join and are qualified to do so.

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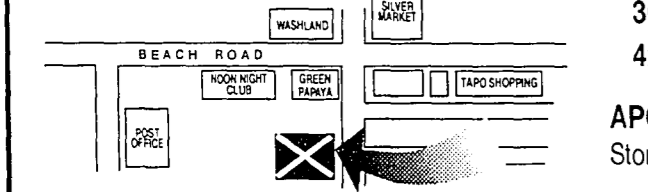
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Religious police renew ban on use of paper bags

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - The Taliban's religious police renewed its ban Wednesday on the use of paper bags and wrappings, saying people in the Afghan capital were ignoring the order.

The Taliban banned the use of paper bags and wrappings saying recycled paper may include pages of the Muslim holy book, the Koran.

Only plastic bags are allowed in the two-thirds of the country controlled by the Taliban religious rulers, who have imposed their own strict version of Islamic law.

Shopkeepers in the war-devastated capital have been ignoring the order because they say plastic bags are more costly, according to an official with the religious police, who asked not to be identified.

But he said cost is not an excuse. "If we catch people using paper they will face serious punishment," he said.

He did not specify the punishment, but the religious police usually publicly beat people for minor offenses.

In Taliban-run areas men must grow beards, women are not allowed to work or go to school and they must be covered from head to toe in a burqa.

MARIANAS VISITORS BUREAU Request For Proposal

The Marianas Visitors Bureau is soliciting sealed proposals from all interested companies licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to conduct two tourist exit surveys of visitors to Saipan from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, United States, and other countries for the remaining of fiscal year 1996-97. The primary objective of this project is to obtain visitor profiles and travel behavior information.

For specifications, please call (670) 664-3200/3201, fax (670) 664-3237, or write to:

Marianas Visitors Bureau
 Attention: Research Division
 P.O. Box 861 Saipan, MP 96950

In addition, specifications may be obtained from the Marianas Visitors Bureau Main Office located on the 2nd floor (Room #15) of the Joeten Dan Dan Commercial Center.

Proposals must be submitted and received at the Marianas Visitors Bureau (MVB) reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if such rejection is in the best interest of the MVB.

/s/ ANICIA Q. TOMOKANE
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Sunset BAR & GRILL

Mobutu flies out of Zaire

By TINA SUSMAN

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) - With rebel forces closing in on Kinshasa, President Mobutu Sese Seko left his threatened capital Wednesday aboard his private Boeing 727 and flew to Gabon. It was unclear whether he would ever come back.

Mobutu landed hours later in the Atlantic coastal city of Libreville, Gabon, for what aides said would be two days of meetings with the leaders of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Togo and Congo - all strong supporters of Mobutu throughout his seven-month war with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Journalists were kept out of

Many say prospects of ailing president's return remain unclear

Kinshasa's airport terminal but saw a motorcade of at least a dozen vehicles, including two stretch limousines guarded by three military jeeps armed with mounted machine guns.

Unlike the reception by thousands of cheering people when Mobutu returned last year after convalescing in France for months, his departure drew little attention.

In Libreville, Mobutu was given a red-carpeted welcome by Gabon President Omar Bongo. He descended from his jet slowly, carrying his traditional wooden staff and wearing his tattered

leopardskin cap and a black-and-white floral shirt.

Mobutu ignored questions shouted at him by reporters, ducked into a waiting burgundy Rolls-Royce and headed to the presidential palace.

The government says Mobutu, 66 and ailing with prostate cancer, will return to Zaire after the summit, probably over the weekend. But a government official and Western diplomats have hinted the trip could be a first step of Mobutu's final departure in the face of a rebel advance.

The plane left at about 10:15 a.m. local time (0915 GMT).



Mobutu Sese Seko

Rebel forces are closing in on Kinshasa, and Mobutu's aides offered conflicting accounts Tuesday over whether Zaire's leader may be going into exile to end his losing war against rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

Presidential aides said Mobutu planned to return to Kinshasa on Friday, and dismissed speculation that Mobutu might use the trip to launch his exile to a third country following the failure of a weekend summit with Kabila.

Another government aide, however, said Mobutu could be on his way to France for good.

Mobutu has a villa on the French Riviera and may be considering a retreat to France, which for decades helped to prop up the Mobutu regime and where the president has spent months recovering from prostate cancer treatment.

Kabila has pledged to take Kinshasa within days with forces he claims are just 65 kilometers (40 miles) from the capital.

South African President

Nelson Mandela, who mediated the unsuccessful peace talks between the two foes on Sunday, insisted Wednesday that Kabila had assured Deputy President Thabo Mbeki that he had called off his advance on the city until the next round of peace talks.

"He told the deputy president that he honors the undertaking that he gave us and that his troops have not advanced at all... Nothing has happened to make me believe that that undertaking is now not being honored," Mandela said in Cape Town, South Africa.

But Kabila told Radio France International on Wednesday that "there is no cease-fire, so I don't see why we should mark time. The troops have to advance. Taking Kinshasa is a matter of course."

Mobutu has made no statements since his face-to-face meeting with Kabila on Sunday on a South African ship off the Congolese coast.

The 90-minute meeting underscored the intransigence of both men. Kabila, who showed up a day late, repeated his demand that Mobutu resign. Mobutu demanded an immediate cease-fire from Kabila, and insisted he would surrender power only to an elected authority.

Services in Bangladesh back to normal

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP) - Railroad, bus and taxi services returned to normal Wednesday after a daylong disruption in the southern port city of Chittagong during an opposition-sponsored strike.

At least 10 people were injured in clashes between rival political groups during Tuesday's strike called by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of former prime minister, Khaleda Zia.

Opposition activists, trying to enforce the strike, attacked three trains, injuring an engine driver, police said. Most businesses were closed and few people attended government offices and banks.

Mrs. Zia accuses Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's party of organizing attacks against opposition activists and her government of being pro-India, a sensitive issue in the tiny nation flanked on three sides by India.

A recent water sharing agreement signed between the two nations does not guarantee enough water for dry areas of Bangladesh during the summer, opposition leaders say.

Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful

Kabila pushes toward capital

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) - A rebel push toward the capital of Zaire has raised doubts about the promised return of President Mobutu Sese Seko from talks with fellow Central African leaders in the neighboring country of Gabon.

Gabon's president, Omar Bongo, gave Mobutu a red-carpet welcome when the ailing 66-year-old Zairian ruler flew in Wednesday for the

two-day meeting in Libreville, then drove him off in a burgundy Rolls-Royce.

They met for two hours with Presidents Pascal Lissouba of the Congo, Idris Deby of Chad and Felix Pappas of the Central African Republic, calling afterwards for adherence to the terms for peace talks that began last weekend.

"Both parties of the conflict must meet again within 10 days to find a political and negotiated resolution to the Zairian crisis," said a statement read to reporters by Bongo's spokesman, Vincent Mavougou.

Mobutu did not appear for a photo opportunity with other leaders, and Bongo said the Zairian was too ill to attend. Mobutu has been under treatment for prostate cancer.

The leaders were to meet again on Thursday, after the arrival of the president of Equatorial Guinea, Obiang Nguema.

While Mobutu's government says the trip was planned long ago and was not prompted by rebel leader Laurent Kabila's latest military threat, the timing of Mobutu's departure has raised questions of whether he planned to return - or even would be able to.

His arrival in Gabon followed the failure of a Kabila-Mobutu summit on Sunday to reach a peaceful end to their seven-month war and Kabila's vow to capture Kinshasa within days.

"There is no cease-fire, so I don't see why we should mark time," he told Radio France Internationale. "The troops have to advance. Taking Kinshasa is a matter of course."

The rebels now say they're fighting for control of Kenge, a city on the highway 190 kilometers (115 miles) east of the capital. The claim was backed up by Western military officials and diplomats and at least one aid agency.

The rebels, who have pressed thousands of kilometers (miles) through Zairian jungle, claimed Rwandan and Angolan mercenaries were aiding Mobutu's forces in fighting near Kenge.

Doctors Without Borders said church officials in Kenge reported 300 deaths - including 100 civilians - and were appealing for medical supplies to treat the wounded.

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A limousine believed to be carrying Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and his motorcade passes along the main highway toward the Kinshasa airport Wednesday. President Mobutu left for Gabon to meet with West African Heads of State as Laurent Kabila's rebels close in on the capital city. AP

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'92 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER	\$15,995	\$14,995
'90 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER	\$13,995	\$13,495
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Lebanon Christians await Pope

By SAM F. GHATTAS
BKIRKI, Lebanon (AP) - Pope John Paul II's first visit to this Arab country Saturday comes as Christians here - once the ruling majority - fret over their declining numbers and influence.

The estimated 1.4 million Christians, most of them Catholic, now find themselves a minority whose influence has waned as that of Muslims has grown since the end of the sectarian 1975-90 civil war.

Sarkis Naoum, a columnist for the independent daily newspaper An-Nahar, estimates Christians now make up no more than 40 percent of Lebanon's 3.2 million residents.

"I am not very optimistic," he

said, adding that the postwar political system needs more guarantees of a continued role for Christians.

Christian leaders - as well as Muslims - are careful to stress that the pope should show solidarity with all of the country, a mosaic of 18 religious sects sharing many of the same problems.

"This visit will be an encouragement for all the Lebanese to have confidence in themselves and in their country," said Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir of the Maronite Catholic Church.

The patriarch has emerged as something of an opposition leader facing the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Syrian forces in Lebanon are to be a focus of the pontiff's two-day trip. He is to announce a response to the 1995 Vatican synod of Lebanese Catholics, which called for withdrawal of the Syrians, as well as the Israeli forces that occupy a portion of the south.

But many Muslims, while agreeing that the Israelis should leave, welcome the Syrian army as a force to keep the peace.

Hariri has said the pope's visit will have no effect on the Syrian presence.

He hopes the visit will show off Lebanon's reconstruction and serve as "a sign of blessing for the coexistence" among religious groups after the bitter civil war.

The pope is to spend 32 hours in Lebanon, holding a session with 12,000 youths in the Christian heartland north of Beirut and a mass for 300,000 people in Beirut's devastated downtown.

In its biggest display of force since the civil war, the government is sending 20,000 soldiers and policemen - or about one-quarter of its security forces - into Beirut streets to protect the pope. The visit originally had been planned for 1994 but was postponed after a bomb exploded in a church, killing 10 worshipers and injuring 60.



Pope John Paul II

At Lebanon's independence from France in 1943, Christians were 55 percent of the population and gained control under a formula that gave Christians five seats in Parliament to every four for Muslims.

Since then, Christian emigration - especially after the war - and a high Shiite Muslim birth rate have eroded the majority. Under a new formula, Christians share power 50-50 with Muslims.

Now the Christians fear being swallowed up in the primarily Muslim region.

The country's diverse makeup has made Lebanon distinct among Middle Eastern countries. Lebanon's Muslims comprise Shiites, Sunnis and Druse. The three major Christian groups are Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Protestants.

Among Catholic sects, the most powerful and influential are the Maronites, who took refuge in Lebanon's isolated mountains when they were considered Christian heretics. They later reconciled with Rome.

Nassib Lahoud, a Maronite lawmaker and former ambassador to Washington, says the only way to guarantee the Christians' survival in Lebanon is through democratic rights. "Their future is in the emergence of a modern state" based on democratic principles, said Lahoud.



A Lebanese vendor offers T-shirt with Pope John Paul II's picture on it on a street in the Christian port city of Jounieh north of Beirut, as Lebanon prepares to welcome the Pope's first-ever visit on May 10-11. AP

16TH ANNUAL FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
 (West of the Belltower)

Saturday, May 10
 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11
 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, in part, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Also made possible through the efforts of many public and private individuals and organizations. Major corporate sponsorship is provided by DRS Saipan Ltd., Mobil Oil, Mariana Islands Inc. and IT&E Overseas Inc.

Reach Out
Mobil

MDM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MDM Resort Hotel

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

One (1) CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT
 Must have a minimum of five years experience as Construction Superintendent.

One (1) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Knows how to operate computer and office machines, etc. Able to speak Japanese - preferred.

One (1) ACCOUNTANT
 Must be able to perform accounting work. Accounting graduate or related field and must possess not less than two years of experience in professional accounting level.

Salary will depend on qualification.

Application forms are available at the Law Office of Eric S. Smith, 4th Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan Saipan between 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This proposed amendment to Article XV of the CNMI Constitution was recently approved by the Board of Education. Public Comment is encouraged and welcome. Please submit any comments to the office of the Commissioner of Education, Public School System.



ARTICLE XV: EDUCATION

THIS AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XV OF THE CNMI CONSTITUTION SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1998.

Section 1: Preamble:

Education is the foundation upon which every successful society is built. A well educated population guarantees responsible citizenship, social harmony, and makes possible the economic prosperity of its citizens.

To make certain that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) remains strong and healthy, the education of its people must be properly supported. This requires that a guaranteed and adequate percentage of the general revenues of the CNMI must be set aside on an annual basis for the education of its people.

Section 2: Elementary and Secondary Education.

a) **Entitlement to Receive a Public Education.** Every person in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has the right to a public elementary and secondary education. The educational system shall recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the indigenous people of the Commonwealth.

b) **Governing Board.** The board of education shall formulate policy, approve regulations and exercise control over the public school system. The board of education shall be responsible for formulating, approving and implementing both annual and multi-year operational plans and budgets for the public school system. The board shall have the authority to negotiate loan guarantees and issue bonds. The board of education shall have sole autonomy over the governance of the public school system, including but not limited to personnel and fiscal matters. The board of education shall have five members, elected at large on a non-partisan basis as follows: one from the first senatorial district, one from the second senatorial district and three from the third senatorial district of the Commonwealth. Elected members of the board of education shall serve terms of four years, except that the terms of the first members shall be determined by drawing lots, with three members serving a term of four years and two members serving a term of two years. The governor shall appoint four non-voting ex-officio members to the board of education: one member shall be a representative of a local parent teacher association; one member shall be a student attending a public school; one member shall be a representative of nonpublic schools; and one member shall be a teacher employed within the public school system. Elected members of the board of education shall serve their terms commencing on the second Monday of January in the year following the regular general election at which they were elected. Elected members of the board of education shall be qualified to vote in the Commonwealth. They shall be at least twenty-five years of age, and a resident and domiciliary of the Commonwealth and the senatorial district from which they are elected for at least five years preceding the date on which the member takes office.

c) **Chief Executive Officer.** Administration of the public elementary and secondary education system (public school system) of the CNMI shall be the responsibility of the commissioner of education appointed by the representative board of education.

d) **Funding.** The public school system shall be guaranteed annual funding of not less than thirty percent of the general revenues of the CNMI. This annual funding for the public school system shall be allotted and transferred in quarterly cash payments beginning in the first week of each quarter of the fiscal year. The board of education is empowered to allocate these funds and to authorize expenditure of such funds. This annual funding may not be reprogrammed for other purposes, and any unencumbered fund balance at the end of the fiscal year shall remain with the public school system for expenditure until fully expended.

e) **Annual Plan.** The board of education is required to approve and publish an annual plan and budget. The approval of an annual plan for the expenditure of these funds by the board of education and publication of this plan in the local media, shall be considered as the equivalent of legislative appropriation. The absolute legal authority to expend these funds is vested in the board of education by this Constitution.

f) **Budget.** The board of education and public school system are exempt from the planning and budgeting act and from legislative appropriation requirements as stipulated in Article II, Section 5 of this Constitution. However, the budget of the public school system as approved by the board of education shall be provided to the legislature and governor.

g) **Accountability.** An annual financial audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor regarding all of the financial transactions of the public school system. Copies of this audit shall be provided to the governor and to the legislature.

Section 3: Higher, Continuing and Adult Education.

a) **Establishment.** An institution of higher, continuing and adult education is established to meet the varied educational, cultural and economic needs of the people of the Commonwealth.

b) **Governing Board.** The institution shall have a governing board which shall hold in trust the assets of the institution for the public good, and shall be responsible for the quality and integrity of the institution. The governing board shall be an independent, policy-making body. It shall be representative of the public interest, and shall have sole autonomy over the governance of the institution, including but not limited to personnel and fiscal matters. The governing board shall have the authority to negotiate loan guarantees and to issue bonds. The governing board shall serve as the state board of higher education and shall have the power to license, limit and otherwise regulate higher, continuing and adult education services offered within the Commonwealth. The governing board shall be appointed to staggered terms of four years by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and shall serve their complete terms without regard to political changes. The size and composition of the governing board, and other matters pertaining to its specific duties and operations, shall be provided by law.

c) **Chief Executive Officer.** This institution shall be headed by a president who shall be appointed by the governing board. The governing board shall set the qualifications, salary and benefits of the president.

d) **Funding.** This institution shall receive annual funding of not less than five percent of the general revenues of the Commonwealth which shall be allotted and transferred in quarterly cash payments beginning in the first week of each quarter of the fiscal year. The governing board is empowered to allocate these funds and to authorize expenditure of such funds. This annual funding may not be reprogrammed for other purposes, and any unencumbered fund balance at the end of the fiscal year shall remain with the institution for expenditure until fully expended.

e) **Annual Plan.** The governing board is required to approve and publish an annual plan and budget. The approval of an annual plan for the expenditure of these funds by the governing board and publication of this plan, shall be considered as the equivalent of legislative appropriation. The absolute legal authority to expend these funds is vested in the governing board by this Constitution.

f) **Budget.** This institution is exempt from the planning and budgeting act and from legislative appropriation requirements as stipulated in Article II, Section 5 of this Constitution. However, the budget of the institution as approved by its governing board shall be provided to the legislature and governor.

g) **Accountability.** An annual financial audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor regarding all of the institution's financial transactions. Copies of this audit shall be provided to the governor and to the legislature.

J&S Graphics

Israel backs methods before UN

By DALIA BALIGH
GENEVA (AP) - Israel vigorously defended its interrogation practices before a U.N. human rights committee, arguing that the country's questioning methods had helped prevent about 90 terrorist attacks in the past two years.

Nili Arad, director general of Israel's Ministry of Justice, justified Israel's "exceptional interrogation methods" Wednesday before independent experts of the U.N. Committee Against Torture, who questioned whether such practices amounted to torture.

Israel is one of the countries under periodic review before the panel, which meets twice a year in Geneva to discuss adherence by nations that have signed the Convention against Torture.

Members brushed aside results of an Israeli investigation that acquitted of criminal wrongdoing those who questioned 29-year-old Palestinian prisoner Abdel Samad Harizat in 1995. Harizat died in custody.

Bent Sorensen of Denmark, a member of the committee, said that evidence from the autopsy on Harizat supported the conclusion that he died of violent shaking during investigation by Israeli security officials.

More than 20 Palestinians, most recently Harizat, have died in Israeli prisons since 1987.

In November, Israel's Supreme

Court lifted an injunction against the use of force in the interrogation of Palestinian detainees in certain cases. Since then, critics have accused the Jewish state of approving torture during investigations.

"The state of Israel categorically deprecates and prohibits the practice of torture," Arad said, adding that under "extreme and exceptional circumstances," investigators used unpleasant methods "which would be normally regarded as unacceptable."

She said Israel was trying to ensure the safety of its citizens against militant terrorist attacks while maintaining basic principles of justice.

Peter Thomas Burns, the U.N. committee member specializing in Israel, said Israel seemed to think that standards for treatment of detainees could be modified depending on circumstances, while the standards of the Convention Against Torture were absolute.

Burns questioned how Israel did not define as ill-treatment or torture prolonged interrogation, shaking, sleep deprivation and awkward and painful sitting positions.

He also noted that the Convention Against Torture prohibits "exceptional circumstances" as excuses for torture.

Israeli human rights group B'Tselem cited as an example of such torture the case of Palestinian Ayman Kafishah, arrested by Israeli



Yosef Lamdan, left, Israeli ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva and Alexis Di Panda Movel from Cameroon, president of the 18th session of the Committee against Torture listen to the report concerning Israel at Geneva, Switzerland, on Wednesday. AP

security forces on April 5 in connection with the bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe in March that killed three Israeli women.

The group said Kafishah had been interrogated for 36 consecutive hours,

shaken violently and threatened with the torture of his family. He also was denied the right to see his lawyer for a full month, the group charged.

The United Nations' investigator on Israel, Hannu Halinen of Israel, reported to the U.N. Human Rights Commission earlier this year that serious human rights violations continued in the occupied territories last

year.

The head of Israel's government press office, Moshe Fogel, said then that the report was biased and failed to take into account "the fact that Israel lives in constant and real threat of terrorism."

Fogel said Israel had a responsibility to protect the lives of both Jews and Arabs at the hands of terrorists.

Kuwait lawmakers vote to ban concerts, some shows

KUWAIT (AP) - A law banning concerts and some fashion shows on grounds they contradict Islam and Kuwait's conservative traditions has passed its first hurdle in parliament, Al-Siyassah newspaper reported Wednesday.

Twenty-six of the parliament's 50 legislators voted for the ban at the parliament's weekly meeting on Tuesday, and two against, the paper said. Cabinet ministers abstained.

"The vote was sufficient to have the issue brought up again for a second reading next week. If approved again, it is sent forward to Kuwait's ruling emir for signature.

If the emir refuses to sign it, the legislation must pass the parliament with a two-thirds vote to be enacted.

The legislation is sponsored by Muslim fundamentalist lawmakers who are trying to reverse last year's decision by the information minister, Sheik Saud al-Sabah, to lift a decade-long ban on concerts and other public performances.

They had been banned in the mid-

1980s when fundamentalists also were a strong force in the parliament.

Scores of Arab singers have performed in hotels since the ban was lifted.

Sheik Saud has been pushing to make more entertainment available in Kuwait so that families feel they can stay home and spend more money in their own country.

He also has been pressing for more entertainment programs on state-run television.

"Concerts are nothing new in Kuwait," Al-Siyassah quoted Sheik Saud as telling parliament on Tuesday. "Kuwaiti society has known ... singing and art for decades."

He said the government did not need a new law to stop anything that is insulting to religion and tradition.

Sponsors of the legislation argued that concerts encourage young people to adopt "some habits and customs that are foreign to the Muslim Kuwaiti society."

"Morals and values are at stake," fundamentalist legislator Ahmed Bayar argued in supporting the legislation.

Police raid heroin factory

BEIJING (AP) - Police raided a drug house in Shenzhen that processed heroin for sale in Hong Kong, seized 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of heroin and arrested two people, the Chinese paper Legal Daily reported Thursday.

The two who were arrested arrived in Shenzhen from Hong Kong in October and set up a processing center for diluting heroin, the report said. Most of the heroin was then passed into Hong Kong, and some was sold in Shenzhen,

it said.

Police recently announced they arrested the two, whose names were given only as Chen and Wu, on April 11 as they were getting into a car with a shipment of drugs, the newspaper said.

Traffickers move heroin from the "Golden Triangle" countries of Burma, Thailand and Laos through southern China to Hong Kong. Some of the drugs remain in China, feeding rising drug addiction.

Fuel tank drops off air force jet, kills 6 people

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) - Six people were killed when the auxiliary fuel tank of an air force jet burst off, burst into flames and landed on an apartment building in this southern port city on fire.

Another nine people were rushed to Karachi's Abbasi Shaheed Hospital with serious burn injuries, said Dr. Imtiaz Memon.

Several of the injured were in critical condition, said Memon.

"We have declared a state of emergency in the hospital because we do not have facilities to

treat so many serious burn victims at once," Memon told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

The Pakistan Air Force Mirage jet was on a routine exercise when its two auxiliary fuel tanks dropped off, said an air force Wing Commander Aftab Safdar.

One burning tank landed on the apartment building and one landed in an empty lot next door.

It wasn't immediately known what caused the tanks to drop off the jet.

The jet was returning to the Masroor Air Base outside of

Karachi when the accident occurred. It returned safely, said Safdar.

External fuel tanks on a Mirage jet usually carry 1,000 liters each of jet fuel. But the plane had been in the air for an hour and it wasn't known how much fuel was still in the tanks, he said.

"This kind of accident is not unusual among jet planes, but an inquiry has been ordered," said Safdar.

This particular Mirage jet was acquired more than 15 years ago.



A body of the victim is carried by relief workers after an auxiliary fuel tank of a Pakistani Air Force jet fell off in flight and burst into flames on an apartment building in Karachi Thursday. Six people were killed in the accident. AP



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

THE DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, MR. JOSEPH B. DELA CRUZ AND THE SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, MR. THOMAS O. SABLAN, TOGETHER WITH THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO WISHES TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AND HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING SERVICES.

- To establish and maintain a system of work registration, referral, and other employment services assistance available to all potential residents in obtaining employment.
 - Maintain work registration of all available resident workers looking for a job.
 - Refer resident workers to potential employers in response to job order as determined to be qualified and available.
 - Safe guard and enforce the resident workers preferential rights on all jobs available pursuant to (3 CMC 4, Section 4413).
- To assist employers in locating qualified resident workers to fill job vacancy(ies) as per their order.
 - Match employers job orders with work registration for referral of any registrant as determined to be qualified and available.
 - Cause the existence of a job vacancy(ies) and other information regarding the job vacancy(ies) to be published through advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth and to be broadcast in a local media or television for fifteen (15) days.
- Issues CERTIFICATION for qualified applicants for the following:
 - Immediate relatives entry permits pursuant to 3 CMC 4, 4321(d) on the applicant's job classification and 3 CMC 4, Section 4437 (i) annual salary.
 - Non-availability of qualified and available resident workers to fill the available job vacancy.
- Approves or grant WAIVERS to eligible employers on the following statutory requirements.
 - Fifteen (15) days advertisement requirement (3CMC 4, Section 4432) if the Director finds that a waiver is in the public interest and not inconsistent with the policy of this Act.
 - One-to One ratio, One Resident Worker for every Non-Resident (3CMC 4, Section 4434(e).
 - 20% Resident Workers requirement of an employers work force (3CMC 4, Section 4436(b).
- Provide Technical Assistance in the use of the following reference and guide materials:
 - Dictionary of Occupational Titles Manual (DOT).
 - Standard Occupational Classification Manual (SOC).
 - Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SIC).
 - The complete Guide for Occupational Exploration (GOE).
- Other services available
 - Resumé writing
 - Assistance in filling employment application
 - Summer Job Programs
 - Vocational Counseling or Career Exploration
 - Preparation for Employment Interviews

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PERSONNEL AT THE DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AT TELEPHONE NO. 664-2000/2085/2086 OR VISIT OUR OFFICE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION, 2nd Floor Afetna Square, San Antonio Village, Saipan, MP 96950

Serb convicted of war crimes

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) - In a landmark verdict, a U.N. court Wednesday convicted a Bosnian Serb on the first of 31 charges in the first international war crimes trial since World War II.

The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal ruled against Dusan Tadic, charged with war crimes and crimes against

humanity for atrocities allegedly committed during Bosnia's war.

The 41-year-old karate expert and former cafe owner - charged with murder and torture in and around three Serb-run camps in northwest Bosnia in 1992 - stood impassively as the first verdict was read.

In all, Tadic was found guilty on

11 of 31 counts, including the first charge of crime against humanity.

The three-judge panel's verdict was the first following an international trial since military tribunals in Tokyo and Nuremberg sent 17 Axis leaders to the gallows. It came a year to the day after the trial began.

The Hague tribunal has no death

penalty, but Tadic faced a maximum life sentence for each of the charges. Judges will schedule a separate hearing to decide his sentence.

Tadic has pleaded innocent to all charges, claiming he was a victim of mistaken identity swept up by authorities frantic to find scapegoats for atrocities in Bosnia.

An acquittal would have raised doubts about the U.N. tribunal's ability to gather ironclad witness testimony on atrocities that happened during the 3 1/2-year Bosnian war, which ended in 1995.



Dusan Tadic

captured Tadic's home village of Kozarac - including the killing of an elderly man and woman - and then tortured and killed detainees at the camps.

The charge, which amounts to a summary of some other counts in the indictment, also says he plundered property as Serb forces "ethnically cleansed" the Prijedor region.

The 150 U.N.-blue seats in the court's public gallery were packed with press, public and tribunal employees for Wednesday's verdicts. The spectators were separated from the courtroom by a thick wall of bulletproof glass.

Despite its 74 indictments, the tribunal has just eight suspects in custody. Tadic was arrested by German authorities in Munich in September 1994.

Among the indicted suspects still wanted by the tribunal are former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his wartime army chief, Gen. Ratko Mladic. Both have been indicted twice for genocide for their responsibility for atrocities committed by Bosnian Serb forces during the war.

But Serbian authorities refuse to extradite any of their citizens to the U.N. court, which was set up by the Security Council in 1993 and has no police force to go out and arrest suspects. The majority of indicted suspects are Serbs.

Witness testimony of brutalities at the prison camps, while graphic, often failed to conclusively identify Tadic as the culprit. If judges had found the evidence too weak to convict Tadic, the same might have applied when others among the 74 indicted suspects go to trial. Most of the cases lack physical evidence and similarly rely on witnesses.

"Although this is the first trial conducted by the international tribunal and thus has some historic dimension, the goal of the trial chamber was always first and foremost to provide the accused with the fair trial to which he was entitled," said presiding judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald of the United States. "This, we believe, has been done."

Tadic was accused of 13 murders and numerous incidents of torture, including a now-infamous case in which prosecutors allege he forced one Muslim inmate to bite off another's testicle.

The first charge, a crime against humanity count, alleged that Tadic took part in the systematic persecution of his former Muslim and Croat neighbors in the Prijedor region.

Allegations in the far-reaching count include Tadic's involvement, with Serb forces, in killing and torturing Muslims and Croats in and outside the Omarska, Trnopolje and Keraterm camps, names that have become symbols of Serb brutality during the Bosnian war.

The charge also alleges he was involved in the rebel Serb attack which

US: Swiss aided Nazis



Thomas Borer, head of a Swiss task force on Nazi gold, holds a map of Nazi Germany Wednesday to respond to a U.S. report on Switzerland and Nazi gold. The report says Switzerland's "business as usual" attitude in dealing with gold looted by the Nazis supported Germany's capacity to wage war. AP

WASHINGTON (AP) - Declaring "neutrality collided with morality," the Clinton administration condemned Switzerland for helping Nazi Germany fuel its reign of terror across Europe with gold plundered from banks and Holocaust victims.

The sweeping report said Wednesday that there was conclusive evidence that Germany stole jewelry, dental fillings and other personal items from Jews, Gypsies and other concentration camp prisoners - dead and alive - and resmelted the booty into gold bars that likely were traded abroad.

But the report found no evidence that neutral countries such as Switzerland knowingly accepted such tainted gold bars.

Stating what Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat called "the unvarnished truth," the report also harshly criticizes U.S. officials for not pressing Switzerland and other neutral nations after the war to return \$ 580 million in looted gold - worth \$ 5.6 billion today. That includes half the \$ 400 million in gold the Germans sent through secretive Swiss banks. Switzerland returned only \$ 58 million, in 1946.

"Neither the U.S. nor the allies pressed ... hard enough to fulfill their moral obligations to help Holocaust survivors," said Eizenstat, who led the 11-agency study.

Instead, Eizenstat said U.S. leaders were more worried about the coming Cold War with the Soviet Union and about rebuilding war-ravaged West Germany than fighting a diplomatic battle for restitution.

In Bern, Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Coti said the revelation that gold from Jewish victims was mixed with looted bars was "shocking."

But he said the American study lacked "a measured recognition" of Switzerland's extremely difficult position as a tiny country encircled and threatened by the Nazis and fascists. Switzerland had no choice but to trade with the Axis powers, he said.

"In those dramatic days this neutrality policy meant for Switzerland a tightrope walk between adaptation and resistance," Coti said.

The report acknowledges that many neutral countries dealt with the Nazis

out of fear they would be overrun. But it nonetheless condemns the Swiss and other nonaligned countries for conducting "business as usual" despite "repeated Allied entreaties to end their dealings with Nazi Germany."


"Whatever their motivation, the fact that they pursued vigorous trade

with the Third Reich had the clear effect of supporting and prolonging Nazi Germany's capacity to wage war," Eizenstat said of Switzerland.

"In the unique circumstances of World War II, neutrality collided with morality. It is painfully clear that Argentina, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and other neu-

tral countries were slow to recognize and acknowledge that it was not just another war. Most never did," the report said.

The 211-page report, with a 277-page index, examined 15 million pages of documents, including up to 1 million that had been declassified.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), announces that NMHC will be hosting the second annual CNMI Housing Expo on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 20th, 21st and 22nd. The event will bring together government agencies, architects, contractors, developers, engineers, insurance companies, lenders, suppliers, etc. to provide information to prospective and present homeowners who are interested in obtaining information about current housing matters such as financing, house designs, inspection services, materials, property insurance coverage, cooling systems, energy efficiency, permits for residential construction and waste disposal systems, etc. The venue for the event will be the Saipan Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. This is an opportunity for everyone who would like to gather relevant information regarding home ownership, including systems and methods available today.

Prospective homeowners who have yet to commence or complete construction of their houses are encouraged to participate, to get first-hand data from the very people involved from the beginning to completion of a residential project. Service providers and vendors will also have the opportunity during the event to disseminate pertinent information regarding services and/or products they provide, which will ultimately increase their business activities. Anyone interested in receiving more details about the event, is encouraged to contact the NMHC at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), announces that NMHC will be conducting a Home Ownership Seminar on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The purpose of this seminar is to provide information and the practical aspects in obtaining an ideal house. The event marks another step where the government agencies and private sectors working together to share the important functions and responsibilities in dealing with prospective homeowners.

NMHC anticipates to have speakers who will present topics on choosing a house, energy efficiency, fire safety, selection of contractor(s), construction methods, appraisal, shopping for a residential loan, title examination and insurance, project inspections, budget and house maintenance, permits (Building Safety office, Division of Public Lands and Environmental Quality, and Coastal Resources Management Office), etc...

Prospective homeowners who have yet to commence or complete construction of their house are encouraged to participate in this event. Anyone interested in receiving more details concerning the above, is encouraged to contact the NMHC at telephone numbers 234-7689/7690/6866/9447.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW97-RFP-010

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and in conjunction with the Public School System (PSS), are soliciting sealed proposals for the architectural and engineering design of Kagman Elementary School on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work may be picked up on or after Monday, May 5, 1997 at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan. All concerns shall be referred to Mr. Andrew W. Smith, P.E., Director of Technical Services Division.

Proposals must include the following:

1. Updated Standard Forms 254 and 255;
2. Design Approach and Methodology; and
3. Design Team members/firms

Proposals will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee and a selection will be made based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff (40%);
2. Experience of the firm(s) and staff on similar type projects (40%) and;
3. Architectural/Engineering Fee (20%)

Proposals must be marked "DPW97-RFP-010". One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, Friday, May 30, 1997.

All responses to this RFP should include any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for the project, including excise taxes.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the government's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of Public Works
Date: April 29, 1997

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for an automobile. Specifically, a four-door sedan, six cylinder, 24 valve with a horse power of 190 or greater. The vehicle must be air conditioned, with AM/FM radio/cassette, four speed auto/with overdrive transmission, power assisted steering type, with a power front disc, rear drums, electronically fuel injected, with 4 wheel independent suspension. The deadline for submission of bids is May 9, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. at which time bids will be opened at the Office of the Executive Director, CPA on the Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

/s/ FRANK S. ROSARIO
Public Information Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Monday, May 12, 1997 and Tuesday, May 13, 1997. The Board will convene at 10:00 a.m. on both days, at the Commission's Office, Capitol Hills, Saipan. Additional information concerning this hearing is available at the Commission's Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. HEARING ON APPEAL OF ADVERSE ACTION OF DAVID MEYERS
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENT
- V. ADJOURNMENT

/S/EUGENE A. SANTOS
Chairman
Civil Service Commission

THE COMMONWEALTH JUDICIARY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
"RFP-97-03"

The Honorable Marty W.K. Taylor, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the CNMI Department of Public Works, is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Construction of the Family Court Building to be constructed in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requires the construction of a pre-fabricated building to accommodate the staff of the newly established Family Court. The site of this building is adjacent to the Probation Office and behind the CNMI Multipurpose Center. A Scope of Work and floor plan of this facility is available at the Technical Services Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) located at Lower Base, Saipan.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Time frame for design and construction (30%);
2. Experience on similar projects (20%);
3. Warranty of products supplied (20%); and
4. Price (30%).

Sealed proposals must be marked "RFP 97-03". One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Chief Justice of the Commonwealth Judiciary, with attention to the Director of Courts, at the second floor of the Nauru Building in Susupe, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, Friday, May 23, 1997.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer in fulfilling the contract, including excise and other related taxes.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in said proposals if, in its sole opinion to do so, would be in the government's best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

Ex-cultist fears more suicides



San Diego County Medical Examiner workers carry the body of Wayne Cooke out of a room to a waiting van after the former Heaven's Gate cult member committed suicide Tuesday in an Encinitas, Calif., hotel room. Another former member is in critical condition at a local hospital.

By DANA CALVO
SAN DIEGO (AP) - A former member of the Heaven's Gate cult said he is worried that at least six others might follow "classmates" in suicide. "They're probably wondering what the next step is for them. I'm concerned about them," Dick

Joslyn said Wednesday from his home in Tampa, Florida. On Tuesday, two former followers were discovered by San Diego County sheriff's deputies in a hotel room just four miles from the mansion where 39 cult members committed mass suicide March 26.

"I don't see this as a copycat," said Larry Trachte, a chaplain who teaches a course on cults at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. "It's just an extension of the same process. They lost their whole faith community." Wayne Cooke, 56, of Las Ve-

gas, was found with a plastic bag over his head and died of a phenobarbital and vodka mixture, the medical examiner's office said Wednesday.

Chuck Humphrey, 55, of Denver, also had traces of alcohol and barbiturates in his system, authorities said.

He was in serious condition and breathing through a respirator Wednesday, said Sue Pondrom, a spokeswoman for Scripps Memorial Hospital in Encinitas.

"I was not surprised," Cooke's daughter, Kelly Cooke, told MSNBC. "I don't want this to be interpreted as they were crazy. They really believed in this."

Joslyn, who had been in contact with Humphrey in recent weeks, said his friend had grown frustrated by the lack of attention given to the group's ideas.

"He was a little discouraged by the inability to get the word out. He made it clear to me that when his work was done, he would go too."

The cult supported itself by designing Web pages and Humphrey was updating the group's site before the mass suicide.

A former member who uses the name Sawyer said Wednesday that Humphrey tried to kill himself when he could no longer work on the site because some-

one had "commandeered" it.

"As long as he had a task to do, things were fine," Sawyer said by telephone from his New York home. "He was supposed to spread information about the 'next level' and maintain the Internet site."

"If that had not gone sour, I think he would have stayed around awhile longer, but not much longer," he said.

Humphrey and Cooke mailed farewell videos and notes to news organization, friends and relatives on Monday. Their bodies were discovered their bodies at a Holiday Inn Express on Tuesday. Humphrey made the reservation for the room April 28.

Like the 39 cult members found in Rancho Santa Fe, Cooke and Humphrey followed an elaborate exit script in the belief they would be taken to "another level beyond human."

"I would like everyone to understand that I simply cannot stay here any longer and I am leaving because it is time for me to leave," Cooke said in a letter sent with a video to CNN. "I'd rather gamble on missing the bus this time than staying on this planet and risk losing my soul."

Formed by Marshall Herff Applewhite in the early 1970s, the cult followed a bizarre theology of Christianity and UFOs.

Top enlisted man charged

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. Army has accused its top enlisted man of a wide range of sexual misconduct, including indecent assault and adultery. Gene McKinney, the sergeant major of the Army, vehemently denied the charges.

Sargeant major faces wide range of sexual misconduct raps



Gene McKinney

"I want the American people to know that I have not done any of these things," McKinney said in a brief statement Wednesday at his lawyer's office in nearby Alexandria, Virginia. He was accompanied by his wife, Wilhemina.

McKinney's attorney, Charles Gittins, said his client would fight the charges, even if they lead to a court-martial.

Gittins said it was a matter of great concern whether race was a factor in the charges. Every witness interviewed by the Army was asked if McKinney, who is black, was interested only in white women, Gittins said.

"If there's a race issue, it's been injected by the investigators," he said.

The Army has denied that race is an issue in its probe of sexual misconduct, in particular at an Aberdeen, Maryland, training base where several black drill sergeants are facing sexual harassment charges and one was sentenced this week to 25 years in prison after being convicted of

raping female trainees. Most of the accusers, who are trainees at the base, are white.

McKinney, 46, was suspended from his post in February after he was accused of sexual harassment by retired Sgt. Maj. Brenda Hoster, a former aide.

Hoster accused McKinney of grabbing her and demanding sex during a business trip. She came forward with her charges after McKinney was appointed to a high-level Army panel investigating the service's sexual harassment problems. McKinney had also been featured in an Army training video put together to fight sex harassment.

The charges include four counts of indecent assault, two

counts of assault consummated by a battery, one count of adultery, two counts of communicating a threat, two counts of impeding the criminal investigation, three counts of solicitation of adultery and four counts of maltreatment of soldiers.

No details of the alleged incidents are included in the Army's summation of its charges, except that the charges involve three female soldiers and one female sailor in incidents that occurred between October 1994 and March 1997.

In a statement, the Army stressed that McKinney is presumed innocent "unless and until proven guilty."

The charges against McKinney bring the service's sexual harassment investigation into the highest ranks of the Pentagon.

His position is one of great influence, since the sergeant major of the Army is asked to advise the Army's top general on all matters involving the enlisted ranks.

The Army has been struggling to deal with the worldwide reports of sexual harassment that have appeared since allegations were made last fall that trainees were being abused by their superiors at an ordnance school in Aberdeen, Maryland.

The charges against McKinney begin a process that can lead to a court-martial. A decision is not expected for several weeks, Army officials said.

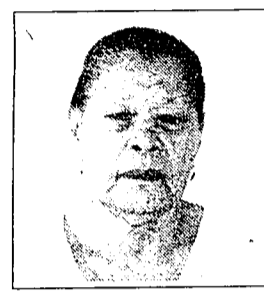
McKinney had been the senior enlisted adviser to the chief of

staff since June 30, 1995.

The Army, in its statement, said McKinney still retains his title even though he has been suspended from performing his duties.

He has been assigned to work on the staff of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington.

In remembrance of our beloved
"Si Nanan Mame"



ISABEL BASA PANGELINAN
(Inlen)

We invite relatives and friends to join us commemorate her **THIRD ANNIVERSARY ROSARY** to be said nightly, from May 2, 10, 1997, at 7:00 p.m., at Tom and Lupe's residence in Kaganan I, next to Hollywood Store.

On the final day, May 10, Mass will be at 6:00 am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Rosary will be said at 5:00 p.m. at the above residence. Dinner will be served immediately after the rosary.

Please join us
Si Yuus Maase van Ghilison for your prayers
GINEN I FAMILIA

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Safely Home: I am home in Heaven, dear ones, oh, so happy and so bright. There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light. All the pain and grief is over. Every restless tossing passed. I am now at peace forever. Safely home in Heaven at last. And He came Himself to meet me in the way so hard to tread. And with Jesus' arm to lean on. Could I have one doubt or dread? Then you must not grieve so sorely for I love you dearly still. Try to look beyond earth's shadows. Pray to trust our Father's Will. There is work still waiting for you. So you must not idly stand. Do it now while life remaineth - You shall rest in Jesus' land. When all that work is completed. He will gently call you. Home Oh, the rapture of that meeting. Oh, the joy to see you come.

We, the children and family wish to inform our friends and relatives that our dear and beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather,

ODORICO IGOBOR SEMAN

Better known as "Tun Odo" March 7, 1916 - May 2, 1997

Was called to his eternal rest on Friday, May 2, 1997, at the age of 81, at the CHC Hospital on Saipan. **In his death, he now joins his parents:** Vicente Paron and Jacoba Igozor Seman, **brothers/sisters-in-law:** Felipe and Maria T. Seman; Joaquin; Esperanza T. Seman, and son: Odorico Jr.

His peaceful spirit and memories will live in the hearts of his brothers, sisters and in-laws: Maria C. Seman, Juan I. Seman, Lorenzo and Lucia S. Iriarte, Dr. Jose L. and Ramona S. Chong, Jose I. and Margarita B. Seman.

Children, spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren:

Congresswoman Ana and Joaquin Teregyo: Gil and Irene T. San Nicolas (Reneacia Ann, Gilbert Joaquin, Catherine Elisa), Geraldine (Gerana Lynn, Aniceto Benigno, Chantel Consolacion), Donald (Willaine, Hazel Ann, Donald Anthony, Paul Patrick, Ana Marie, Anthony Joaquin, Darren Lee), Dennis and Jerilyn (Jonathan Dennis Jr., Carmana Lynn, Coquina Leah, Cara Laureen), Catherine, Derek Joaquin Jr. (Derek Palani);

Michael G. and Julia Fujihira-Newman: Chanita Marie

Pedro P. and Ana Fujihira-Lizama: Evangeline L. Coburn (Aadilah), Peter Jr. (Janee Nicole)

Joaquin A. and Marci Fujihira: Thessie, Nathan, Douglas

Antonio and Maureen Fujihira: Brandon, Wesley

Ronald D. and Maria Ana Tomokane-Sablan: Lorna, Cherisse, James, Audrey, Sean

Jose T. and Rosa Tomokane-Liwanag: Joseph Lee, Dane Bla, Jake Aaron, Joan Ashley.

His peaceful spirit will be missed by numerous nieces and nephews.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:00 P.M. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa. Last Respects may be paid on Saturday, May 10, 1997 at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, beginning at 10:30 A.M. Funeral Mass will be offered on the same day at 4:00 P.M. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, followed by Christian Burial at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa.

YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE AT THESE SERVICES WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
THANK YOU AND SEN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE.

PACIFICA FUNERAL SERVICES
235-6516

Death and Funeral Announcement

Teresita Borja Jordan

aka
Terry Koichi

Date of Birth: October 4, 1952
Passed away in the grace of our Lord on Monday,
May 5, 1997, at the age of 44

Predeceased by her parents: Jose Q. & Francisca A. Borja

Sister in law: Lydia B. Fujihira

Survived by her husband: James Jordan

Brothers, Sister and In-law:
Crispin A. Borja, Maria (Maco) B. & Toshi Minatoya, Delgadina (Del) B. & Pete Dela Cruz, Ana B. & Luis P. Castro, Elphidia (Piding) B. & Oscar B. Camacho, Thomas Fujihira, Cynthia A. Borja, Teresita (Terry) P. Mafnas.

Additionally survived by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Rosary is said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at San Antonio Church. Last respect may be paid on Tuesday, May 13, 1997 at San Antonio Church beginning at 8:00 a.m., responso at 12:00 noon and mass of intention will be offered at 4:00 p.m.

Interment service will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

"Si Yuus Maase Ginen I Familia"

Pacifica Funeral Service
Tel. 235-6516

SPORTS



1997 Saipan Men's Major League

Aces outduel Wheels, 6-5

Team Standings	W	L
UMDA Aces	7	0
Miller Lite Brewers	4	2
Toyota Wheels	4	3
Kautz Glass Glazers	4	2
Team Palau	2	4
Typhoons	1	5
Sunrisers	0	6

By Frank M. Palacios and Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

JEFF CALLAHAN slammed a hit off Elmer Sablan in the bottom of the decisive 10th inning for the game winning single to lift the UMDA Aces to a thrilling 6-5 win over the defending champions Toyota Wheels last Wednesday night in the 1997 Saipan

Men's Major League Baseball at the Francisco M. Palacios Ball Field.

The Wheels appeared on their way of avenging their first round defeat against the Aces after taking a 5-2 lead in the top of the 10th inning highlighted by John Reyes two-run single but couldn't hang to the lead as the Aces' offense exploded in the crucial

changeover.

UMDA came up with clutch hits in their own half of the extra inning to reaffirm their dominance over the Wheels this season.

Ed Diaz sparked the Aces' big comeback by belting a single. Steve Eason made it a back-to-back hit for the Aces with another shot as UMDA put two men in scoring positions.

Diaz eventually reached the homeplate after Wheels' third baseman Ray Guerrero committed an error while handling Chris Nelson's groundball for the Aces' first run in the extra inning.

UMDA's third baseman Steve Coleman whacked a sacrifice fly to bring in Eason for another run as the Aces cut the Wheels into a

Continued on page 62



Garry Kasparov, left, is seen before his next move against Deep Blue, IBM's chess playing computer. Kasparov and Deep Blue are engaged in a Man vs Machine six-game rematch in New York. Deep Blue can examine an average of 200 million positions per second. The man at right is unidentified. AP

• Zaldy Dandan

Queen sac

THOUGH I learned to play chess at the age of 8, it took me eighth more years before finally being smitten by this most incredible game.

The "catalyst" was a book on sacrifices, and I still remember how awestruck I was going through the scores, and those seemingly reckless moves that wantonly gave up material after material only to reveal mate in the last move.

One of my favorite games was that of an obscure amateur named Adams against the Mexican champion Carlos Torre, he of the Torre Attack, and the same dude who, wearing a trench coat, would suddenly reveal his birthday suit underneath (his ding-a-ling, of course, included) to his fellow bus passengers in New York city.

It is not known whether his madness was a result of losing the following game, in which Adams offers his queen to Torre six times in succession.

Annotations are by Irving Chernev:

Game of the week.

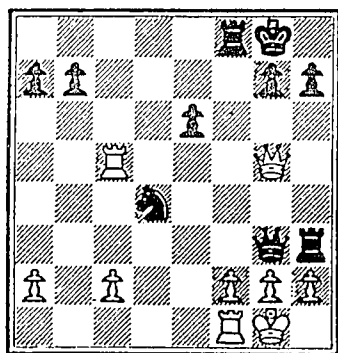
Philidor Defence

Adams-Torre

New Orleans, 1920

1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 P-Q3 3. P-Q4 PxP 4. QxP N-QB3 5.

Continued on page 62



Mesa tops Palau/Marpac League's batting category

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

BEN MESA of YCO Servistar leads the batting race after two months of action in the ongoing 1997 Palau/Marpac Men's Slowpitch League at the Koblerville Baseball Field.

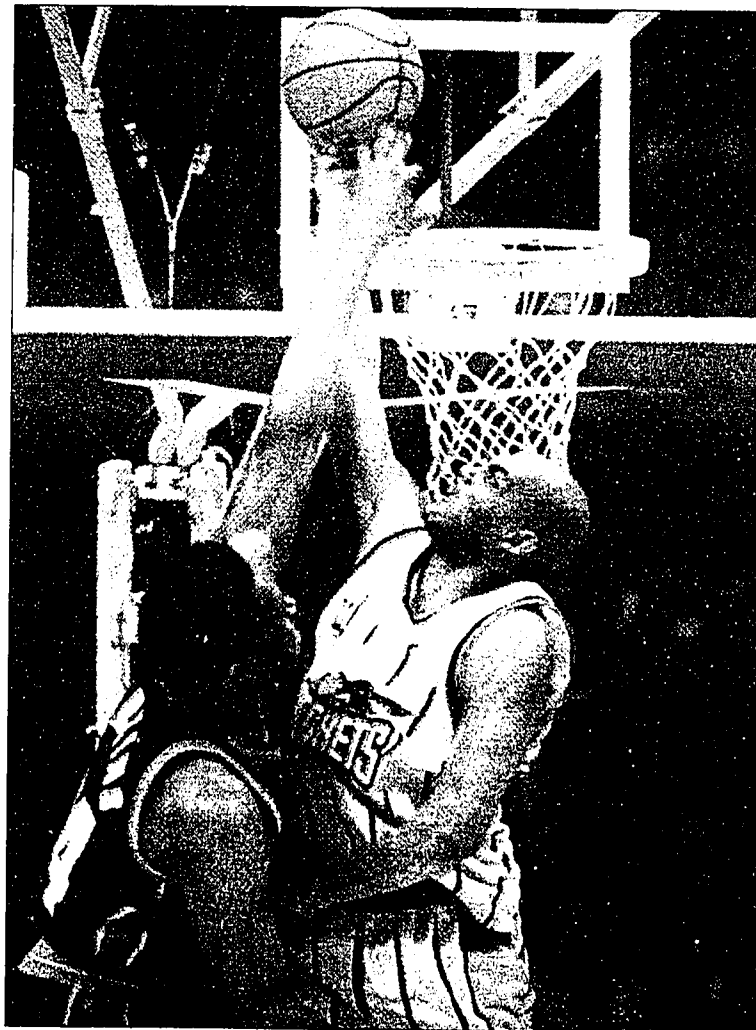
Mesa is averaging a scorching .595 hitting accuracy after connecting on 22 hits in 37 attempts at bat to lead Winsor Peter and Brady Ubedei in the individual race for the league's batting champion.

Peter of Pepsi/SPEC belted the ball 24 times in his 41 plate appearances for a .585 mark while Ubedei of the Warriors is norming a .579 after slamming the ball 22 times in his 38 plate appearances.

The league's homerun leader Jojo Attao of I Luv You Man is in fourth while Mel Sakisat of the Bombers checks in at fifth.

Attao racked his hits to 25

Continued on page 63



Seattle SuperSonics' Sam Perkins, left, goes for two points against Houston Rockets' Charles Barkley in the first quarter Wednesday, May 7, 1997, in Houston. Barkley was called for a foul and no basket was scored. AP

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