



Marianas Variety

News
& Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 25 No. 135

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Thursday • September 25, 1997

Salpan, MP 96950

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Fish catch dwindles

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

COMMERCIAL fish catch is seen to decline almost by half the annual average this year as the Commonwealth begins to feel the effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon, officials say.

Despite this however, Fish and Wildlife Deputy Director Richard Seman assured there will be no drastic increases in prices of sea produce.

The dwindling fish catch, Seman explained, is caused by migration of the fishes to cooler waters in Fiji and Papua New

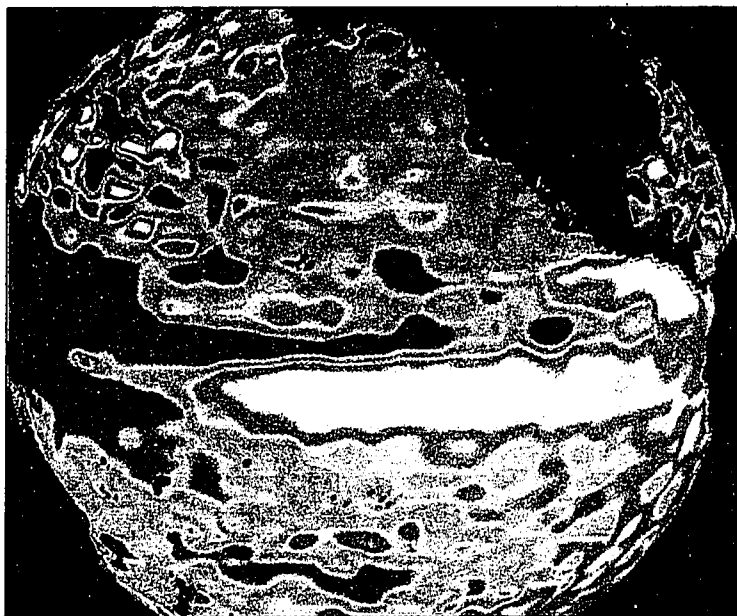
NMI fishermen hardest hit as effect of El Nino is felt

Guinea.

Seman said the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has, over the years, "developed a data collection indicating a pattern" of fish migration from the Northern Mariana Islands brought about by El Nino.

"This year is the year it (migration) is forecast to happen. And it is happening," said Seman.

The low fish catch will be felt for the whole duration of the weather phenomenon, he said.



This image taken from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's internet site Tuesday of the Pacific Ocean provides information that the El Nino is back and getting stronger. The red and white area indicates a large mass of warm water. Worldwide experts said 1997-98 could bring the worst El Nino in 150 years. AP

"We cannot do much about it except to make sure people are aware that the fishes are not gone... they're just away for a while," Seman said.

The Commonwealth's yearly commercial fish catch is pegged at 400,000 lbs, all consumed locally, Seman said.

The figure, he noted, is a conservative estimate since a lot of island residents "also go out there (at the sea) and catch fish for their own consumption."

With El Nino creeping by, Seman said this year's fish catch may only reach 200,000 lbs.

"Fish prices won't go up. If it does, I think there won't be much difference," he said.

An El Nino occurs when the westward trade winds blowing across the tropical Pacific Ocean weaken.

This allows a mass of warm water that the wind normally

Continued on page 24

House passes bill to give OPA probers more power



Oscar M. Babauta

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE of Representatives has passed a bill that would allow investigators of the Office of the Public Auditor to issue search warrants and, if needed, to carry handguns. Introduced by Rep. Oscar M.

Babauta (R-Saipan), House Bill 10-425 proposes to provide law enforcement powers to OPA's investigators.

It now heads to the Senate.

Prior to the roll call vote on the bill, House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan) noted that the legislation would only result in the duplication of what the Attorney General's Office (AGO) is already doing.

For their part, Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan) and Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan) pointed out the bill's "vagueness" and failure to "set boundaries" for OPA investigators.

"Would these investigators

Continued on page 24

Overcrowded barracks may cost local garment factory more than \$250,000

THE COMMONWEALTH Division of Labor has found that S.R. Corporation, a Saipan garment factory, violated CNMI labor law with its overcrowded barracks and has proposed a package of fines and refunds to employees totaling more than a quarter of a million dollars, the Administration said.

S.R. Corporation was the recent target of an expose by the TV tabloid show, Inside Edi-

tion, the Administration said in a news release.

It added that a "Determination and Notice of Violation" tells the company about Labor's finding that 94 employees were not given sufficient sleeping space as required by law.

"With a \$500 fine for each violation, the total would be \$47,000," the release said.

Because the factory's employment contract provides that \$100

is to be deducted each month, the 'Determination' proposes that all 262 employees be refunded their money, for a total of \$209,600.

An administrative hearing officer at the Department of Labor and Immigration will hear the case October 22nd and may order additional sanctions against the company.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio wel-

Continued on page 24



Historic Preservation Office personnel (right) search the ground for more human bones as members of the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team watch behind at the pathway project site along Beach Road in Chalan Laulau yesterday. The workers also dug up 13 beach mines in the area. Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

13 live beach mines, human bones found in pathway site

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

CONSTRUCTION at a portion of the Beach Road pathway project in Chalan Laulau has been stopped since Tuesday afternoon after 13 live land mines and human bones were dug up.

According to a member of U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team, the bombs are called Japanese beach mines which are powerful enough to destroy a vessel.

These types of bombs, the Navy officer said, were usually buried in shallow water or along the beachside during World War II.

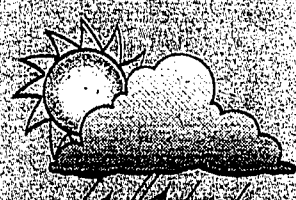
The Variety gathered that workers from AMB Construction found four bombs Tuesday at about 2 p.m. while digging on the beachside for the pathway project.

Emergency Management Of-

fice immediately stopped any further excavation work as it sought assistance from the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team.

Continued on page 24

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers



Japanese Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma, left, and Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi, second left, join hands with U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright after reaching a new deal to expand military cooperation, in a New York hotel Tuesday. AP

US, Japan forge new military ties

By Barry Schweid
NEW YORK (AP)—Japan and the United States agreed Tuesday to expand their military cooperation while telling a suspicious China there was no reason to be anxious.

The accord was sealed by senior American and Japanese Cabinet officials in a spacious hotel conference room lined by ramrod-erect military officers of the two countries.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said Japan's new role would include providing support for U.S. military operations, search and rescue efforts and evacuations.

He said the new guidelines also mean the United States and Japan "will work together" if Japan is threatened.

"The alliance is going to be the cornerstone of peace in the 21st century," Cohen said.

China eyes the new arrangement suspiciously. "If it interferes with a third party, it will disrupt the peaceful situation" in Asia, a Chinese spokesman said in Beijing.

But Cohen said it was not aimed at any third nation and Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi said Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had explained the agreement on a trip to Beijing.

Still, Obuchi conceded "some concerns will remain."
"We will provide in-depth explanations of the new guidelines to China, (South) Korea and other nations" attending the 52nd U.N. General Assembly session, he said.

The deal was celebrated in a photo-op four-way handshake. Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright represented the United States; Obuchi and Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma, Japan.

Albright said the agreement promotes peace and stability for all nations in Asia.

None of the four officials, speaking at a news conference, identified who might pose a threat to Japan as it slowly emerges from an anti-military stance a half-century after its punishing defeat in World War II.

S. Korea: North should join IMF

HONG KONG (AP) - North Korea should join the world's leading financial institutions - the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund - a South Korean official said Wednesday.

It appeared to be the first time that Seoul has publicly urged Pyongyang to join the World Bank and IMF.

But in the past Seoul has supported the hard-line communist country's wish to join the Asian Development Bank.

In a speech at the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, Kyong Shik Kang, governor of South Korea's central bank, said his government "welcomes North Korea's future participation in these institutions and is ready to support and assist North Korea in the process of meet-

ing the prerequisites of accession." Kyong acknowledged that such a move by the North could be "a sensitive issue, especially given its policy of isolation and the political and economic questions involved."

But he also said that it "would expedite its integration into the world economy and contribute significantly to the political and economic stability of East Asia."

The two Koreas never signed a peace treaty after their 1950-53 Korea War, and their border remains the most heavily guarded in the world. Since then, the South's capitalism has made it a major economy in Asia, while the North's Soviet-style communism has left it impoverished. It is now suffering a famine caused by droughts.

Prison term for Hanbo owner upheld by court

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - An appeals court upheld a 15-year prison sentence Wednesday for the owner of a bankrupt steel firm convicted of embezzling company funds and bribing government officials.

But the Seoul Appellate Court reduced prison terms handed down by a lower court against a former Cabinet minister and six others, while increasing the sentence of one of the defendants.

They were also ordered to forfeit 3.5 billion won (\$3.9 million), equal to the amount they were accused of taking in bribes.

Hanbo Steel Industries Co., the nation's second largest steel company, collapsed in January under the weight of \$6 billion in debt, most of it in low-interest, government-controlled loans.

The investigation into the bankruptcy and the bribes-for-loans scheme damaged the credibility of President Kim Young-sam when some close associates were found to be implicated.

Hanbo owner Chung Tae-soo, 73, was found guilty of embezzling 191 billion won (\$213 million) and using a portion of it to bribe government officials, politicians and bank officials.

"The accused Chung Tae-soo deserves heavy punishment for having caused social confusion and shocked the people through his abnormal and immoral manner of conducting business," Senior Judge Hwang In-hang said in sentencing Chung.

Prosecutors had sought a 20-year term for Chung, and longer prison terms for the politicians, former bankers and government officials convicted by the lower court.

Under South Korean law, both the defendants and prosecution have a week to appeal the sentences to the nation's highest court.

Chung's 43-year-old son, Chung Bo-kun, who ran the steel company on behalf of his father and was found guilty of helping his father embezzle the money, was given a suspended sentence.

Prosecutors had demanded that Bo-kun, who was sentenced to three years by the lower court, be sentenced to six years.

Former Home Minister Kim Woo-suk, sentenced to four years by the lower court, was given a suspended term, as was former ambassador to China Hwang Byong-tae.



Deborah Parry

British nurse convicted of murder, faces death in Saudi

By FAIZA SALEH AMBAH
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - A Saudi court has found a British nurse guilty of murdering a colleague, and she could become the first Westerner beheaded in the kingdom, lawyers for the victim said Tuesday.

The International Law Firm announced the verdict against Deborah Parry - handed down Aug. 17 - and said a second British nurse, Lucille McLauchlan, was convicted of being an accessory and sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years in prison.

Lawyers for the British nurses said their families were "appalled" by the reported verdicts and added: "It is difficult to comment or indeed understand what has happened."

A death sentence - traditionally public beheading - can be com-

muted to a prison term if the family of the victim, Yvonne Gilford, urges clemency. Her brother, Frank Gilford, had consistently said he would not do so.

A statement issued jointly Wednesday by Australian lawyers representing the British nurses and those representing the Gilford family denied reports that the victim's brother had waived his rights to push for the death penalty. That report had been attributed to one of the nurse's lawyers, Salah Al-Hejailan.

"Mr. Gilford has not waived any rights that he may have," the joint statement said, adding that lawyers on both sides were continuing discussions.

Earlier in London, the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, told Channel 4 News that he believed

an agreement had been reached with Gilford.

"This being the case, of course, the death penalty will no longer apply at any point," he said. He did not expand on his comments.

Parry, 38, and McLauchlan, 31, were arrested after Gilford's body was found with multiple stab wounds at a medical center in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran on Dec. 11. Gilford, an Australian, was 55.

Before the killing, all three nurses were at a party that ended with them quarreling, the Al-Hayat newspaper said. It did not say what caused the dispute.

Other local newspaper reports said McLauchlan and Parry were arrested after using Gilford's credit cards to withdraw money from her bank account. The nurses' lawyers deny the

women used the victim's cards.

If Parry is executed, she would be the first Westerner to be beheaded in Saudi Arabia; dozens of foreigners, mostly Asians convicted of drug smuggling, have been beheaded.

The British Foreign Office was unable to confirm the death sentence report and said it suspected it could be wrong. But British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, in New York to attend the opening of the U.N. General Assembly, said he was "deeply distressed" at McLauchlan's punishment.

"We regard such a sentence as wholly unacceptable in the modern world, and we are very anxious to do all we can to make sure it is understood this sentence should never be carried out," he said.

EAGI seeks Rasa receipts



David M. Cing

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing (D-Tinian) has asked the Department of Finance to turn over all copies of checks issued to Oscar C. Rasa who, as consultant, was paid more than \$600,000 by the Tinian casino gaming commission.

Cing, in a letter Tuesday to act-

ing Finance Secretary Gabriel Camacho, said Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has claimed that the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) was "incorrect" in estimating how much Rasa was paid.

During the Sept. 15 Senate hearing on the commission, OPA revealed that the former House speaker convicted of corruption-related charges in 1989 got \$48,000 for "relocation expenses" when he moved from California to Tinian, \$100,000 in professional fees, and a portion of \$16,000 for housing allowance.

Further, documents presented by OPA showed that Rasa also received \$543,000 from the commission for still unknown reasons.

Acting commission chair Antonio S. Borja has said that based on a memo signed by the commission chair Jose P. Mafnas months

ago, Rasa was ordered to "investigate" casino vendors in the mainland U.S.

He said Rasa is expected to return to Tinian by this week.

Cing, who chairs the Senate probe, said once they "grill" Mafnas and commission executive director Paul Palmer, "we'll go after Mr. Rasa."

He said he last saw Rasa on Tinian five months ago.

Meanwhile, Cing has asked the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee to allot \$1.5 million of the \$7.1 supplemental funds for the operation of the Tinian casino gaming commission, which has been financially dependent on the Office of the Governor.

But Cing said that any funding for the commission will be "conditional, to avoid uncontrolled spending."

He has also asked the committee an additional \$1 million for the continuation of Tinian's road improvement project.

Yesterday's Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee hearing on the budget requests of the Office of the Management and Budget, Department of Finance, Public Works and Labor and Immigration was rescheduled to Tuesday, Sept. 30.

House adopts a resolution asking Education Board not to fire Torres

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

DESPITE Minority Leader Dino M. Jones's (D-Saipan) privilege speech detailing the commissioner of education's "unsatisfactory performance," the House of Representatives yesterday gave its support to a resolution asking the Board of Education not to fire William S. Torres.

House Resolution 10-45 was adopted by a "show of hands" vote of 10 to 5.

The resolution was introduced by Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind.-Saipan), but it was Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) who, in his own privilege speech, argued for its adoption.

The commissioner, he said, should face BOE to answer the board members' accusations.

"If (the commissioner) should be blamed for the (Public School System's) ineptness, why didn't BOE fire him?"

However, he added, BOE even renewed Torres' contract for two more years.

"Why is that?" Hofschneider said.

"All his decisions were done under the authority and with the knowledge of the board. Did he do something



William S. Torres

the board wasn't informed about? We have to know."

He said under Torres' leadership, almost all PSS schools have been accredited.

"This is a mark of a person willing to work with principals, teachers and parents. Why can't the board work with him?"

The "problem," he said, is "attitudinal."

Jones, who brought in dozens of documents on the performance of PSS under Torres, disagrees.

"There's no attitudinal problem," he told the Variety yesterday.

"I'm speaking of his performance and not him as a person. There's nothing personal between me and the commissioner, but we do have professional differences," said Jones, who was BOE vice

chair prior to winning a House seat in 1995.

H.R. 10-45 is asking BOE to allow Torres to complete his four-year contract with PSS, which ends on Aug. 27, 1999.

Citing Torres' "pivotal role," the resolution states that his termination will cause "undue uncertainty and produce an untimely void in education leadership."

Torres late last month was given a 60-day termination notice following a closed door meeting of the board.

The board, in an executive session held on Rota last July, voted to terminate Torres' contract after OPA came out with a draft report alleging mismanagement of the Marianas High School gym project.

Board chair Don Farrell told the Variety early last month that "in light of other continuing problems with the administration of public education," the board voted unanimously to fire Torres if the final OPA report confirms the draft report.

The Superior Court, however, ruled last week that Torres' termination was improperly done.

Farrell said the board will still vote to oust Torres, but this time in an open session.



Emergency Management Office staff Joe Basa inspects five of the 13 live beach mines dug up at the construction site of pathway project along Beach Road in Chalan Lamlau yesterday afternoon.

Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

Tourist convicted, fined for stealing cosmetics, earrings

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A JAPANESE female tourist has been convicted for stealing cosmetics and earrings from Duty Free Garapan last Sept. 18.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas in an order issued Tuesday found Nana Tanaka guilty of theft.

Bellas ordered Tanaka to pay \$150 fine.

Tanaka appeared in court without a lawyer during a hearing. She admitted committing the offense.

After paying the fine, the tourist was allowed to go back to Japan.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office filed yesterday charges against a man who

stole items from Price Costco and struggled with an arresting police officer.

Juan K. Rabauliman was charged with theft and obstructing justice in the lower court.

Court information showed that last Sept. 5 Rabauliman stole wine and sunglasses at Price Costco.

Rabauliman engaged in a physical struggle with a police officer when the latter was attempting to arrest and handcuff him, the complaint stated.

The defendant allegedly ran away from the officer, the complaint added.

Rabauliman was summoned to appear in court to answer the charges on Oct. 20.

Saipan suffers from office space glut, says report

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
SAIPAN is suffering from a glut of mostly substandard or poorly built offices, says the Bank of Hawaii economic report on the CNMI.

The report was launched the other day.

It said the total area of office space on the island is believed to be one million square feet of which about half is considered substandard and most of it vacant.

The surplus in office space was brought about when Korean speculators imitated the Japanese who had cashed in on office rentals.

But the Koreans "arrived at the party too late," said the report, which was written by Wali M. Osman.

The report said most of the vacant office buildings are located along Middle Road, with some

suffering from poor quality of construction, poorly designed road access, and sometimes lack of parking spaces.

Only about 5 to 10 percent of the office space is Class A, the report said.

It said most of the substandard space had been vacant for years.

The report also said the office buildings were built without regard for market demand.

"Since Japanese speculators had reaped large gains from their properties in Saipan as they had in Hawaii and Guam, the expectation of quick profits induced later developers, both local and Korean, into a building spree that would otherwise not have occurred," the report said.

The glut in office space has in fact led the Commonwealth Development Authority to impose a moratorium on loans for commercial buildings.

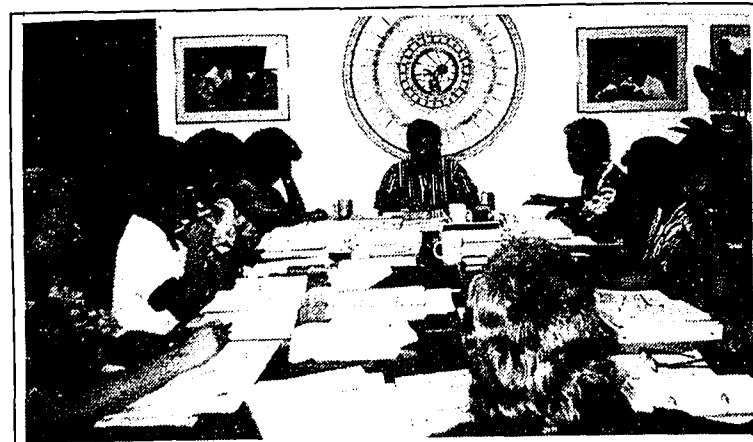


NMC Board grants nominees full participation in meetings

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Froilan Tenorio's three nominees for Northern Marianas College Board of Regents were granted "full participation" by NMC's presiding Board members in a meeting yesterday.

Nominees Elizabeth D. Rechebei, Juan T. Guerrero, and Felicidad T. Ogunoro will be able to "participate" in regular Board meetings, which includes "voting privileges," according to NMCBOR Acting Chair Justin Manglona.

"We followed the letter from the Governor, citing that the nominees can serve temporarily until they get confirmed by the Senate," said



Northern Marianas College Regents peruse communications during a day-long meeting yesterday at NMC conference room. At the head of the table is acting NMC Regents Chair Justin Manglona.

Photo by Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.

Manglona.

"Our definition of 'serving' includes voting. So the Board decided the nominees can 'fully participate' in our meetings," he said.

"I'm all for it and I'm ready to work. I think that they (Board) have confidence in the new members," said Ogunoro.

"I took the decision to mean that we are accepted and I'm so excited about this new challenge. I'm ready to work to make NMC an excellent institution for our people of the Commonwealth," she said.

Despite a "majority" vote from the Board, questions of legality concerning "temporary" board members were raised.

In a letter to the nominees the governor pointed out, that "pursuant to 1 CMC 2902's 'temporary appointment' provision, you (nominee) will have the full authority to act as a Board member during the time your appointment is pending before the Senate."

NMC BOR Legal Counsel Kenneth Govendo disagrees.

"A Board member or a Commission member is not a Board member or a Commission member until they

are confirmed by the Senate," Govendo said.

"I believe that 1 CMC 2902 which the Governor cited was created by the 1st Legislature for the temporary appointment of cabinet members," he explained.

"In the past, Board members have not acted until they were confirmed. It is a two-step process, a nomination from the Governor and a confirmation from the Senate," he said.

"There has never been a problem in appointing Board members and this situation has never come up before," he added.

"We were concerned because, for example, if we only have two full Board members and five 'temporary' board members, and we decided to fire the President and then all five nominees get rejected by the Senate," said Manglona.

"What does that mean? Do we have to go back on the decision? It is these kinds of legal questions we don't want to get into," he said.

"We will prefer that the nominees do not vote, however, if the Governor's letter supports it, then I suppose it was cleared with the Attorney General's Office," he added.

Oral History Assoc. invites entries to awards contest

THE ORAL History Association invites applications for three awards to be presented in 1998 which will recognize outstanding work in the field.

Awards will be given for a published article or essay that uses oral history to advance an important historical interpretation or addresses significant theoretical or methodological issues.

Also to be considered are:

- a completed oral history project that addresses significant historical subject or theme and exemplifies excellence in oral history methodology;
- a postsecondary educator involved in undergraduate, graduate, continuing, or professional education who made outstanding use of oral history in the classroom.

In all cases, awards will be given for work published or completed

between April 1, 1996, and March 30, 1998.

Awards are honorific and will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, to be held October 15-18, 1998, in Buffalo, New York.

The Association welcomes entries and nominations from all who practice oral history, including academic scholars and educators, public history institutions and practitioners, independent professionals, libraries and archives, community-based groups and individuals, and others.

For guidelines and Submission information, write Oral History Association, Baylor University, P.O. Box 97234, Waco, TX 76798-7234; e-mail, OHA.Support@Baylor, or see the OHA home page: <http://www.baylor.edu/OHA/>.

Deadline for receipt of all nomination materials is April 1, 1998.

OPA looks into alleged misuse of 'Challenger'

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Office of the Public Auditor is looking into allegations that the government boat CNMI Challenger has been used to ferry political supporters of re-electionist Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and his runningmate Saipan Mayor Jesus Guerrero to a political fund raising.

An unidentified "concerned Tinian taxpayer and CPA employee" had written Public Auditor Leo LaMotte last Sept. 8 asking the latter to investigate the matter.

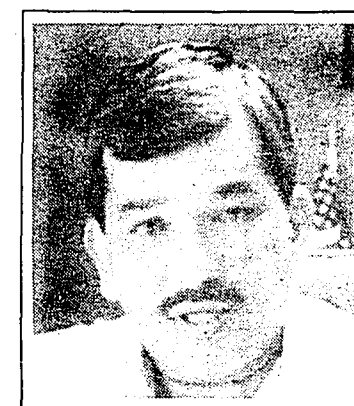
The letter writer said the CNMI Challenger transported last Sept. 5 "several Tinian residents and officials" to Saipan for the Tenorio-Guerrero, or Lang/Gere, team's fund-raising event.

The boat, according to the letter writer, had just completed removing World War II vintage bombs in the Tinian port and was on its way back to Tinian.

The letter writer said the same group of Tinian residents made the trip back to Tinian aboard the CNMI Challenger the following day "at the taxpayers' expense."

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, chair of the judiciary and government operation, who was provided a copy of the letter by the writer, has also written the LaMotte asking for the status of the letter sender's request.

"I am sure that your office has



Oscar M. Babauta



Leo LaMotte

begun an initial fact finding of what transpired on the mentioned dates [Sept. 5 and 6]," Babauta told LaMotte.

Babauta told the Variety that he had discussed the anonymous letter with LaMotte and that the latter assured him that the OPA would look into the allegations.

LaMotte, meanwhile, said they still didn't know up to what extent OPA's probe will go.

"Whatever evidence we can

gather will determine how far we can go in the investigation," LaMotte told the Variety.

"If it's something significant, then we'll spend more time on it (investigation)," LaMotte added.

Under the law, public officials or public employees are prohibited from using public fund, time, personnel, or equipment for political activity unless authorized by law or is incidental to a legally authorized or required activity.

Chinese community to construct own building

THE Chinese community is trying to raise about \$200,000 more for the proposed two-story building for its Chinese Association to be built in Garapan.

Already, some \$200,000 has been raised, according to the association's officials.

The building, which will house the association's offices, the Saipan Chinese School, and the Saipan Chinese News, is estimated to cost \$400,000.

The association will be holding a fund-raising walkathon on Oct. 19.

According to Shirley Wang, publicity officer, the walkathon will start at 7 a.m. from the Civic Center in Susupe to the Micro Beach.

Wang said everybody including

people of other nationalities is welcome to participate. Prospective participants aged 16 and below have to get the permission of their parents or guardians, Wang said.

A participant has to get a sponsor who will pay at least \$30, Wang said. Wang said they expect about 200 people to join the walkathon.

Other fund raises the Chinese Association will undertake include T-shirt sale, raffle, and a fund-raising party. A non-profit organization, the Chinese Association of Saipan was founded in 1987.

It has at present over 300 company and individual members. Mr. Tan Bun Kuy heads the association. —Rick Alberto

ISLAND SPECIAL

\$95 DAILY RATE INCL. BREAKFAST
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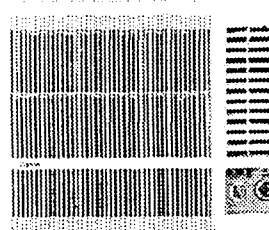
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Inventory Sale

SEPT. 12 - OCT. 11

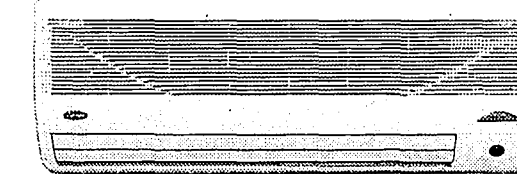
"Take Advantage of our Overstocked Position"

WINDOW A/C



- 7200 BTU \$375
- 24500 BTU \$888

HI-WALL SPLIT



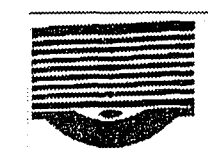
- 9000 BTU \$899
- 25000 BTU \$1,749

UNDER CEILING SPLIT

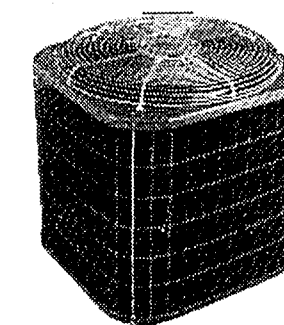


- 36000 BTU \$1,999
- 48000 BTU \$2,599
- 60000 BTU \$2,750

NEW DESIGN



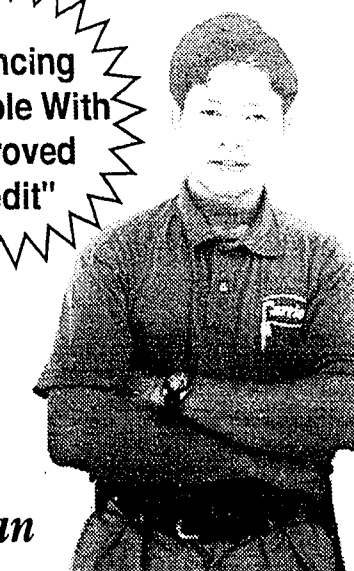
48000 BTU
SLIM PACKAGE
\$2,790



CARRIER HOT LINE:
233-2665
(COOL)

- UNBEATABLE SERVICE
- OUTSTANDING QUALITY
- LARGEST SELECTION ON SAIPAN

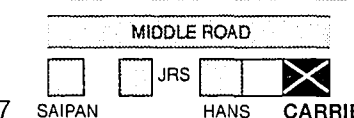
Financing
Available With
Approved
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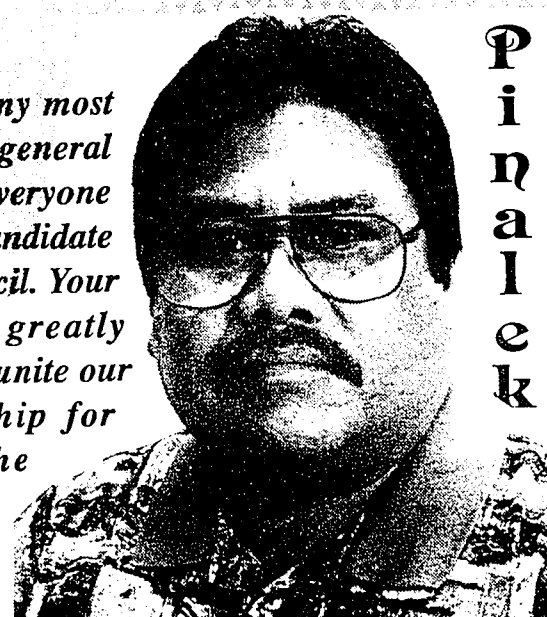
The Carrier Man Can



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Jesus San Nicolas Lizama

Candidate for

SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND NORTHERN ISLANDS

Paid for by the Committee to Elect, Chairman Martin B. Ada

BSA releases its payroll at DOLI

A STILL undetermined number of nonresident workers, employed by the Benavente Security Agency, yesterday trooped to the Department of Labor and Immigration to get their paychecks. This followed a recent directive ordering the firm's management officials to release payments at DOLI office for closer supervision.

Tina Kirtley, an investigator for the U.S. labor department which monitored the payroll releases along with DOLI officials, said they still have to iron out whether all workers were accounted for.

The payroll release was originally set for Sept. 22.

Its delay was caused by a trip

BSA owner, Antonio Benavente, took to Guam supposedly to attend to his daughter's medical needs.

Benavente has, upon arrival back to Saipan, assured the payment was to push through yesterday.

The decision to release the payments before DOLI officials was reached after it was established that closer supervision is needed to determine whether or not Benavente is paying all his workers the right amount on time.

The delay in the payments has earlier further bolstered suspicions Benavente is hitting financial rock bottom and is merely trying to buy time to evade prosecution for a range of alleged labor abuses.

Pro-worker slant of some DOLI men lashed by Jones

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Dino Jones has called for a House probe on two officials of the Department of Labor and Immigration over the alleged "pro-worker" stance the latter have taken in handling labor disputes.

"The decisions usually issued by the officers are favoring the employees," said Jones, referring to Linn Asper and Herbert Sull, supervisor and attending officer, respectively of DOLI's Administrative Hearing Office (AHO).

"There should be no favoritism. A decision has to be made in accor-

dance with applicable laws and strictly be confined to the provisions of employment contracts," stressed Jones. AHO hears complaints filed by employers and employees, rendering decisions the parties involved are directed to observe.

The matter stemmed from a decision Asper recently penned in which the official allegedly gave undue consideration to the plight of the four car mechanics involved in the labor dispute.

The four, who complained of unfair labor practices, were allowed to seek temporary employment.

The employer, according to Jones, wants them back as he has already

invested a hefty sum on them.

The four workers formed part of the employer's six-man car repair shop.

"I am seeking investigation of decision issued by the erring officers," said Jones.

The workers' employer sought his assistance on the matter.

House Speaker Diego Benavente, it was gathered, has assigned Rep. Karl T. Reyes, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor and Immigration to handle the matter.

Variety tried but failed to reach the DOLI officials for their comments on the matter.

Takeover's effect on workers to be felt back home, says Sablan

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

NONRESIDENT workers maintaining businesses in their home country may see their establishments folding up once the federal authorities begin their gradual control of the Commonwealth's labor and immigration affairs, it was gathered yesterday.

Ron Sablan, Chair of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, in an interview, said a lot of workers employed by the industry have managed to acquire real estates and have even ventured into medium-scale enterprises through their earnings.

A takeover of labor and immigration laws, authorities say, would result to a systematic pullout of these workers from the CNMI, thereby rendering them financially incapable of maintaining their businesses.

No immediate figures were readily available but it was learned that "hundreds" of the estimated 30,000 nonresident workers have acquired motorized bancas, taxis and other public utility vehicles, or have ventured into the buy-and-sell business involving ready-to-wear clothing and jewelries.

"I, for instance, have employees that have both land and houses. I also have employees that have businesses there," said Sablan.

"Obviously what they're earning here is more than sufficient for just their day-to-day survival."

Sablan agreed that a federal takeover would not only cause regressions in the tourism industry but as well create a crippling ripple that will go as far away as these businesses established by the workers in their countries.

HANMI, he said, is currently formulating a survey questionnaire which will be handed out to a sample size of the 1,700 nonresident workers employed by the tourism industry.

"We are trying to find out whether what they (employees) are earning here is sufficient to accommodate their living standards ... if it is enough to support their families back home and whether what they sent home improves their situation over there," Sablan explained.

The survey is part of a comprehensive study commissioned by HANMI to at least two research firms to establish a federal takeover's impact on the industry.

"We want to make sure that when we go the U.S. Congress to present our position we have something to justify our claim," Sablan said.

The study, he added, is expected to be completed by November.

CPA plans \$80M bond

ALTHOUGH the \$140 million bond for airport and seaport projects on Tinian had been shelved by the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Chairman Victor B. Hocog announced yesterday CPA will be floating an \$80 million bond instead for Saipan and Rota airport and seaport projects, CPA disclosed in a news release.

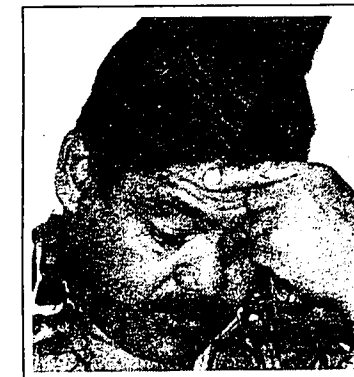
If the floating of the bond in the U.S. open market is successful, Hocog said CPA would retire the \$22.5 million bond floated in 1995 for the Saipan Harbor project, and the \$5.2 million 1987 airport bond for the Saipan International Airport.

Rota's seaport project is expected to cost about \$25 million to expand and renovate.

IN addition, CPA proposes to spend \$12.5 million for the Saipan International Airport for construction of a new Departure Building and add new check-in counters in an effort to keep up with the growth.

CPA plans to spend an additional \$15 million for the Saipan Harbor to purchase gantry crane to speed up loading and unloading of cargoes, pave the entire dockside area, as well as deepened the harbor top minus 45 feet deep.

Currently, some areas of the Saipan harbor are minus 38 feet. Several months ago, the Board



Victor B. Hocog

voted to deepened it to minus 40 feet. But Hocog said he will ask the entire Board members to deepened it further to minus 45 feet to accommodate larger vessels including U.S. military ships.

"We are floating the bond to complete these projects to meet the future economic growth of these two islands," Hocog said. "We believe that the economic growth of the Commonwealth will enable CPA to repay the bond in the future."

Unlike the economic growth on Tinian which are only anticipated, there is a strong indication that the economic development on Saipan and Rota will continue to grow.

The Board on September 12 voted not to proceed with the proposed \$140 million bond for Tinian after the Tinian Municipal Council

passed an ordinance to earmark annually \$1.2 million to assist in repayment of the Bond was submitted to the Board, minus the signatures of two members of the Tinian Joint Legislative Delegation, Senators David Cing and Stephen King.

The Board, said these are legal

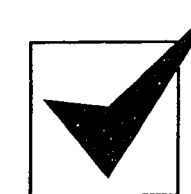
questions on whether the ordinance without the signatures of all Tinian Joint Legislative Delegation members is deemed approved.

The Governor last Wednesday returned the ordinance back to the Rep. Joaquin G. Adriano, Chairman of the Tinian Joint Legislative Delegation, stating he cannot act

on it because the ordinance does not contain the required information of signatures.

Hocog said he deeply regrets the decision not to float the \$140 bond for Tinian airport and seaport projects at this time, adding that the Board will continue to explore other avenues of funding.

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ATALIG

JOAQUIN QUITUGUA

FOR
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AGAINST FEDERAL TAKEOVER

Atalig pushes funding for Rota generator, new school



Ricardo S. Atalig

SENATOR Ricardo S. Atalig has urged the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee to incorporate what he deemed to be "critical amendments" to the FY98 budget.

In a letter to Committee Chairman Senator Henry DLG. San Nicolas, Atalig stressed that representatives from CUC have informed the Rota Delegation that the existing generation capacity for Rota is insufficient.

Atalig also stated that, "presently two Mitsui engines in Rota are running at 80% capacity with no stand-by or back-up at all."

If either engine goes down, a section of the island would have to be without power.

"There is an unequivocal need for stand-by power generation capacity to fulfill the back-up requirement and I am requesting that a fully operational 2.5 MW engine, at the cost of \$3 million, be added to H.B. 10-447, HD3."

In addition, the Sinapalo Elementary School is in dire need of funds to ensure that it will open as scheduled," he said.

"I am requesting that an additional \$400,000 be allocated for this purpose. It would be a gross dereliction of duty on my part if I were to approve a budget that did not address these critical areas," said Atalig.

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The Choice is Clear.

High court reverses jury ruling

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPREME Court has cleared a Bank of Guam executive and his wife of fraud in connection with a \$1 million lawsuit filed in 1993 over a land deal dispute.

The high tribunal reversed the verdict of a jury in the Superior Court against Mike Naholowaa, vice president for BOG Loan Adjustment Department, and his wife Ana Naholowaa.

According to the decision penned last Sept. 17 by Justices Ramon G. Villagomez and Pedro M. Atalig and Special Judge Juan T. Lizama, the verdict is clearly erroneous because the jury made a finding of fraud without any

evidence to support essential elements of such act. Felicidad C. Boddy sued the Naholowaa couple for alleged misrepresentation over a land transaction. Boddy also named as defendants BOG Chairman Jesus S. Leon Guerrero and wife Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero. The court, however, dismissed their case.

The jury rendered a verdict in February 1996, finding that Mike (Naholowaa) defrauded Boddy by misrepresenting a material fact. The jury awarded plaintiff with \$231,000 in compensatory and punitive damages.

The Naholowaa couple, through counsel John A. Manglona, appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

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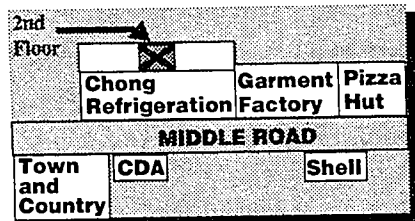
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Tenorio to veto bill restricting foreign investment in tourism

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio on Tuesday said he will veto the bill that would allow only U.S. citizens or nationals to operate tourism-related recreational businesses.

"What's happening now is that the local people get into it and then sell it or lease it to outsiders afterwards," he said.

But Tenorio, an advocate of free enterprise policies, said he expects legislators to come up with similar legislation.

It's election year and they're trying to look good to the local people—it's politics as usual," he

said. Citing the need to protect the interests of the CNMI's local people, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 10-295 last Jan. 12, despite its possible conflict with the U.S. Constitution.

All of the 15 members present voted for the bill, which now goes to the Senate.

Introduced by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan), H.B. 10-295 states that only companies that is 51-percent-owned by U.S. citizens or nationals should be allowed to rent or lease scuba and snorkeling gear, windsurfing boards, parasails, water ski, jet skis or other single or double rider power-operated water craft, paddle boats, banana boats and canoes.

The bill proposes that at least 51 percent of the company's directors or officers, including the chief executive officer or president, should be U.S. citizens or nationals before it can engage in tourism-related recreational businesses.

Further, concessions that sell food and or beverages "operating from non-portable facilities" built on public land must also be owned or controlled by U.S. citizens or nationals.

Car-riding snatchers in CK

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

CAR-riding snatcher grabbed the purse of a woman who was walking along a road near William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa District 3 Wednesday afternoon.

The 40-year-old woman of Chalan Kanoa said her purse contained \$300 cash, identification card, passport, and keys.

The woman told the police that while she was walking along the road she stopped to fix her sandal.

When the victim put her purse on the ground, a car drove next to her. An unidentified person then grabbed the purse and fled on

board the car, police said. Police placed the case under further investigation.

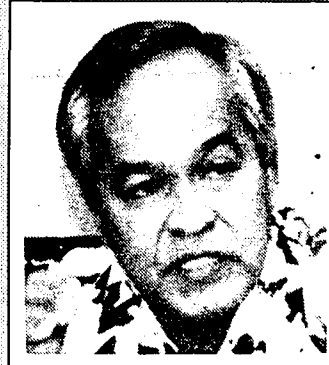
Meanwhile, a 24-year-old Japanese male tourist nearly drowned while swimming at Managaha Island Tuesday morning.

The tourist was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for further observation.

At Naftan Point, search and rescue operations continued yesterday to locate the missing 53-year-old Japanese male tourist who was reported missing since Saturday afternoon.

Police said the search will be stopped if the team could not find the body until today.

Gov. Tenorio supports Smithsonian's exhibit about US sweatshops



Froilan C. Tenorio

IN A rare case of agreement between Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and California Rep. George Miller, both men have written to the head of the Smithsonian Institution to support an upcoming exhibit "sweatshops" in the American garment industry, the Administration said in a news release.

According to the release, Miller has been rallying support for the exhibit among his colleagues, after learning that some in the U.S. garment and apparel trade are complaining about the bad light the exhibit places on their business and threatening to launch protests.

Particularly irritating to the manufacturers is that the exhibit is built around a recreation of an infamous California garment factory.

"It is entirely appropriate that the El Monte factory in suburban Los Angeles, where 70 Thai workers were found in conditions of peonage in 1995, should be recreated as part of the exhibit," Tenorio wrote Smithsonian Secretary I. Michael Heyman.

"Such circumstances should be utterly unacceptable and outrage any decent American."

However, Tenorio told Heyman he is "sorry to see this exhibition politicized for the purposes of anyone, be it Congressman Miller or anyone who would countenance the abuses found at El Monte or want them swept under the rug."

After mentioning El Monte, Rep. Miller brought up the recent *Inside Edition* story on "human rights" abuses in the CNMI garment industry as another example of the same problem.

"The falsehoods, misinformation and half truths presented in this piece are too many to recount here," the Governor told Heyman, "but let us just say that peonage and child labor, among the abuses associated in the public mind with the term 'sweatshops' have never been found here."

Tenorio added, "There is no question that there have been abuses of garment industry employees in the CNMI," but that local governmental reorganization and pressure on the federal government to provide enough personnel to enforce federal labor laws has done much to reduce them.

"We have shut down illegal garment operations, won settlements for workers who were under- or unpaid in the past and we will continue to be vigilant in the enforcement of our local labor laws," Governor Tenorio said.

Tenorio asked that the Smithsonian be careful with language and history in organizing its presentation: "Terms such as 'sweatshops,' 'slavery' and 'peonage' are abused every day for political purposes, as in the present instance, and are loaded with meanings that often do not comport with reality."

BDC nixes new Labor bill

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Business Development Center opposes the new proposed law to reform the CNMI's labor system.

According to NMC BDC Director Jack J.M. Peters, Comprehensive Labor Reform Act of 1997, if enacted as is, will directly conflict with "established statutes."

Specifically, Peters said the bill has provisions that may undermine the College's role in providing higher education.

Peters said the new Department of Employment and Immigration proposed under the new bill, will be delving into the business of education and thus, may encroach on NMC's functions.

The NMC by statute, is empowered with providing higher education and training programs for CNMI citizens.

"I cannot imagine what the writers of Art. I Sec. 202 were thinking. Can anyone in their right mind expect a newly-formed Department of Employment," which will probably be a restructured Department of Labor—take over the role of providing education, training and career development programs for our people? I think not!" Peters said.

"This appears to be a move to

diminish or replace the Northern Marianas College which is a proper agency with a highly-improbable program devised, developed and administered by a non-educating agency, the proposed Department of Employment," Peters laments.

Peters emphasized though that "there is no question that we need to educate and train our citizens to make them more competitive in the marketplace and help them obtain the kinds of necessary business and professional credentials needed to occupy high paying managerial and supervisory positions in our private economy."

The proposed legislation, which was worked on by the Tenorio Administration was reviewed during a recent meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Peters particularly cited Sections in the bill pertaining to "Fees, Revenues and Appropriations" and on "Employer Incentives for Educating and Training Resident Workers," as "ill-conceived."

He noted that the first provision would increase the application fees for guest worker entry permits to \$300 from the current \$200.

According to Peters, the fee increase will result to a total of \$9 million in non-resident worker fees each year for the CNMI's current 30,000 guest worker population.

Extortionist is sentenced to 4 years, 9 mos. by US court

A MAN found guilty of extortion has been sentenced to four years and nine months in prison by the federal district court.

Du, Bo had pleaded not guilty to interference with commerce by extortion.

The court also sentenced Du to three years' supervised release after his imprisonment.

One of the special conditions of his supervision is his turn-over to the Immigration for immediate deportation.

He will also have to perform 200 hours of community service.

Judge Alex R. Munson suspended the mandatory condition for drug testing as Du is not a known drug user.

According to an indictment filed last March 19, Du—on Sept. 12 and Nov. 20 last year—Du obtained the property of

Zhaoling Zhang and Qing Shen Shi through the use of force, violence and fear.

Zhaoling worked for Hollywood Night Spot, while Qing was its manager and part owner.

During the sentencing, the government recommended the

maximum sentence under the guidelines.

The defense attorney, on the other hand, recommended a downward departure to the lowest offense and sentencing levels, but the court denied the defense motion.

—Rick Alberto

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

Disaster relief experts to report about drought

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—A team of disaster relief experts is preparing an urgent report for the Australian government on the drought in Papua New Guinea as a Royal Australian Air Force Hercules transport aircraft continues flying emergency food and

medical supplies into the Western province.

Light rain was reported in the Western province as villagers in remote areas battle to cope with the worst drought in 50 years.

During the past four months severe frosts and drought associated with the El Nino effect have devastated food gardens in regions of the Western Province, Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands and Bougainville.

The Australian government has

contributed an initial assistance package of A\$500,000 (US \$361,000) and has told the PNG government it stands ready to consider further requests for assistance as a matter of urgency.

The specialist team which includes experts on logistics, health and agriculture is making a detailed assessment of the drought and will report back to both governments on areas most in need and the level of assistance required.

Military revolver believed to be used in bank robbery

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's police weapons expert, Inspector Peter Blake, believes a 38-calibre service revolver used in Monday's bank robbery at a Westpac Bank agency in Suva has been an old Fiji Military Forces issue.

However, Inspector Blake has not ruled out the possibility that the weapon could have been smuggled in from overseas, Radio Fiji reported.

Inspector Blake says the 38-

calibre revolvers are usually issued to police, soldiers and prison officers.

Police say \$F34,000 (US \$23,000) was stolen from the bank agency by four men disguised, masked and armed with the gun, pinch-bars and a knife.

Police have questioned a 29-year old suspect who'd been identified as being at the scene of the robbery.

Tonga king to open factory

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV will officially open the milk pasteurisation plant of the Tonga Dairy Processing Company Saturday.

President of the Free Wesley Church and Royal Chaplain Rev Lopeti Taufa will lead the dedication service, Radio Tonga reported.

Minister for Labour, Commerce

and Industries Dr Masaso Paunga will deliver the welcoming speech before the inaugural address by King Taufa'ahau.

Taking part in the official opening ceremony will be the major shareholders which include the Mataaliku Dairy Farm, Tupou College, Liahona High School, Sitani Mafi Company, Tonga Development Bank and the government.

Fiji asks UN: Do more for indigenous people

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji has made an impassioned plea at the United Nations General Assembly for member states to do much more for the development of the world's indigenous people.

And prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka says it's a tragedy that the values and customs of indigenous people have been destroyed by what he called "incoming population", Radio Fiji reports.

Rabuka also told the United Nations that indigenous people face discrimination in employment and education and are far worse in the non-income dimensions of poverty.

Addressing the UN general assembly in New York Tuesday, Rabuka alluded to developments in Fiji saying respect for all citizens forms the cornerstone of peaceful co-existence.



Unidentified delegates from Fiji, top left, and North Korea, right, attend the afternoon session of the United Nations General Assembly Monday. AP

Singapore Navy vessel visits Solomon Islands

HONIARA (Pacnews)—A Singaporean naval vessel, RSS Excellence, is currently on a three-day goodwill visit in Solomon Islands.

The vessel with a crew of 50 arrived in Honiara Monday, SIBC reported.

While in Honiara, the ship's officers will make courtesy calls on Solomon Islands leaders.

The crew members will participate in some community work and sporting activities.

A press statement from the Singapore government says the aim of the visit is to cultivate the value of caring and sharing within communities visited, and goodwill between Singapore and the countries visited.

8 missing people found

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—The eight people missing in Papua New Guinea waters between Kavieng and Mussau in the New Ireland province have been found safe and well.

They were found on Tabar Island after they had been in the sea three

nights and two days, NBC reported. The people were travelling to Mussau from Kavieng when their boat developed engine problem.

Meanwhile, the search for six other people missing between Wewak and Vuvulu Island is continuing.

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Nuke-free Pacific backed by Britain

LONDON (AP)—Britain said Monday it will ratify an international treaty that creates a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific, which the superpowers have for decades used as an atomic testing ground.

Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett said ratification of the Treaty of Rarotonga will come within days. The pact bans the acquisition, stationing or testing of nuclear explosive devices and the dumping of radioactive waste in the South Pacific.

"It marks an important milestone in the United Kingdom's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and our strong support for the efforts of regional states to establish a zone free from nuclear weapons," Fatchett said during a visit to the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.

The treaty, adopted by the 16-

member South Pacific Forum in 1985, covers 11.6 million square miles of ocean and tiny islands, some of which Western superpowers used for nuclear explosions.

The blasts stopped in January with France's final underground test beneath Mururoa Atoll following widespread international condemnation.

Britain conducted tests in the 1950s at Christmas Island, after it also detonated experimental bombs in the Australian Outback.

The United States did open-air nuclear weapon tests in the South Pacific in the 1950s at Bikini and Enewatak atolls, which sickened many Marshall islanders and forced their evacuation. The tests were later moved to the Nevada desert.

All three countries signed the treaty last year.

Skate: Bougainville is an internal matter

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Bill Skate, insists Bougainville is still an internal issue that can only be solved by Bougainvilleans.

Skate told reporters after attending the Rarotonga South Pacific Forum, that while the matter is internal, Forum Island nations have given undertakings that they will assist but only at the invitation of the PNG government, NBC reported.

The Opposition, however, has opposed the government's move to engage international communities and donor agencies to help facilitate and resolve the Bougainville conflict.

It has condemned the



Bill Skate

government's approach saying this is untimely and unconstitutional.

The Forum, in its communiqué, noted efforts by the government to restore peace on Bougainville and expressed its readiness to assist where-ever possible to end the conflict.

Rabuka appeals for strong global warming measures



Sitiveni Rabuka

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has appealed to the international community to agree to mandatory cut-backs in the emissions of "greenhouse gases", blamed for global warming.

The issue is critical to small Pacific island nations which fear that global warming will melt the polar ice caps, raise the sea level and threaten their very existence. The Daily Post reported.

Rabuka told the opening session of the General Assembly annual debate that for economic growth to be sustainable, as well as beneficial and of quality, the environmental factor must be brought to the forefront in all the development efforts of countries.

He said "there is still no clear commitment on the part of many developed countries to work towards achieving such environmental goals as the reduction of greenhouse gases' emissions to internationally specified limits."

Rabuka said South Pacific island states were "among the most vulnerable" to climate change from global warming.

"It is therefore imperative that all members of international community strive for a firm political commitment before the next Kyoto conference to adopt a stronger protocol to strengthen the climate change convention," he said.

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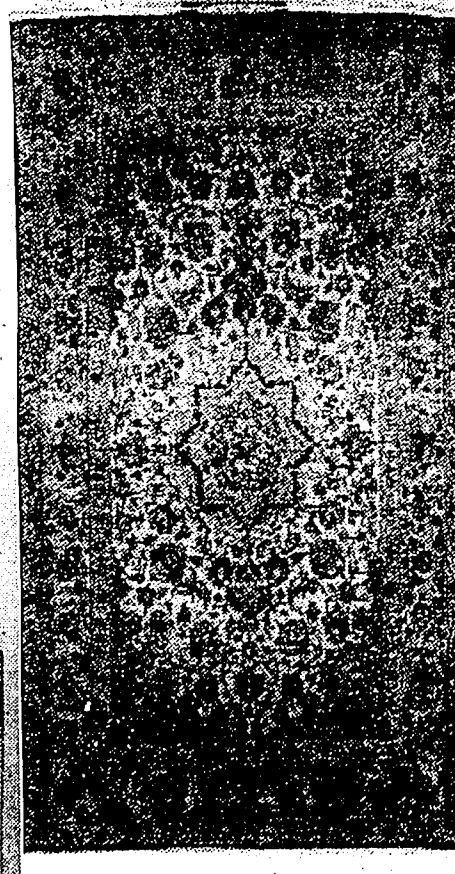
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**THINK WHEN
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RP high court rejects charter change move

By OLIVER TEVES

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out a petition seeking to allow a signature campaign to amend the constitution so President Fidel Ramos can run for re-election.

Voting 13-0, the court upheld a decision by the government's Commission on Election to reject a petition by the group People's Initiative for Reform, Modernization and Action, which claims to have gathered 6 million signatures for a plebiscite on lifting term limits on Philippine presidents.

The court also voted 8-5 that there was no need to review its two previous rulings that there is no law providing for a people's initiative to directly amend the constitution.

The latest decision by the court appears to be a final roadblock for efforts to change the constitution before the next presidential election in May 1998.

The constitution, approved a year after the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos was toppled in 1986, limits presidents to a single six-year term in



Fidel Ramos

an attempt to prevent dictatorships.

The controversy over charter changes has rocked Philippine politics and destabilized the Philippine currency and stock market.

Early in September, Ramos added fuel to the controversy by saying that he was keeping his options open on his political future.

But as hundreds of thousands of Filipinos prepared to protest against charter change this past Sunday, Ramos reversed his position and declared he will not run for re-election and will delay constitutional changes until after next May.

Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez, the Cabinet member who has been most vocal in pushing for another term for Ramos, accepted the court's decision.

"If that is the ruling of the Supreme Court, then let's respect that," Enriquez said.

Many among the country's influential Catholic clergy had expressed doubts about whether the court could withstand pressure from supporters of Ramos to vote in favor of charter changes.

Monsignor Pedro Quitorio, spokesman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said he welcomes the court's decision.

"We believe in the Supreme Court now, having upheld the interest of justice and democracy," he said. Alberto Pedrosa, president of the group that filed the petition, said he was saddened by the decision.

"The Supreme Court has spoken and the 6 million voters who signed our petition to amend the constitution have also spoken," he said. "For the moment, the voices of the 6 million have been stilled."

Philippine oil companies raise prices in response to peso drop

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Two major oil companies in the Philippines, Petron Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc., announced separately Tuesday they are immediately increasing the prices of three petroleum products.

Both companies said the increase will cover the higher peso cost of crude oil imports.

The peso has fallen nearly 28 percent against the U.S. dollar since July 11, when the Philippine central bank abandoned a costly defense of the

local currency and allowed it to trade in a wider range against the dollar.

The oil industry was deregulated earlier this year. Price increases are often the subject of protests by labor and transport driver groups.

Both companies raised the retail price of their liquefied petroleum gas, used for cooking, to 165.35 pesos (\$4.90) per 11-kilogram cylinder from 156.40 pesos (\$4.64).

The price of a liter (0.26 gallons) of aviation turbo fuel was

raised to 9.980 pesos (29 cents) from 9.3280 pesos (27 cents). The price of fuel oil was raised to 4.5230 pesos (13.4 cents) from 4.0230 pesos (11.9 cents).

The companies haven't announced any price increase for gasoline. However, they have advised their dealers that the prices of gasoline could increase on Saturday.

Petron is an affiliate of the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., and Caltex Philippines is a local subsidiary of Caltex Petroleum Corp. of the United States.



People gather around the wreckage of two passenger trains which collided early Monday at Muntinlupa city, south of Manila, killing seven people and injuring more than 200 passengers. The accident happened when three coaches of one train broke from its link with its locomotive and rolled backward into the path of an oncoming second train. Both trains were full of passengers when the accident happened.

Japan wants seat in Security Council

By Robert H. Reid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Japan is willing to pay a greater share of U.N. expenses if it gains a permanent seat on the Security Council, the Japanese foreign minister said Tuesday.

Restructuring the dues system is among the most contentious issues facing the world organization. The United States, which covers a quarter of the U.N. budget, has called for permanent membership on the powerful council for Japan and Germany, in part to encourage them to pay more so Washington can pay less.

In a speech to the General Assembly on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi noted that Japan already pays more than any of the council's five permanent members except the United States. The others are Russia, China, France and Britain.

He said Japan was open to paying more, but not without some change in its status.

"If Japan's assessment were to increase further out of proportion, with reform of the Security Council not yet realized, I must say there would be a problem with respect to

fairness of such a situation," Obuchi said.

Washington seeks to reduce its dues to 20 percent of the U.N. budget. To that end, its proposal calls for a total of five new permanent members on the council — Japan; Germany and three developing countries. But other nations have offered their own plans, some of which call for adding new non-permanent members instead of permanent members, others of which would restrict the veto power of new permanent members.

The Europeans and the Japanese want the United States to settle its debts — variously estimated between \$900 million and \$1.4 billion — before they endorse any change in U.S. dues. Developing countries, which form the overwhelming majority of U.N. members, want concessions such as Security Council seats before they agree.

Any change in either dues structure or membership must be approved by the 185-member General Assembly, which opened its annual debate Monday.

At Monday's opening session, President Clinton told the General Assembly that the White House was working

with Congress "to pay off the bulk of our arrears and assure full financing of America's assessment in the years ahead."

Congress had withheld payment to demand reforms. But Clinton says he is satisfied with Secretary-General Kofi Annan's efforts to streamline and reorganize the United Nations.

Despite the promises, America's European allies urged the United States on Tuesday to pay their bills in full and on time. The message was couched in diplomatic terms, which did not criticize the United States by name, because European diplomats said they did not want to hinder Clinton administration efforts to persuade the Republican-controlled Congress to pay the bills.

But the diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the message delivered at the gathering of world leaders was directed primarily at the U.S. Congress.

"Britain pays in full and on time," Britain's new foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said Tuesday. "Britain expects every country, however large or however small, to do the same."



Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi, left, gestures before he goes into a meeting with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, right, at the UN Monday, where the General Assembly is meeting for the 52nd time.

No US-Japan aviation deal

TOKYO (AP) - Japanese and U.S. negotiators met for a second day Tuesday in a weeklong effort to reach an agreement on how to further open their aviation markets by a mutually agreed Sept. 30 deadline.

A U.S. Embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the U.S. side had reported no new agreements as of late Tuesday.

Last week, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Alan Larson said there was a good chance the U.S. side would obtain its goal of a bilateral "open skies" agreement.

But on Monday, a Japanese official said the U.S. side had given up on an open skies agreement with Japan, which would eliminate restrictions on route selections, frequencies and flights between and passing through the two countries.

Transport Ministry officials have said Tokyo doesn't want the markets opened because it is trying to protect fledgling cargo and passenger carriers from excessive U.S. competition.

Negotiators could not be reached directly because the embassy and government offices were closed Tuesday, a national holiday in Japan.

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White House defends fundraising

By Ron Fournier
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton and his political team launched an aggressive campaign Tuesday to defend his fund-raising activities and blunt Republican pressure for a special prosecutor.

After days of caution and carefully worded statements, a combative White House:

—Argued that a law barring campaign fund-raising in government buildings does not apply to phone solicitations made to donors off federal property, and suggested there was nothing wrong with money-raising calls from the

White House.

—Complained that Attorney General Janet Reno is "being badgered" into requesting a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

—Threatened to recall Congress into special session if Republicans don't allow a debate and votes on campaign finance reform legislation.

The new strategy, adopted after a series of tense meetings over several days, reflects growing concern at the White House that Reno will take the next step toward seeking one or more new special prosecutors.

The Justice Department has begun a 30-day review to determine whether a formal investigation should be opened on the question of seeking a special prosecutor for Clinton and Gore. The vice president has hired two private defense attorneys.

The new White House strategy is not without risk: Aides struggled to avoid appearing heavy-handed with Reno.

"We have confidence she will resist political pressure and make her decision on the merits," White House special counsel Lanny Davis said. "However, it is nothing short of reckless for the Re-

publican Senate leadership, including the chairman of the senate Republican Campaign Committee, to threaten the attorney general with impeachment unless she does what they tell her to."

Press secretary Mike McCurry said that "as opposed to being badgered by editorial writers and by Republican members of Congress ... people should just give her the space to look at the law and make the right decision."

Yet it was clear the White House wanted to make sure Reno heard from Clinton's side. His aides laid the groundwork for why a special prosecutor should not be named.

"We are ... willing to state our clear position on the law," Davis said. "And that is that phone calls from federal property to a private individual not on federal property are clearly lawful, and have been interpreted to be lawful for almost 100 years and we don't have any doubt about that."

At issue are telephone calls made by Gore, and possibly Clinton, to potential donors in the 1996 presidential campaign. The president says he can't remember if he made any such calls, but a White House memo dated Oct. 18, 1994, suggested that he made a fund-raising call to a wealthy California businessman who then contributed \$50,000.

"I am absolutely positive that we intended to be firmly within the letter of the law when we were out there campaigning and raising funds, as we should have been doing," Clinton said Monday, giving the first hint of a new public relations strategy.

Until now, the White House only offered a vague argument that Gore and Clinton were exempt from the law. There was "no controlling legal authority," the vice president argued months ago.

In a shift of strategy, McCurry and Davis said memos that suggest Clinton called donors are immaterial. Even if he made the calls, they said, the "judgement of the courts" is that the donor's location is the



Bill Clinton

only thing that matters. The donors were not in the White House when they were reportedly asked for money, so it was not illegal, the aides argued.

"The spirit of the law was to prevent Bill Clinton from walking down the hall into my office and shaking me down for a thousand dollars," McCurry said. "It should not be illegal for the president and vice president of the United States to raise money."

"It should not be reduced to absurdities," he added.

Is it absurd to forbid the president and vice president to raise money in their offices?

"I think they should be allowed to raise money in the fashion that they have raised it," McCurry said, adding that he was not confirming that Clinton actually made any donor calls. However, Gore had said he would not raise money through calls from the White House again.

The threat to call lawmakers into a special session, made in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, was designed to build pressure for acting on campaign finance reform legislation endorsed by Clinton.

Delaying the reform bill "is nothing short of a vote to maintain the system that favors special interests over the public good," Clinton wrote.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich's office sarcastically suggested that lawmakers could use the extra time to focus on scandals in the Clinton administration.

Senate probes alleged tax collection abuses

By Rob Wells
WASHINGTON (AP) — IRS agents struggling to meet collection quotas are targeting lower- and middle-income taxpayers "who can't afford to fight back," the chairman of a Senate committee asserted Tuesday as he began hearings into reports of tax-collection abuses.

Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., said a six-month investigation by his Finance Committee also had found that tax assessments were being levied to "simply raise the individual statistics of an IRS employee" and that there was a "commonplace" use of tax collection quotas to rate agents or officers.

The Internal Revenue Service denied it targeted lower-income families and small businesses for audits — and said agency statistics prove it. And the tax agency said collection quotas were outlawed in 1988.

Democrats said they welcomed a fair and bipartisan review of IRS activities but bemoaned several recent GOP fund-raising letters seeking to capitalize on criticism of the tax agency.

"People want us to do something about the IRS," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi replied when asked during a break in the hearings about one recent letter he sent out. The issue "has a lot of appeal," he said.

The treasury secretary and acting IRS commissioner have apologized in advance to taxpayers who might have been harmed in cases that will be aired later this week.

"I deeply regret any mistreatment of taxpayers," Secretary Robert Rubin said in a letter to Roth. And Rubin has asked the IRS to describe discipline and corrective actions it has taken in response to abuses.

Gore closes long-sought deal with Russia

Nuke plants pact inked

By Lynn Berry
MOSCOW (AP) — Vice President Al Gore signed a long-sought deal with Russia on Tuesday to convert three nuclear weapons plants to civilian use, a move seen as a significant step away from the nuclear legacy of the Cold War.

Besides putting an end to plutonium-producing reactors in Russia, the agreement places a cap on U.S. and Russian stockpiles of nuclear weapons-grade plutonium.

The Clinton administration has been pushing for the accord for years, part of U.S. efforts to ensure that Moscow safeguards and reduces its vast nuclear stockpile. "It's so historic. It's so important for world peace," said U.S. Energy Secretary Federico Pena, who took part in the discussions with Gore.

The agreement would convert Russia's three remaining plutonium-producing plants in Siberia to production of uranium for civilian power plants. It also would prohibit Russia from using recently produced plutonium in nuclear weapons.

The plant conversions, to begin in 2000, will take place with technical assistance and money from Washington. All other former plutonium-producing reactors in both countries must remain closed.

Gore, who signed the agreement with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, said it makes a major contribution to world nuclear non-proliferation.

"I'm very pleased to announce that after much hard work we took an important, perhaps even historic, step this week when we reached agreement to halt production of weapons-grade plutonium in both the United States and Russia," Gore said.

Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons technology topped a long list of issues that Gore worked on for two days with Chernomyrdin, during the latest session of the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission.

The commission has been meeting twice a year since 1993. The two chairmen announced on Tuesday the signing of 10 agreements on space, technology and trade, among other issues.

Gore also met Tuesday with President Boris Yeltsin to try to smooth tensions over Iran. Russia is helping Iran build a nuclear power plant and the United States fears the technology could be used to develop a nuclear bomb.

Officials on both sides were reluctant to share details of the talks, citing intelligence concerns. But Chernomyrdin said: "We have commitments (to Iran) and aren't deviating from them."

Moscow insists it is not providing any technology or parts that would help Iran or other nations acquire long-range missiles or nuclear weapons.

Clinching the conversion deal has been a Washington priority since June 1994, when the two sides signed an agreement to shut down the Siberian reactors — two in Seversk and one in Zheleznogorsk. The Russians never allowed that accord to take effect because they said there was no other way to provide heat and elec-

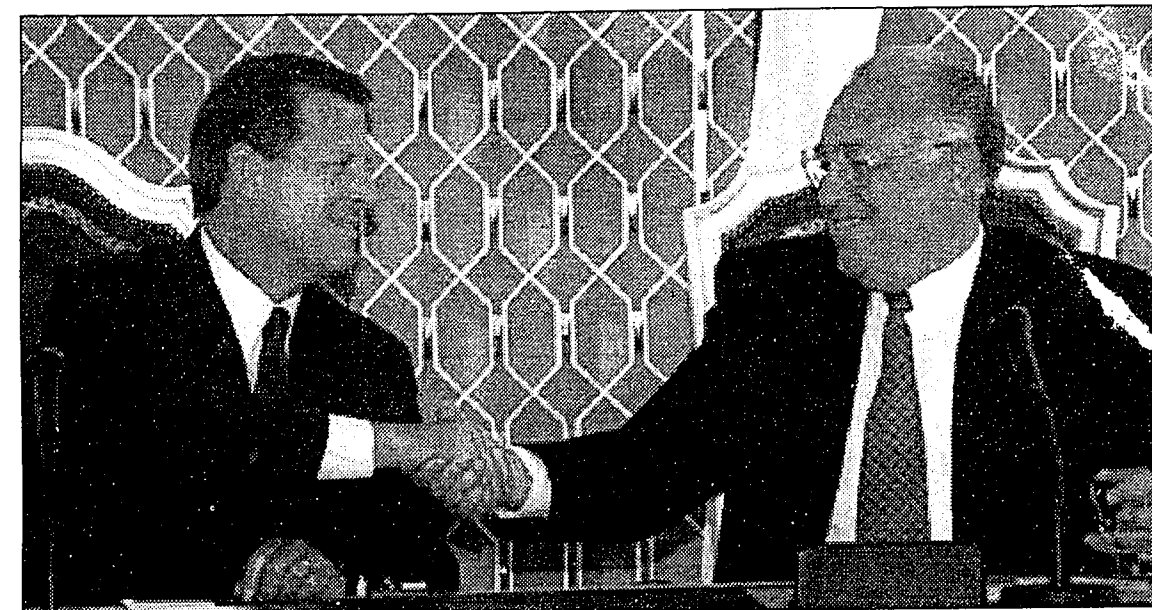
tricity to those regions.

After feasibility studies and more talks, the two sides finally approved a joint plan estimated to cost \$150 million. Of that total, the United States is providing up to \$10 million this year and as much as \$70 million later. Russia will provide the rest. U.S. and Russian contractors will share the conversion work.

Yeltsin was in a jovial mood at the start of the Kremlin talks.

"I'm ready not only to fight with Americans, but to cooperate with them," he said. He paused and then added: "When I said fight, I meant fight on the diplomatic front."

Before the meeting, Gore and his wife Tipper strolled just outside the Kremlin, admiring a new pedestrian square that is a showpiece of Moscow's massive post-Soviet reconstruction.



U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin shake hands at a press conference in Moscow's White House Tuesday after wrapping up two days of talks that have focused on preventing the spread of nuclear technology. AP

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Israel IDs suicide bombers

By Samar Assad

ASSIRA, West Bank (AP) — Four suicide bombers who carried out recent attacks in Jerusalem were on a list of Islamic militants that Israel had pressed Yasser Arafat's government to arrest, Israel announced Tuesday. They were also hometown friends who escaped together from a Palestinian jail last year.

The four were among 88 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists that Israeli authorities had demanded the Palestinian Authority arrest to try to prevent more suicide bombings after attacks July 30 and Sept. 4 in Jerusalem. All lived in the West Bank village of Assira, a Hamas stronghold.

The discovery was a victory for Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu, who challenged Yasser Arafat's claim that those responsible for the attacks came from abroad. Twenty-five people died in those attacks, including five bombers.

A Palestinian security official said the four were cell mates in a Palestinian jail in the West Bank town of Nablus for six months last year, but they disappeared after failing to return from a daily furlough in September 1996.

Palestinian officials said Tuesday that Arafat's government could not be blamed for failing to prevent the bombings because Israel was in charge of security in Assira and all other West Bank villages. The Palestinian Authority controls security only in the seven West Bank towns.



Salha Shulli Yassin Jaraara

"They (the bombers) acted and worked under the nose of Benjamin Netanyahu," Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi said of the suspects' activities in Assira. Security there "was his responsibility."

However, Israel's military intelligence chief said the suicide bombers received their instructions from Hamas ringleaders operating from areas under full Palestinian control and out of reach for Israeli security forces.

Israel identified the suicide bombers from Assira as Moawiya Jaraara, 22; Bashar Salawah, 23; Tawfiq Yassin, 25; and Yousef Shouli, 22.

Relatives said the four boyhood friends had surrendered to Palestinian police in Nablus in March 1996, when Arafat was rounding up hundreds of Hamas activists in response to four earlier Hamas suicide bombings in Israel.

The four knew they were wanted by Israel and believed they would be safer in Palestinian custody. They ended up in a cell together in a Nablus jail, where, according to a Palestinian security official, security was lax and inmates were allowed frequent visits outside prison. In September 1996, the four did not return from one such outing and had been on the run from Palestinian and Israeli security forces since then.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the wardens at the Nablus jail were later reprimanded for letting the four get away.

The Israeli statement said the four Hamas activists from Assira had been on Israel's wanted list for a December 1995 shooting near Nablus in which an army doctor and a soldier were injured. After they escaped from the Nablus jail, Israel demanded that the Palestinian Authority rearrest them.

Relatives of the bombers were supporters of a secular PLO faction, the Popular Front

for the Liberation of Palestine, while they were growing up. However, villagers said in recent years they were drawn to Hamas by Mahmoud Abu Hanude, a 34-year-old Hamas activist.

Abu Hanude was among 400 Islamic militants deported to southern Lebanon in 1992 by Israel's former prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin. In their year in exile, many of the deportees picked up new bomb-making skills, and at least one other Lebanon exile, Hassan Salameh, was involved in plotting three suicide bombings in Israel in the spring of 1996.

It was not clear Tuesday whether Israel suspected that Abu Hanude was the fifth bomber, or whether it believed he was still alive and on the run.

On Sunday, Israeli troops had ringed Assira, a village of 7,000 people just north of Nablus and a Hamas stronghold. Soldiers arrested dozens of residents, and on Tuesday tightened their blockade, barring villagers from entering and leaving.

At one point Tuesday, several dozen Assira youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers and burned tires. They were later dispersed by Palestinian police.

Israel's military censor had held up publication of details of the operation for two days, and barred journalists from giving the name and location of the village.

Netanyahu warned Tuesday that if Arafat did not clamp down on Islamic militants, they would eventually destroy him. Fighting terrorism "is important not only for peace but for the Palestinian Authority itself, because it is riding a tiger that will one day devour it," Netanyahu said.

India, Pakistan PMs meet

By Nicole Winfield

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The prime ministers of India and Pakistan, trying to get the dialogue back on track between their rival nations, agreed Tuesday to take action to end border skirmishes along disputed Kashmir.

Nospecific measures were adopted during the closed-door meeting between India's Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shamshad Ahmed, who attended the meeting in a New York hotel, said the two leaders agreed that ending the dispute over Kashmir was key to improving relations, but there was "a divergence in approach." He did not elaborate.

Both prime ministers, in New York

to attend the annual debate of the U.N. General Assembly, met separately with President Clinton on Monday.

After a three-year gap, the two sides began high-level talks this year amid new optimism following elections that brought new prime ministers to power in both countries.

But negotiations broke down last week over Kashmir, the Himalayan region both countries claim. The conflict has been underscored by border skirmishes in recent weeks.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of mostly Muslim Kashmir since Britain granted the countries independence in 1947. India controls two-thirds of the Himalayan territory and Pakistan the remaining one-third.

India accuses Pakistan of arming

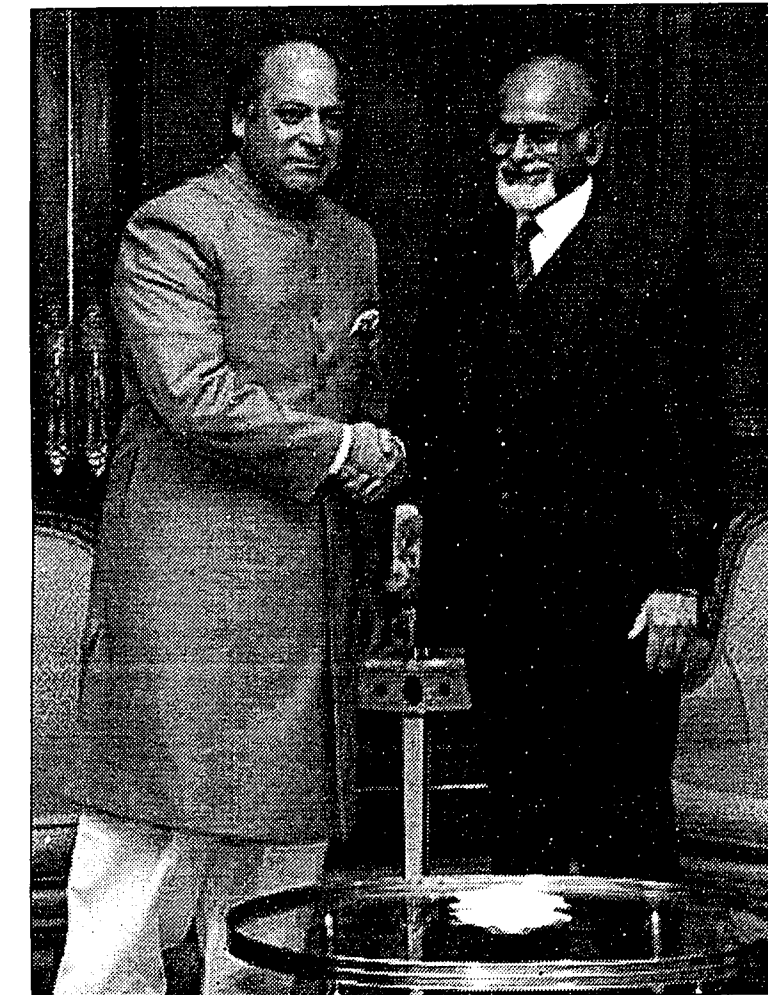
and training Kashmiri militants who have been fighting a separatist war since 1989 in India-held Jammu-Kashmir. Pakistan denies that, maintaining it provides only diplomatic and moral support to the guerrillas.

Pakistan has insisted the Kashmir issue be settled before expanding trade and economic ties with its neighbor. India favors taking up other disputes simultaneously — sharing of river water, setting the maritime boundary and ending hostilities in northern Sichen glacier.

On Monday, Sharif offered to negotiate a non-aggression pact with India. There was no official comment on the offer from India, but Gujral was to address the General Assembly on Wednesday.

The United States does not plan to serve as a mediator in the conflict, but "will certainly be involved if both sides want to," said Rick Inderfurth, assistant secretary of state for South Asia.

Clinton will travel to India and Pakistan next year — the first time a U.S. president has been to the region since President Carter went in 1978. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is to visit the region in late 1997. No date for either trip has been announced.



Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, left, shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral Tuesday in New York. AP

Mahathir statements not gov't policy, says minister



Mahathir Mohamad

By LAURINDA KEYS

HONG KONG (AP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's demands at an international monetary forum to ban foreign exchange speculation do not represent the country's policy, its finance minister said Tuesday.

Anwar Ibrahim, finance minister and deputy prime minister, said he was not contradicting but clarifying what the prime minister had said.

Clearly intent on trying to reassure investors spooked by the prime minister's criticism of speculative currency trading as immoral and unnecessary, Anwar said he walked out of a meeting at the World Bank-International Monetary Fund annual gathering to talk to the press.

When asked by The Associated Press if his assurances would be enough to alleviate the effects of Mahathir's highly publicized criticism of foreign exchange trading, Anwar said:

"It's not fair to take what Mahathir said as representative of our policies. He was expressing a regional concern." Asked by another reporter if Mahathir should not be taken seriously, Anwar said, "We should take him seriously as expressing the concerns of the region."

Malaysia's currency strengthened Tuesday after hitting an all-time low in trading against the U.S. dollar on Monday in response to Mahathir's comments in a keynote speech Saturday in the lead-up to the world's biggest monetary sum-

mit.

Mahathir had said foreign exchange dealing should be banned except for financing trade, and referred to a "rape of the stock market" by investors who had pulled their money out. He was quoted Sunday in a Hong Kong newspaper interview as saying Malaysia will implement a ban on currency trading.

Purchases by local investment funds pushed the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange up Tuesday, but neither foreign funds nor retail investors were rushing back into the Malaysian capital markets. Analysts said confidence remains shaken by policy disarray, conflicting statements from the government, the weak currency, and concerns about the direction of interest rates and whether the economy is basically sound.

Anwar told reporters Tuesday that the prime minister informed neither him nor Malaysia's central bank governor ahead of time about the content of his speech.

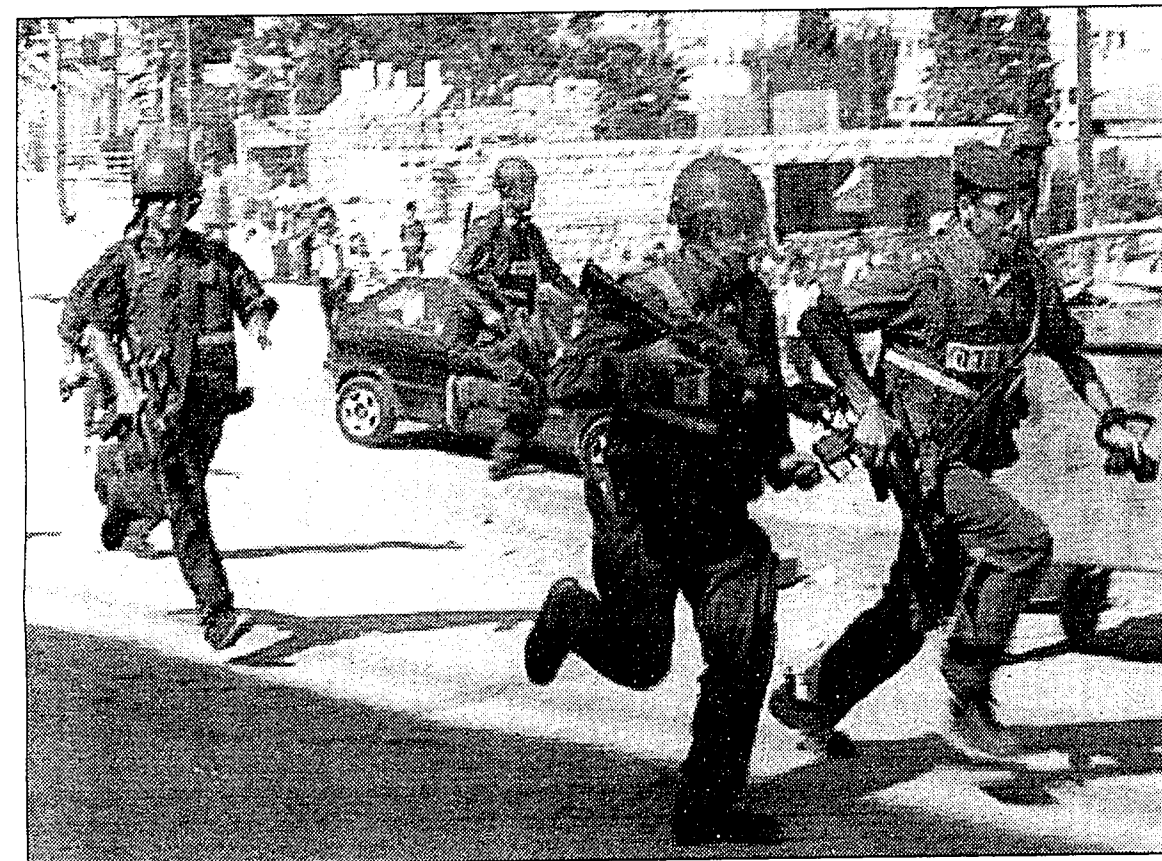
When Anwar arrived Sunday at the monetary summit, he said he was peppered with questions on whether a ban on currency trading would be implemented when the markets opened Monday. Anwar said he had to consult with Mahathir before denying Sunday night that there was any such plan.

"I denied it before the market opened," Anwar said.

By then it was too late. The Malaysian ringgit dived Monday morning, carrying with it other regional currencies that have been repeatedly battered over the past few months as investors and speculators have lost confidence in the region's overvalued money and stocks.

Anwar told the news conference that Malaysia has a long history of liberalized markets, stability, growth and welcoming of foreign investment.

"Our policy ... has not changed," he said. "There is absolutely no reason why we should introduce new guidelines or rules or regulations affecting the market."



Palestinian youths throw stones at Israeli security forces as Israeli border police officers chase Palestinian stone throwers following a demonstration in the east Jerusalem Arab neighborhood of Ras al Amud Tuesday, where Jewish settlers took over a house last week. AP

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HK, China keep peace

By Marcus Eliason
HONG KONG (AP) — The marriage of China and Hong Kong is shaping up as an arm's-length affair in which both sides seem willing to bite their tongues for harmony's sake.

That much has been highlighted by this week's World Bank-International Monetary Fund meeting in Hong Kong, which is serving as a showcase for the relationship between China and the former British colony.

The stars of the event have been Chinese Premier Li Peng and financial czar Zhu Rongji. What's significant, however, is that having officiated at the July 1 change of sovereignty, Li has waited nearly three months to come again.

China has pledged over and over to let Hong Kong run its own affairs, and the lack of high-level visits suggests a conscious desire to avoid being seen as interfering. "Of course, to stay away physically doesn't mean Hong Kong is out of reach. All it takes is a phone call" to impose Beijing's wishes, says Hsi-cheng Ch'i, a professor of Chinese politics at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

But he says the infrequency of visits is "a nice gesture," designed "to reinforce the popular impression that Beijing leaders are not breathing down the neck of the Hong Kong government."

For his part, Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's China-approved



Chinese Premier Li Peng, left, is greeted by Hong Kong officials as Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa introduces them to the premier upon his arrival in Hong Kong Saturday. Li was to open the annual meeting of the IMF-World Bank group Tuesday. AP

leader, has only visited Beijing once since taking over.

Also, emphasizing Hong Kong's economic value to China, Li and Zhu chose an economic event rather than a political one for their visit.

Still, Li Peng is reviled by Hong Kong Democrats for having strongly backed the 1989 military crackdown on protesters at Beijing's Tiananmen Square, so his presence inevitably stirred demonstrations.

One group of 15 radicals took to the streets Tuesday chanting "Down with Li Peng!" but Li's name wasn't mentioned at a bigger demonstration Monday attended by leading Democrats.

A Hong Kong radio reporter repeatedly tried to get Democratic Party Vice Chairman Yeung Sum to say whether he blamed Li for the 1989 bloodshed.

"Those who have been involved have to be held responsible," Yeung stonewalled, four

times — a reticence that may reflect a recognition by the Democrats that direct confrontation is no longer what the voters want.

In fact, while Beijing has ignored the Hong Kong Democrats' demand to acknowledge wrongdoing at Tiananmen Square, the passage of time and politics may be taking some of the sting out of the issue.

Li is to step down in March. Another important figure in the crackdown, former Beijing Mayor

and Communist Party boss Chen Xitong, has been toppled in an anti-corruption crusade.

Li's likely successor is Zhu Rongji, the vice premier and economics chief who accompanied him to Hong Kong and won glowing reviews in the Hong Kong press for his style, humor and economic vision.

Another sign of adapting to the new reality comes from Anson Chan, the highest official of the outgoing colonial regime to keep her job in the new government.

Until the change of sovereignty, she was a high-profile critic of China's plans to disband the legislature elected in 1995 and hold a fresh election next year.

But in a speech last week, she vigorously defended the rule changes planned for the next election, denying charges that they are meant to weaken democracy and the Democratic Party.

Suu Kyi gets a visit from son

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — The younger son of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has arrived in Rangoon on his first visit to his mother in more than 1 1/2 years.

Kim Aris, 20, arrived Sunday, foreign diplomats said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. He last visited his mother during the Christmas holidays in 1995, along with Suu Kyi's husband, British academic Michael Aris.

Suu Kyi's husband has not been allowed to visit her since that Christmas trip. The ban is apparently in retaliation for his carrying out a public statement from his wife. Suu Kyi has declined to leave the country for fear that the military government won't let her back in.

Burma's state-controlled media have made frequent references to the fact that Suu Kyi is married to a foreigner, suggesting that this would make her the puppet of foreign powers. It also has made attacks on her older son, Alexander, for alleged personal problems.

The military took power in 1988 after violently suppressing pro-democracy demonstrations. It refused to turn over power to Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy after the party won a landslide victory in a 1990 general election.

Suu Kyi was detained without trial in 1989 for allegedly endangering national security. She won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent pro-democracy work.

She was kept in isolation until 1992, when she was allowed visits by members of her immediate family and a very few selected other guests.

This week's visit by Kim is his third since his mother was released from house arrest in July 1995. It was not known how long he would stay.

Time ripe for better US ties, says China

BEIJING (AP) — With Chinese President Jiang Zemin due to visit Washington next month, China said Tuesday it was time for a breakthrough in improving relations with the United States.

Common ground between Washington and Beijing is much broader than any differences, Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said. He added that disputes could all be resolved through dialogue.

"After President Jiang Zemin visits the United States, bilateral relations will experience progress, and there will be great advantages for both regional and international peace and stability," Shen said at a twice-weekly media briefing. Shen noted that one persistent irritant remains: U.S. support for Taiwan, which two years ago drove relations in Beijing's eyes to their lowest point since formal ties opened in 1979.

Washington, by law, must aid Taiwan's defense. China claims Taiwan as a rebel province and regards any support for the island

as interference in its internal affairs.

Shen urged the United States not to interfere.

"But the United States still could do something on the matter of Taiwan. It should not dispose of large amounts of advanced weapons to Taiwan and should not say any words that would encourage any ... (separatist) activities," he said.

Taiwan has featured in all discussions between senior U.S. and Chinese officials and will likely come up during Jiang's meetings with President Clinton. The trip will be the first state visit since President George Bush came to China in 1989.

Since both are large countries and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, good, healthy Chinese-U.S. ties benefit the world, Shen said.

"On many global issues and international issues, we can work together. On some issues we have cooperated well and the results have been very good," Shen told report-

ers without citing specific matters.

In meetings with their U.S. counterparts, Chinese officials have suggested that Beijing and Washington launch a "strategic" partnership or cooperation, terms that China uses to describe relations with France and Russia. The Clinton administration has balked but maintains it has a "strategic dialogue" with China.

In addition to Taiwan, human rights, copyright piracy, China's bid to join the World Trade Organization and Beijing's sales of missiles and nuclear technology have roiled relations.

After China launched provocative war games near Taiwan and the United States sent warships near the island 18 months ago, both sides have tried to play down disputes and emphasize dialogue.

"I think Chinese-U.S. relations should be confident in their common ground and in moving toward the 21st century," Shen said. "Important to this bilateral relationship is close cooperation without leaning toward any third nation."



A pro-democracy protester shouts demanding the ouster of Chinese Premier Li Peng outside of the Hong Kong Convention Center where the premier is speaking at the opening ceremony of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings Tuesday. The banner reads: "Release dissidents Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng." AP



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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

September 22, 1997

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the CDA Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice, that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority will be held on Friday, September 26, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA conference room, Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan. The agenda is as follows:

AGENDA

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
- IV. REPORTS
 1. Funds Availability Report
 2. Chairman's/Executive Director's Report
- V. DCD MATTERS
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
- VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
 1. Budget
- IX. OTHER MATTERS

(Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council will hold its first regular meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base. Interested persons are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Agenda and adoption of the Minutes from the SRAC's Third Quarter Meeting of July 2, 1997.
- III. Old Business
 1. OVR Staff Development Training
 2. Status of Policies and Procedures Subcommittee
 3. Changes in OVR's Organization (Duties and Responsibilities of OVR staff)
 4. Financial Status Report
 5. Status of Consumer Satisfaction Survey
 6. Ad Hoc Sub - Committee Reports
- IV. New Business
 1. Failure of OVR State Plan to Receive Region IX Approval
 2. SRAC Membership (Recommendations for New Members)
 3. Elections
- V. Miscellaneous
- VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-6537/6538 (TDD). Several days advance notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ CHRISTINE MATSON



PNCC RFP NO.: 97-05
CLOSING ON: 10/3/97

REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS

FOR LANDSCAPING PLAN FOR PNCC HEADQUARTERS

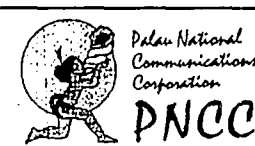
Palau National Communications Corporation (PNCC) is now accepting bid proposals from an Entity or an Individual to provide landscaping design services for its Headquarters located in Airai, in particular, to provide a landscape design and then assist in the implementation of that design. Proposals should include (1) Cost of the proposed Design, (2) hourly rate for design implementation (specify maximum hours) (3) Time frame for completion of project, (4) An example of the specific plants, trees, grass, flowers, etc. to be planted, (5) Specify years of experience in this specific area, (6) List of references, and (7) List of specific projects and, if available, photos of completed projects. Bidder is responsible for all necessary state and national permits, taxes and fees. Interested bidders may contact O'Brien O. Ngemaes, Purchasing Manager, for more details and more information.

PNCC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. A submission of an offer or proposal gives PNCC the right to solicit recommendations and references from previous and present employers as to reliability and competence among other qualifications.

Proposals must be received no later than **Friday, October 03, 1997 at 4:00 p.m. Palau Time** at PNCC Headquarters Building located at Ngerusar, Airai State. All proposals must be sealed and addressed to O'Brien O. Ngemaes, Purchasing Manager, P.O. Box 99, Koror, Palau 96940 with RFP Number written outside the envelope.

Proposals will be opened and reviewed on Monday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m. at PNCC Headquarters Building, Airai. Bidders need not be present at the Bid Opening. All bidders will be informed of the results.

/s/ Matthew Link
General Manager
Date: 9-18-97



PNCC RFP NO.: 97-06
CLOSING ON: 10/3/97

REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS

FOR SECURITY GUARD SERVICE

Palau National Communications Corporation (PNCC) is now accepting bid proposals for Security Guard Service for its Headquarters Building in Airai. Security Guards services will be required from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. on work days and 24 hours on week-end and holidays. Proposals should include expected annual service fee, years of experience in this area as well as list of at least 3 references. Prospective contractor will need to be bonded. Bidder is responsible for all necessary state and national permits, taxes, and fees as well as transportation to the work site. Interested bidders may contact O'Brien O. Ngemaes, Purchasing Manager, for more details and more information.

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/s/ Matthew Link
General Manager
Date: 9-18-97



Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet, left, stands with Communist Party General Secretary Do Muoi during a ceremony at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier in Hanoi Saturday. Retiring Premier Kiet says it is time to make way for a new generation of leaders. AP

Man dies after swallowing 150 heroin-filled condoms

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - A man who swallowed 150 condoms stuffed with heroin and held in Colombo airport while trying to sneak past the customs died when one of the condoms burst in his stomach, officials said Tuesday.

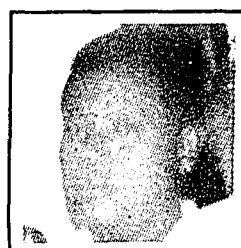
Mohammed Mansoor Farooq, 32, died in Sri Lanka's National Hospital on Monday of a drug overdose, police officials said on condition of anonymity. He had earlier purged most of the condoms.

Customs officials arrested him on a tip last Thursday after he arrived on a flight from the Pakistani city of Karachi.

Officials found his intestines filled with the heroin-packed condoms, valued at over 1.2 million Sri Lankan rupees (\$ 20,000).

Farooq had earlier told police that he spent 12 hours swallowing the condoms before he boarded the plane. Police gave no other details about the case.

JOINT ANNIVERSARY



Santiago Acosta Camacho
12th



Basilisa Carmen Dela Cruz Camacho
10th

We, the family of the late Santiago Acosta Camacho and Basilisa Carmen Dela Cruz Camacho, would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us for the joint anniversary mass of our loved ones beginning Thursday, September 18, 1997.

Nightly mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. On the final day, Friday, September 26, 1997, dinner will follow immediately at San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you.
The Family.

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Australian PM to serve full term

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - Prime Minister John Howard on Monday dismissed suggestions he was ready to stand down, promising to serve out a full term as leader of his conservative Liberal party after the next election.

"As far as I'm concerned I have never contemplated resigning," Howard said in an interview on

commercial television.

Howard's comments come a week after financial markets were spooked by rumors he planned to resign because his wife had a mysterious illness.

Analysts said then the rumour contributed to a fall in the value of the Australian dollar.

Howard said he wanted to re-

main prime minister for some time, and dismissed the rumour incident.

"I thought it was silly," Howard said.

"My wife had a serious operation last year, everybody knows that. She has a good prognosis, she has made a good recovery."

China central bank vows severe punishment for financial fraud

SHANGHAI, China (AP) - Investors caught breaking China's financial laws will face criminal prosecution, and possibly execution, under new laws that go into effect Oct. 1, the central bank warned Tuesday.

In a bid to curb corruption and rampant irregularities in the financial sector, the new Criminal Law will for the first time cover fraud, among other economic offenses, the People's Bank of China said in a circular printed in state-run newspapers Tuesday.

"In accordance with the new law, those who violate regulations by setting up illegal financial entities after Oct. 1 will be handed over to legal authori-

ties," the circular said.

The bank noted that it alone has the authority to approve and regulate finance companies and brokerages dealing in domestic and overseas markets.

It urged local governments, which often disregard central government regulations, to abide by rules requiring central bank approval of all securities, insurance, currency and futures trading entities.

"All entities that haven't received approval from the PBOC to carry out financial operations are in violation and must be shut down," the circular said. "Government commercial bureaus must guard closely to ensure that licenses aren't issued to unapproved entities."

The severe tone of the warning has raised an alarm in the financial sector, prompting banks to recall illegal loans and companies to abandon other illegal deals.

Reflecting that concern, Shanghai's A-share market for local investors fell some 7 percent Monday and had dropped another 4 percent by midafternoon Tuesday. The A-share index in the Shenzhen market, meanwhile, has fallen 12 percent in the last two trading sessions.

Since China opened stock markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen in the early 1990s, regulators have failed to prevent widespread trading irregularities and financial fraud.

Reclusive former Burmese dictator visits in Indonesia

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - Burma's former dictator Ne Win, not seen in public since 1989, left Rangoon airport Tuesday to visit Indonesia at the invitation of President Suharto.

The 86-year-old former strongman was accompanied by an 11-member entourage that included his eldest daughter Sanda Win, his son-in-law, grandson and several military intelligence officers.

He is scheduled to spend two days in Indonesia, during which he will visit the grave of Suharto's wife Tien in the city of Solo, before flying on to Singapore for a routine medical checkup, diplomatic sources said.

Ne Win, a general who seized power from a democratically elected government in a 1962 coup, ruled Burma with an iron hand for 26 years.

An avid devotee of numerology and astrology, he drove the resource-rich country into poverty with an isolationist policy he called "the Burmese Way to Socialism."

On July 23, 1988, he stepped down in the midst of a nationwide democracy uprising that saw the emergence of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi as its leader.

In his final public speech, he warned the demonstrators that "when the army shoots, it shoots to hit." Chroniclers of the uprising



Former Burmese strongman Ne Win, left, and Indonesian President Suharto arrive for dinner at Suharto's palace in Jakarta Tuesday. The 86-year-old former dictator, who has not been seen in public since 1989, is making a private visit at the invitation of Suharto. AP

have written that Suu Kyi was placed under six years of house arrest after she publicly criticized Ne Win by name.

Many Burmese believe Ne Win still exercises control over the present military government, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, which succeeded him in September 1988, gunning down for more than 3,000 protesters in the process.

Most Burmese refer to Ne Win as either "the puppet master," "number one," or "the old man."

Although there is little hard evidence to support those assertions, regime leaders do brief him at least twice a month and have great respect for him, foreign diplomats say.

Some analysts have written that

there is little hope of breaking the political stalemate between the military and the democracy movement until Ne Win dies.

His last public appearance was on Armed Forces Day in March 1989.

Ne Win and Suharto, a former general who took power after crushing an attempted communist coup in 1965, have known each other for more than 30 years. They had what the Burmese government called a "nostalgic meeting" when Suharto visited Rangoon in February.

Ne Win visited Jakarta in June 1973 and May 1974 as Burma's head of state.

This will be his second trip out of the country since retirement. He made a private visit to Singapore in 1994 for eye and dental treatment.

Sri Lanka clash: 20 dead

By NIRESH ELIATAMBY

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Fighting in northern Sri Lanka killed 20 people, as the deadlock continued between government troops trying for more than three months to wrest a strategic town from its Tamil rebel defenders, officials said Tuesday.

Soldiers trying to encircle the town of Puliyanakulam by advancing north along its western side ran into a group of guerrilla defenders on Monday, said Major Kumar Dewage, a military

spokesman.

Twelve rebels and two soldiers were killed in the 3-hour fight, said Maj. Dewage. Twenty guerrillas and six soldiers were wounded.

Since May, soldiers have been trying to capture a 70-kilometer (43-mile) highway passing through rebel-held territory that would provide road access to government-controlled northern Jaffna peninsula.

The peninsula is at present accessible only by sea and air. But

the military has been able to capture only one-third of the highway.

About 20,000 government troops have been laying siege on Puliyanakulam, 235 kilometers (145 miles) north of Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital. But several fierce rebel counterattacks

have slowed their advance near Puliyanakulam.

In another incident northwest of Puliyanakulam on Monday, four rebels were killed when their double-cab was ambushed by soldiers on a jungle road, said Maj. Dewage.

The rebels are fighting for a

separate homeland for Tamils, who account for 18 percent of Sri Lanka's 18 million people.

They claim discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and military. More than 50,000 people have been killed since the war began in 1983.



Two unidentified girls, sole survivors of their family killed by attackers in a massacre Tuesday near Baraki in the suburbs of the Algerian capital, leave the hospital after being treated for their wounds to the foot and arm. At least 200 people were killed and another 100 were wounded. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack. Islamic insurgents, seeking to establish an Islamic state, have been fighting since 1992 to overthrow Algeria's military-backed government, and more than 60,000 people have been killed in the last five years. AP

Self-defense group fight off attackers in Algeria

Algiers, ALGERIA (AP) - Armed villagers backed by the army fought off a nighttime assault by a group of suspected Islamic militants in a village south of the capital, residents reported Tuesday.

Self-defense groups have sprung up in the capital Algiers and in rural villages in recent weeks to try to prevent increasingly frequent massacres that are usually blamed on armed Islamic groups.

The villagers repulsed about 200 armed attackers in a village near Tipasa, a town about 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Algiers, the residents said, sparing on condition of anonymity.

After arriving about 11 p.m. the attackers set off a bomb in a village park and stole three trucks full of foodstuffs, including flour from a bakery they had just robbed, the residents said.

But the armed villagers, backed up by army reinforce-

ments, prevented the group from doing any other damage. Before fleeing, the attackers managed to mine a bridge the army later swept clear.

It was the third time in the last 10 days that a self-defense group organized to prevent increasingly frequent massacres managed to ward off an attack.

The government has stepped up efforts in recent weeks ahead of local and regional elections scheduled for Oct. 23 and after several massacres in Algiers.

Islamic militants launched an insurgency in 1992 after the army canceled a parliamentary vote Islamic fundamentalists were poised to win. More than 60,000 people have died in five years of fighting.

The Islamic militants want to establish a government based on a strict interpretation of Koranic law, which would require women to cover their heads, ban alcohol and compulsory Koranic education.

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Fish...

Continued from page 1

pushes toward Australia to move eastward toward South America. The warm water heats the atmosphere and other parts of the

House...

Continued from page 1

undergo rigorous training in the handling of guns?" Attao said.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), however, urged for the bill's passage, saying that OPA needs help in investigating serious allegations of government irregularities.

House legal counsel Maya Kara said there was nothing unique about the bill. The Legislature also gave law enforcement pow-

ocean altering storm tracks. Scientists have however predicted a difference this year as signs of the weather disturbance began appearing earlier than anticipated.

This, they say, increase the uncertainty on the phenomenon's

ers to Fish and Wildlife and Customs, she added.

She said the bill would only allow OPA to directly ask a judge for a search warrant, instead of going through AGO.

Whatever law enforcement powers OPA would have will be within the scope of OPA's duties, Kara said.

With the exception of Jones and Rep. Michael P. Tenorio (R-Saipan), all of the 16 members present voted for the bill's passage.

The House in its session yesterday also adopted a concurrent

resolution to approve the \$262.4 million revised resources for fiscal year 1998 appropriations, and a joint resolution "to support the education and training of CNMI students" at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine (Unmsom).

Introduced by Rep. Ana S. Teregyo (R-Saipan), H.J.R. 10-47 also acknowledges the existence of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Unmsom and the CNMI, which will provide financial assistance to qualified local medical students.

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Marianas High School were disrupted for an hour to allow authorities to secure a "three-inch projectile mortar shell."

The shell was reportedly found during a clean-up program at the back of the MHS campus' Building B which houses the counseling office and a few classrooms.

Last month, another shell was spotted at a beach in San Antonio.

tor, said the workers will be allowed to continue digging at the site only after the Disposal Team and the Historic Preservation Office cleared the area of such bombs and bones.

Guerrero said the land mines will be brought to a bomb storage in Marpi prior to detonation by the Navy team.

Last Sept. 15, classes at the

violations and there'll be closed factories if that's what it takes."

The governor said employees throughout the Commonwealth, "had better be aware that they have serious responsibilities to their employees."

The Governor also repeated his call that federal OSHA in-

spectors regularly inspect local barracks. Although the Occupational Safety and Health Act has applied in the CNMI from the beginning, OSHA inspectors started looking at local barracks only within the last six months, he said.

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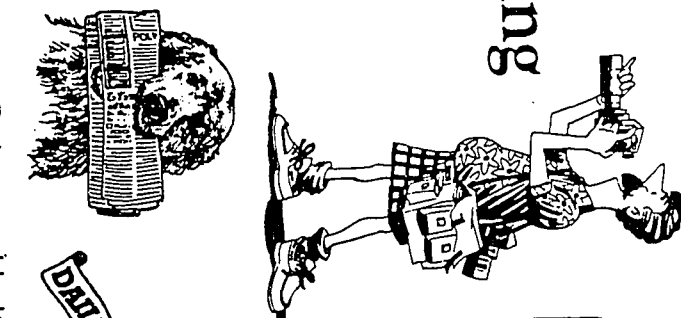
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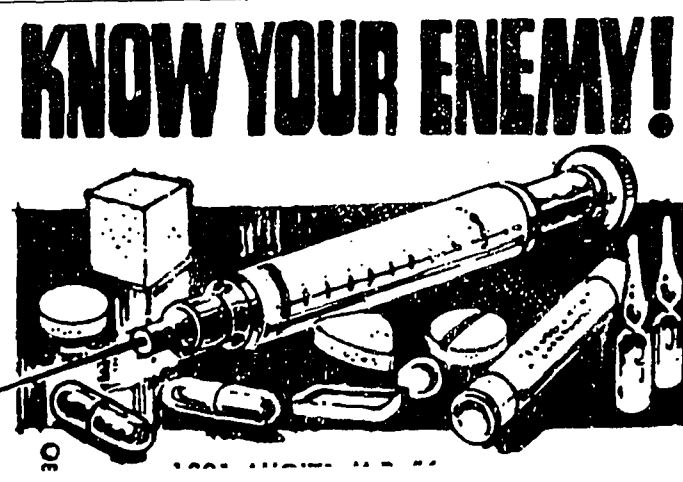
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03 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour

04 (QUALITY CONTROL) TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour

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02 SAMPLE MAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour

02 RECEIVING & DISPATCHING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour

Contact: MARIANAS GARMENT MFG. INC. Tel. 234-5821(10/9)Th24067

04 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

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01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.20 per hour

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Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6653(10/9)Th24073

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff,

-v- FRED DELEON GUERRERO and MAECY R. DELEON GUERRERO Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-860

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to White, Placido, Maiman & Nutting, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

Dated, this 8th day of Sept., 1997.

RECYCLE

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If more reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

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- Top customer service skills
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Our fast pace environment is perfect for the self motivated person. Great pay, Holiday & vacation pay, medical & dental insurance

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IF YOU HAVE:

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- Effective written & oral skills
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Our fast pace environment is perfect for the self motivated person
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- Hard Worker

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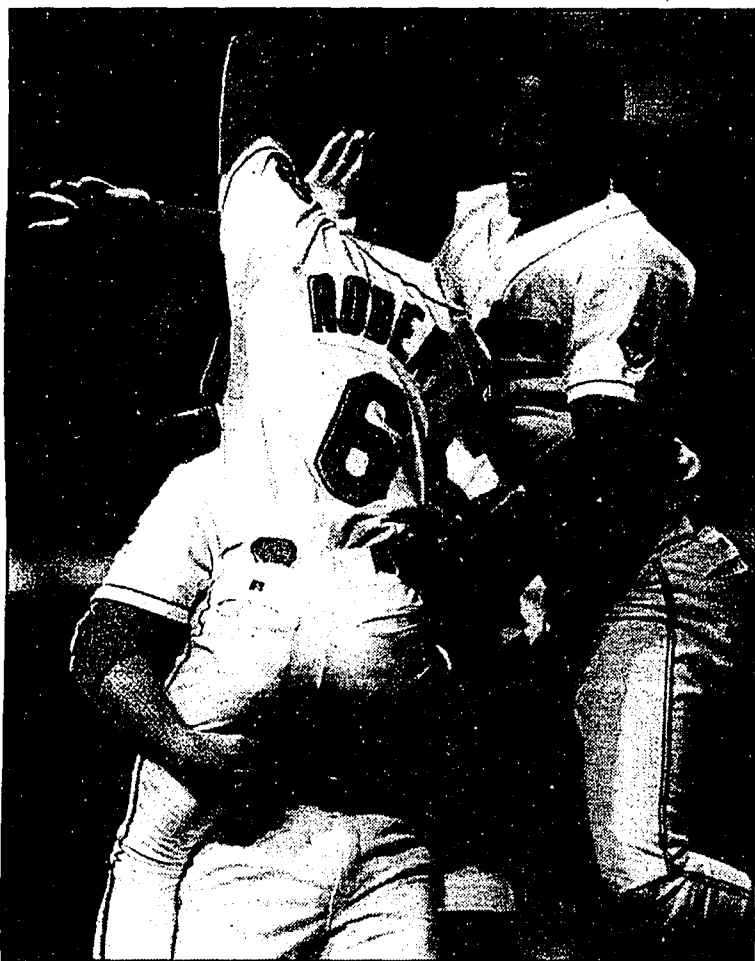
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SPORTS



Cleveland Indians Bip Roberts (6) and Manny Ramirez, right, begin the celebration after the Indians came from behind to beat the New York Yankees 10-9 Tuesday. A loss by the Chicago White Sox gave the Indians their third straight AL Central title. AP

Indians clinch AL Central title

CLEVELAND (AP) - The Cleveland Indians clinched their third straight AL Central title, overcoming a seven-run deficit in a dramatic 10-9 victory over their age-old nemesis, the New York Yankees.

About 10 minutes after the final out Tuesday night, Chicago was eliminated from contention with a 5-3 loss in Minnesota.

Cleveland, which won 27 games in its last at-bat in winning the AL championship in 1995, was 0-62 coming in when trailing after eight innings.

David Justice hit a solo homer off Hideki Irabu to key a two-run eighth as the Indians pulled to 9-

8, then tied it with an RBI single off Jeff Nelson (3-7) in the ninth. Sandy Alomar, who hit a two-run homer and RBI single earlier, singled to center to score Matt Williams, who walked.

Twins 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Brent Brede hit a two-run off Jason Bere (4-2), breaking a 3-all tie in the fifth.

Frank Thomas hit a three-run homer for the White Sox and kept his league-leading average at .352.

Bob Tewksbury (7-13) gave up five hits in six innings, and Rick Aguilera pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Orioles 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Roberto Alomar

went 2-for-5, scored a run and drove in one as Baltimore, seeking its first AL East title in 14 years, lowered its magic number to one.

Roger Clemens (21-7) gave up three runs and eight hits in eight innings, struck out 11 and walked two as Toronto lost for the 11th time in 13 games.

Nerio Rodriguez (2-1) gave up two runs and two hits in 5 1-3 innings. Arthur Rhodes and Armando Benitez combined for 2 2-3 scoreless innings and Randy Myers completed the three-hitter for his 44th save in 45 tries.

Brewers 7, Royals 4

Continued on page 27

Sportsbits

Calling all Volleyball players and interested individuals

SAIPAN Amateur Volleyball Association will conduct its first try-outs for the upcoming 1998 Micronesian Games in Palau.

The try-out is scheduled for Sunday, September 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Susupe Gymnasium.

All Volleyball players are urged to come to this try-out.

For more information, please call Tonie Taitano at 234-6170 or 235-3926.

RGA October Qualifier Set
THE Refalawash Golfers Association is inviting all RGA Members that the October Quali-

Continued on page 27

1997 Co-Ed Softball League Team Standings

Place	Team	Win	Lost	Pct	Runs
Pennant	Tanapag Crazy 8	14	1	.933	264
Runner-up Pennant	T&C Clan	10	5	.667	210
3rd	C.K. Road Bumps	9	6	.600	201
4th	Kan Pacific Starters	6	9	.400	175
5th	Town/Country Marlins	6	9	.400	144
6th	Miller Lite	0	15	.000	137

BATTING (Based on 45 AB)

Player	Team	Avg	Player	Team	Avg
Melvin Sakisat	T&C Clan	.756	Margaret Tenorio	T&C Clan	.477
Jester Garcia	C.K. Road Bumps	.674	Pauline Pangellinan	C.K. Road Bumps	.409
Tony Luzama	Tanapag Crazy 8	.660	Elma Tenorio	T&C Clan	.395
Robert Lizama	T&C Clan	.636	Dora Palacios	Miller Lite	.390
Jason Wesley	Miller Lite	.633	Lillian Aguon	C.K. Road Bumps	.341
Phil Sablan	Starters	.591	Dora Taitinglong	Starters	.333
Anton Iriarte	Tanapag Crazy 8	.587	Rosemond Santos	Starters	.300
Vinnie Sablan	Town/Country Marlins	.533	Patricia Tenorio	T&C Clan	.288
Double:					
Larry Tenorio	T&C Clan	12	Elma Tenorio	T&C Clan	5
Eric Tudela	C.K. Road Bumps	12	Jovie Omar	Tanapag Crazy 8	5
Walter Wesley	Miller Lite	10	Gina Wesley	Miller Lite	4
Robert Lizama	T&C Clan	9	Grace Aldan	Tanapag Crazy 8	3
Mike Wilson	Tanapag Crazy 8	8	Lucy Ada	Town/Country Marlins	3
Melvin Sakisat	T&C Clan	8	Dora Palacios	Miller Lite	3
Jason Wesley	Miller Lite	7			
Vinnie Sablan	Town/Country Marlins	7			
Anton Iriarte	Tanapag Crazy 8	7			
Triple:					
Melvin Sakisat	T&C Clan	6	Brenda Haddox	Tanapag Crazy 8	4
Mike Villagomez	Town/Country Marlins	6	Dora Palacios	Miller Lite	3
Jason Wesley	Miller Lite	5			
Larry Tenorio	T&C Clan	4			
Phil Sablan	Kan Pacific Starters	4			
Homerun:					
Nick Guerrero	Kan Pacific Starters	11	Rose Tamam	Tanapag Crazy 8	3
Joe Saures	Kan Pacific Starters	11	Bego Odoshi	T&C Clan	2
Melvin Sakisat	T&C Clan	10			
Tony Luzama	Tanapag Crazy 8	9			
Mike Wilson	Tanapag Crazy 8	7			
Alfonso Abraham	Tanapag Crazy 8	7			
Robert Lizama	T&C Clan	6			
Joe Palacios	C.K. Road Bumps	6			
Joe Salas	C.K. Road Bumps	6			
Anton Iriarte	Tanapag Crazy 8	6			
RBI:					
Melvin Sakisat	T&C Clan	44	Gina Wesley	Miller Lite	17
Robert Lizama	T&C Clan	29	Elma Tenorio	T&C Clan	16
Nick Guerrero	Kan Pacific Starters	27	Brenda Haddox	Tanapag Crazy 8	14
Joe Saures	Kan Pacific Starters	26	Rose Tamam	Tanapag Crazy 8	12
Tony Luzama	Tanapag Crazy 8	24	Grace Aldan	Tanapag Crazy 8	11
Roy Norita	Tanapag Crazy 8	24	Bego Odoshi	T&C Clan	11
Runs:					
Larry Tenorio	T&C Clan	37	Brenda Haddox	Tanapag Crazy 8	20
Anton Iriarte	Tanapag Crazy 8	28	Elma Tenorio	T&C Clan	19
Tony Luzama	Tanapag Crazy 8	28	Margaret Tenorio	T&C Clan	17
Melvin Sakisat	T&C Clan	27	Merian Lizama	T&C Clan	17
Phil Sablan	Kan Pacific Starters	26	Lillian Aguon	C.K. Road Bumps	17
Albert Santos	Kan Pacific Starters	26	Gina Wesley	Miller Lite	16
Robert Lizama	T&C Clan	25	Rose Tamam	Tanapag Crazy 8	15
Jester Garcia	C.K. Road Bumps	25			
Joe Salas	C.K. Road Bumps	25			
Pitching (Most Strike-Outs)					
Pitcher	Team	Inn	Total		
Larry Tenorio	T&C Clan	103	31		
Peter Leau	Miller Lite	87.5	28		
Joe Salas	C.K. Road Bumps	62.5	20		

European team a force to reckon with in Ryder Cup

By RON SIRAK

SOTOGRADE, Spain (AP)

-Three of the four major championships this year were won by members of the U.S. Ryder Cup team. None was won by European team members.

Eight of the top 13 players in the world rankings are on the U.S. team. One member of the European team is ranked that high.

The U.S. team has hot players in Jim Furyk, Justin Leonard and Davis Love III.

It has an intimidating player in Tiger Woods.

And it has unflappable veterans in Fred Couples, Mark

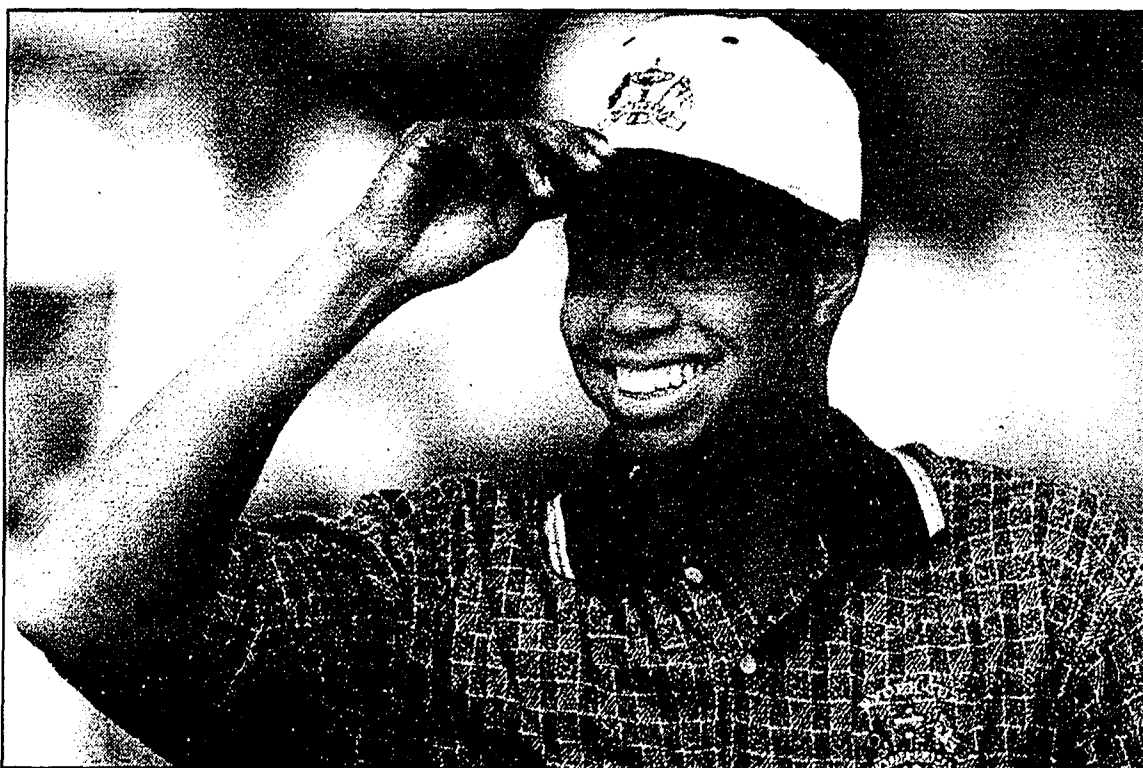
O'Meara and Tom Lehman.

Europe's highest-ranked player, Colin Montgomerie, once again disappointed in the major championships when he finished second in the U.S. Open, then played poorly in the British Open at Royal Troon, the course on which he was raised.

Europe's most intimidating player, Nick Faldo, is coming off his worst year ever in the major championships.

And Europe's squad was rattled by the removal of Miguel Angel Martin from the team, a situation just settled Tuesday

Continued on page 27



Tiger Woods of the United States Ryder Cup team acknowledges spectators during his practice round at the Valderrama golf course in southern Spain Tuesday. The United States will play Europe in the Ryder Cup which is scheduled to start Friday Sept. 26. AP

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