



# THE NATIONAL UNION

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Palikir, Pohnpei, January to March 15, 1993

Number 1

## George signed Chemical Weapon Convention

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The FSM Ambassador to the United Nations Yosiwo George reported to President Bailey Olter that he has participated on behalf of the Government of the FSM in signing the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Manufacture, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons. The signing ceremony was held in Paris, France, last January. George was accompanied by his staff Joses R. Gallen.

The signing ceremony was opened by French Minister of Foreign Affairs, followed by statements by the UN Secretary General, the Foreign Minister of Federal Republic of Germany and a welcoming remarks by the President of the Republic of France, Francois Mitterrand. The Convention was signed by more than 125 countries, including the Federated States of Micronesia. Statements of support for the convention were presented by member states during the three-day ceremony.

As a signatory to the Convention, the Federated States of Micronesia became member of Preparatory Commission (PREPCOMM) organized to effectively implement the Convention. The Preparatory Commission is to carry out the tasks of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the preparation for the first session of the conference of the States Parties to the conventions. The Preparatory Commission scheduled its first meeting in Hague, Kingdom of Netherlands during the first week of February this year.

## Frasseto presented credentials to Olter

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Ambassador Antoine Frasseto of France to the FSM presented his letter of credence to President Bailey Olter, February 15, in a brief ceremony held at the Cabinet room. Frasseto who is the current consul general of France at Honolulu, Hawaii, before presenting his credentials to Olter, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of External Affairs Resio S. Moses.

Frasseto called on the President Olter and Vice President Nena, Secretary Moses, and Governor of Pohnpei Johnny David.

A reception in honor of Ambassador

Antoine Frasseto was hosted by the President at Pwohmaria Resort.

Ambassador Frasseto made a round of calls on the diplomatic missions in Pohnpei before he depart.

Frasseto was Ambassador of France to the Central African Republic since 1990, before his appointment to be ambassador to the FSM. Frasseto was Consul General of France at Venice, Italy from 1986 to 1990. He held senior posts as Director-General in several ministries between 1963 and 1986.

He was born on March 15, 1936, graduated from law school; the institute of Political Studies and the National

(See FRASSETO, Page 2)



FRENCH ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENCE - Ambassador of France to the FSM Antoine Frasseto (right) present his credentials to President Bailey Olter (center) during a brief ceremony held, February 15, 1993 in the Cabinet room. From left to right are: Secretary of External Affairs Resio S. Moses, President Olter, and Ambassador Frasseto. Sitting: Vice President Jacob Nena.

(Continued from Page 1)

School of Administration (Ecole Nationale de l'Administration) in 1963.

The Ambassador in his statement emphasized his pleasure in carrying out the mission which he has been entrusted.

"Through this ceremony," Frasseto said, "our two Governments desired that the presentation of my letters of credence might be the opportunity to celebrate solemnly the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. This is therefore a historic moment, when we are laying the foundation of a venture which is to be a joint one. Even though our two countries are very different and far away from one another, they share the same ideals within the Community of Nations; the same deep concern for human rights and for democratic values, the same concern for peace and cooperation between countries, the same faith in progress for social and economic development."

"In spite of being a European and continental country," he stated, "France has a long standing maritime history. Her navigators have taken part in the exploration of the oceans. A long time ago, she established relations with countries far from her shores, in particular with the island countries of the Pacific."

The Ambassador added, "That is why France does not feel a complete stranger in this part of the world. Her solid relationship with the peoples and territories of the South Pacific and the strong links she has established with them give her a special aptitude in dialogue and cooperation with the new nations of the North Pacific."

Frasseto said that as he fulfill the symbolic formality which has brought him to the FSM, he would like the President to confirm the will of the French Government to establish with the FSM sincere and active relations of friendship and cooperation in a spirit of peace and mutual respect.

"During my brief stay in your country," he added, "I hope to have the opportunity to assess the possible areas where this cooperation could be initiated, taking into account both your priorities and our own means; doing so, we

will try to take advantage of the experience we have acquired in our overseas territories in the Pacific, and of the facilities they could put at your disposal for instance, in the field of scientific and technical research and in training programs."

"In your progress towards development, I would like you to know that France will watch your efforts attentively and will be prepared to support them to the best of her ability," Frasseto said.

The Ambassador concluded, expressing to the President on behalf of the Government of France and his behalf, his and the Government's most sincere wishes of success and prosperity for the FSM and the President.

President Olter in his response said, "We are honored once again this morning to welcome to the ranks of the growing diplomatic envoys accredited to our nation, his excellency Ambassador Antoine Frasseto of the Republic of France as his esteemed country's first Ambassador to the FSM."

Olter said that in accepting the Ambassador's credentials, to assume the Ambassador's mission as Ambassador of his esteemed country to the FSM, he wished to convey to the Ambassador his personal commitment and that of the FSM government to the development of the relation established between the two countries. "The FSM welcomes the opportunity to establish dialogue and long term cooperation with the government of France and other member states of the European Community," he added.

"The FSM after six years," he stated, "since the attainment of independence is very much occupied with the awesome task of nation building. Much is needed to bring about a measure of economic development to the FSM to assure our people a stable and assured future. Our nations hope for the future will necessarily rest on our own efforts and the timely assistance of our friends."

In accepting Frasseto's credentials, the President welcome the esteemed country of France to the list of friends of the FSM, and added that FSM is ready to cooperate with France and other nations toward the resolution of, "our mutual concerns in the world as well as

in the Pacific region where both of our nations have important interest." "The peace and stability of our Pacific region is at the heart of our concerns and interest. To that end I would like to call on France to join the FSM and other Forum member countries to keep the region free of the threats and conflicts that are common to other regions of the world," the President stated.

The President told the Ambassador that he join other Forum member nations in congratulating France for its unilateral decision to place a moratorium on nuclear weapon testing in the Pacific. Olter said he hope that the moratorium does turn into a permanent ban. "France, with its long history of involvement in the Pacific," Olter said, "has a definite and important role to play in the future development of our region. I call on France to join us in this awesome task."

Olter assured France that the FSM will take up its role as a member of the international community to work with France and other nations toward the resolution of global issues facing us today among which is the environment. He said that the FSM considers the implementation of the framework convention on climate change to be crucial to the very survival, "of our country and most nations in the Pacific, to that end, French support for the efforts to conclude the needed protocols to strengthen the climate change convention is vital."

Olter told Frasseto that the FSM has a great deal to learn from France with its long history of contribution to world history and development, adding, "We have every hope for the future and the cooperation between our two nations."

Olter in concluding his statement told the Ambassador to convey his personal regards to his Excellency President Francios Mitterand and his wish for Mitterand's continued good health and the prosperity of the people of France.

Present at the brief ceremony this morning were the Vice President Jacob Nena, Speaker Jack Fritz, Acting Chief Justice Andon Amaraich, Lt. Governor of Pohnpei Victor Edwin, and members of the Cabinet and diplomatic corps, and other officials.

## T3 to be decentralized

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM President Bailey Olter has informed all Governors that the Board of Directors of T3, during their last meeting had decided to delegate to each State the day-to-day supervision of its staff present in the State. In doing so, Olter requested each Governor to notify him of the name of official under whose supervision the T3 staffs will fall.

Olter said that the Board in making the decision hopes to improve efficiency, efficacy and relevancy of T3 programs to the State's needs. T3 program was instituted with the assistance of International Labor Organization (ILO) to improve the supply of skilled labor in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Board members representing the four States and National Government. Currently, Jessey Sidney, is supervising the FSM T3 program.

## Olter propose to amend IDF

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter transmitted to Congress Speaker Jack Fritz a proposed bill to amend the existing legislation governing loans from Investment Development Fund (IDF).

Olter explained in his transmittal letter that the purpose of the proposed amendments are, first, to remove the restriction that stipulate that only FSM citizens or corporations owned at least 20% by FSM citizens or government, joint ventures can borrow from the Investment Development Fund. And to expand to say that partnerships such as Westpac can also borrow from IDF. Olter said that Westpac is not a corporation, but a partnership with certain U.S. Company known as West I.

Secondly, the amendment seeks to add a new group of loan recipients consisting of certain U.S. entities, whose involvement will benefit an FSM entity who is eligible to receive an IDF loan. This is necessary because Westpac will loan the IDF money to a U.S. partnership called West I. West I will purchase the three ships and lease the ships back to Westpac who will do the fishing.

Olter also told Fritz that he will work separately with the Federated Development Authority (FDA) to make the necessary changes to the Guidelines and Procedures governing the IDF to be consistent with the proposed amendments.

He urged Congress to give its fullest consideration to proposed amendments.



**FRANCE AND FSM ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS** - Before the Ambassador of France to the FSM, Antoine Frasseto presented (left), his letter of credence to President Olter he signed with Secretary of External Affairs Resio S. Moses (right) a memorandum of understanding establishing diplomatic relations between the Governments of France and FSM. In the back is the Chief of Protocol Ieske Iehsi.

## Olter sent two grant applications to Congress for approval

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM President Bailey Olter transmitted to Speaker Jack Fritz for Congress' review and approval, two Grant Applications for funds provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. President Olter urged that the Congress approve the applications because both are very important for the improvement of the health of the FSM citizens.

The first application is for \$60,280, for the period beginning September 30, 1992 to September 29, 1993, for funding a Regional Training Program for new dental professionals. This request was made on behalf of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA), designed to alleviate the critical shortage of indigenous dental personnel in the Pacific including the FSM.

The second grant application request is of \$26,975 for calendar year January 1, 1993 to December 31, 1993, for developing a community and population-based program for the prevention, screening, registry and treatment of diabetes, mellitus, hypertension, obesity and other cardiovascular diseases in the

## Corrections

The National Union regrets the errors made in the story on Farmers Home Administration in the issue of the National Union (Vol. 13, No. 5), bottom of Page 5. The report was not from FSM/FmHA Area Office, the report was prepared and submitted for Pohnpei Area Office, and the FmHA offices in the FSM are not under the supervision of Sheltan G. Neth, the said offices including other FmHA Area Offices in Micronesia including Guam and Saipan are under the direct supervision of Leonard Q. Aguigui, Director, Western Pacific situated in Guam.

# **4 The Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program loc**

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program (PBMOTP) in Pohnpei, up to this year, have graduated 21 physicians. February last year, the program graduated 15 physicians and this year, six. Last year's commencement exercise was held in front of the Congress Chamber at Palikir and this year's was held at the Pohnpei State Legislature Chamber in Kolonia on January 27, this year.

During this year's commencement, Dr. Satoru Izutsu, Associate Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii, which administered the five year program, awarded the graduates (three men and three women) their Diplomas in Community Health, Medicine, and surgery.

The graduates, all from the Federated States of Micronesia, will all go back and work as physicians in the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. They will join the 15 physicians who graduated from the program last year.

Last year's 15 graduates that received the Diploma of Community Health, Medicine, and Surgery from the John A. Burns School of Medicine included Doctors Martin Bel, Thomas Rikin and Joanes J. Sarofalipy, Yap; Abram Ichin, Kennedy L. Remit, and Kasyan Fermin Roby, Chuuk; Imaculada John Douglas, Ianser Edward, Elizabeth Iehsi Keller, and Rihmen Ridai Lanzo, Pohnpei; Winston Likiaksa, Vita Akapito Skilling, and Livinson Taulung, Kosrae; Debra Ngemaes and Sylvia Osarch of Palau.

This year's graduates are Doctors, Anamaria Akapito and Rita Mori from Chuuk; Albertina Lemuel and Dr. Okai Johnson, Pohnpei; Paul Skilling, Kosrae; and Felix Yomai, Yap. Doctors Akapito and Mori are sisters and will join their older sister Dr. Vita Skilling who graduated from the program last year.

The keynote speaker at this year commencement was FSM Vice President Jacob Nena who said "This is a great day in the history of this developing island nation. Our Government and the Federation is indeed honored to witness and host the second graduating class of the Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program. This occasion makes a significant achievement of the past efforts and, I firmly believe, will constitute the basic promise for continuous

future commitments of crucial importance, in improved health care in these islands."

Dr. Simiron Jim, Chairman of Health and Social Affairs Committee, Pohnpei State Legislature, in his remarks, said, "as a physician I am well aware of the need for more qualified Pohnpeian doctors to work here in Pohnpei state," adding, "in the last 20 years, only four Pohnpeians graduated from medical school, and four graduates in 20 years is not enough." He predicted that by 1997 there will have been 12 Micronesian doctors working in Pohnpei State.

Director of the Department of Health Service for Pohnpei State Damien Sohl, in his remark, said that he was satisfied with the caliber of the interns who had worked at Pohnpei Hospital. Sohl extended his apology for the misunderstandings by patients which the graduates faced while conducting their internships. However, he thanked the graduates for their patience during those incidences. Re-echoing the comments by Dr. John Berrand of Fiji School of Medicine who for 13 years has been an instructor at University of Sidney School of Medicine, and was nominated by University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine, to participate as an External Examiner in the final examination for the graduates, saying, the quality of the students are as good as the best students turned out at the Univer-

sity of Sydney School of Medicine; all would pass without problem at the University of Sydney School of Medicine; the examination was fair and appropriately done; and there is community spirit between students and the staff. Sohl concluded by saying "our expectations of this year's graduates is higher than last year because you, graduates, have the advantage of learning from the errors of your senior colleagues."

U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia Aurelia Brazeal said that U.S. President Clinton's recent Inaugural Speech called upon all Americans to participate in the time of National renewal and re-union and to sacrifice for common good. In similar vein, FSM President Oler at his Inaugural Speech in May 1991 called for sacrifice. She told the graduates, "as individuals, you are part of the nation building process. As individuals, you can make a difference." Commenting on the school's support, the Ambassador added, "by the end of 1993, the U.S. Public Health Service will have expended \$9.9 million in support of the school." In closing she urged the graduating medical doctors to fulfill their obligations by serving the people of the Federated States of Micronesia."

The Valedictorian Speech was by Dr. Albertina Lemuel of Pohnpei, emphasizing on team work as essential ele-

*(Continued on Page 5)*



**1993 MO GRADUATES**-Above are the second group of doctors graduating from the Medical Training Program in Pohnpei. The six graduates are from left to right: Dr. Albertina Lemuel of Pohnpei; Dr. Anamaria Akapito, and Dr. Rita Mori, Chuuk; Dr. Paul Skilling, Kosrae; Dr. Okai Johnson, Pohnpei, and Dr. Felix Yomai of Yap.

# ited in the State of Pohnpei graduated twenty-one doctors

(Continued from Page 4)

ment for effective health service program. "Some will busy themselves in the curative services while others will play the preventative role," she added. In bidding her lower classmates farewell, Dr. Lemuel urged them to go for the goal of their studies to attain a successful end. Dr. Lemuel received the highest award, the academic excellence award. Dr. Paul Skilling received a newly established award named after Chuukese classmate who died of heart

failure while on field assignment from the school in Chuuk. The award is given to a student who excels others in Community Involvement. And the 3rd award went to Dr. Rita Mori of Chuuk.

The Commencement Exercises was moderated by Dr. Gregory J. Dever, MD, FAAP, Director of the Program. Dr. Dever, during the program, read a number of congratulatory messages from those invited guests who were unable to attend the occasion. Attending the exercise were nearly 100 offi-

cials of Pohnpei and National Governments, families, relatives and friends of the graduates, officials and staff of the medical program, traditional leaders, and Chief Justice, Pohnpei Supreme Court.

PBMOTP is a federally funded program, developed to address the acute physician shortage in the FSM, Palau, Marshalls, and American Samoa. By 1997 80 or 90 indigenous physicians will have graduated from the program and working in their respective island.



**1992 MO GRADUATES** - Above are the first PBMOTP graduates. The commencement was held in front of the FSM Congress Chamber in Palikir, Pohnpei. The graduates are Doctors Martin Bel, Thomas Rikin and Joanes J. Sarofalip, Yap; Abram Ichin, Kennedy L. Remit, and Kasyan Fermin Roby, Chuuk; Imaculada John Douglas, Ianser Edward, Elizabeth Iehsi Keller, and Rihmen Ridal Lanzo, Pohnpei; Winston Likiaksa, Vita Akapito Skilling, Livinson Taulung, Kosrae; and Debra Ngemaes and Sylvia Osarch of Palau.

## Olter issued Policy establishing Drug Free Workplace Act

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter has issued a Policy Statement establishing A Drug Free Workplace Act, Public Law No. 100-690.

The policy which takes effect immediately applies to all FSM Government employees. It makes it unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use any controlled substance in the workplace. Violation of this policy will not be tolerated. As a condition of employment with the FSM Government, all employees are expected to abide by the terms of this policy and comply with rules and regulations established for its implementation by the Office of Administrative Services and individual agencies.

Each employee is obligated to notify the head of his or her department, office or agency of any drug statute conviction of the employee for violation occurring in the workplace. Such conviction shall be reported within five days of such conviction. Violation of this policy will result in punitive action against an employee including termination of employment with the government.

President Olter has instructed the Secretary and Acting Secretary of the Department of Health Services and Education, respectively, to implement an Employee Counseling Assistance Program for any employee who may have a drug or alcohol-related problem.

## Dr. Pretrick negotiates dental training

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Secretary of Health Services Dr. Eliuel K. Pretrick and Dr. Dan Fujii from Hawaii took a trip to the U.S. mainland to meet with the faculty of the College of Dentistry, University of Kentucky, regarding Training programs for dental personnel in the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association's (PIHOA) respective jurisdictions which include American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and FSM.

The two-day meeting resulted in an agreement on development of service contracts with the University of Kentucky, to develop curriculums for an eight year training program for dentists and to assess the costs of running the program. A report was submitted to the PIHOA at the Palau meeting.

The Association suggested three sites to be studied, which include Pohnpei, Chuuk and Palau. One of the three possible sites might be the site for the Dental Training Program. Consequently, a Special Committee chaired by Dr. Eugene Sabino who is the President of Micronesian Dental Association is being created to look into the sites and report back on its findings. Members of the committee include representative from Region IX, San Francisco Office; World Health Organization (WHO) in Manila; Dr. Dan Fujii, Dental Consultant to PIHOA and Dr. Royline Wada, PIHOA Executive Director and also a Professor at University of Hawaii's School of Public Health.

## 6 Senator Jim laid to rest

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) Pohnpei State Senator Simeron Jim died Feb. 18 this year of heart attack, confirm by doctors at Pohnpei Hospital, according to a letter issued by Speaker Kasiano Joseph.

"Senator Jim was holding the position of Chairman on the Committee on Health and Social Services in the State Legislature before he died. As Chairman, Senator Jim provided strong leadership to the advancement of Pohnpei's health and social services, so crucial to the overall development of our State," Speaker Joseph stated.

Senator Jim who was born in Mwoakiloa, 54 is a graduate of the Fiji School of Medicine and a licensed Medical Officer. "He was an integral part of our lives as a Legislator, medical professional, colleagues and fellow man. We grieve for his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by all of us," concluded Speaker Kasiano Joseph.

Governor of Pohnpei Johnny David issued a proclamation on the 18th of February requiring all State's flags be lowered to half-staff for the four day mourning period. Governor David also requested all other flags flown in Pohnpei State to be kindly lowered to show respect to the late Senator Jim.

FSM President Bailey Olter concurrently issued a declaration, the same day, ordering all Flags of the Federated States of Micronesia be flown at half-mast on all buildings, grounds and throughout the FSM and its various overseas offices beginning, February 18th until sunset on February 22, 1993, in mourning of the sudden death of Senator Simeron Jim, who was a respected State Leader of Pohnpei.

Besides his being a State Senator, Simeron Jim also hold the position of President of the Pohnpei Headstart's Board of Directors and a Lay Preacher in the Kepinle Church, a member of the United Church of Christ in Pohnpei (UCCP).

Simeron Jim is survived by his wife Elpirihde Leihda Jim, his two sons and four daughters. One son is attending the Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program in Pohnpei. Simeron is also survived by his mother and two brothers and four sisters.

A State Funeral was held in his honor at 6 o'clock p.m., February 18, 1993, in the Pohnpei State Legislative Chamber where Legislature Speaker Kasiano Joseph read Jim's a eulogy in Pohnpeian.

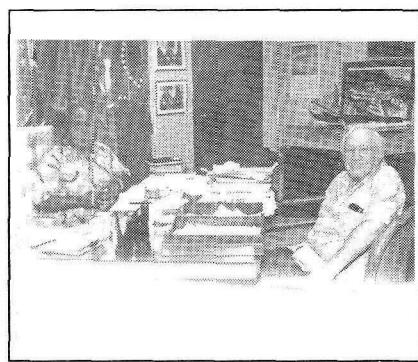
## NFC Board members met in Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The seven-member Board of Directors of the National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) appointed Mr. Peter Sitan by unanimous vote as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of NFC during its meeting at Palikir, January 18-20 this year. He will take up his new post in early March in order to allow time for smooth transition from his current position as Executive Director of the Micronesian Maritime Authority (MMA). He replaces Mr. James Movick of Pohnpei who resigned at the end of December last year, according to a NFC news release.

Four of the seven members of the NFC Board are newly appointed which made it necessary for the Board to hold elections for its officers. Asterio Takesy who was elected Chairman, Max Mallarme Vice Chairman, and Reed Nena Secretary Treasurer. New members of the board are Peter Rebeuluch (Yap), he is currently the General Manager of Yap Fishing Authority, Max Mallarme (Pohnpei), a successful businessman, Lewis Brooks (Kosrae), Director, Department of Resources and Development, Kosrae State Government, and Reed Nena (National Government) who is the Administrator, Division of Administrative Management, FSM Budget Office. Hold over members are Marion Henry (Chuuk), Director, Department of Commerce and Industry, Chuuk State Government, Peter Sitan (National Government), Executive Director, MMA, and Asterio Takesy (National Government). He is currently the Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development, National Government. The Executive Director of MMA will replace Sitan on the Board.

NFC was created in 1984 by law under former President Tosiwo Nakayama to act as a primer in developing commercial fisheries in the FSM. The National Government of the FSM granted and loaned to NFC a total funding to date of over \$7.0 million. Of this amount, portions went into costs of operations while the rest financed investments in commercial fisheries ventures

such as: Yap Fishing Corporation, a joint venture with Yap State and American partners operating four purse seiners; Caroline Fishing Corporation, a joint venture with Pohnpei State and an Australian businessman in purse seine fishing operating three purse seiners; Micronesian Fresh Tuna, a subsidiary of NFC which operates four tuna longliners; Chuuk Fresh Tuna Incorporation, a longline joint venture with Chuuk State to construct and operate a longline shore base capable of serving 100 longline vessels; Yap Fresh Tuna, Inc., a longline joint venture with Yap State to construct and operate a 100-vessel shore base; and another joint venture with the State of Kosrae is in progress to build some longline vessels outside the FSM. (See story on Sitan resigning from MMA on Page 8)



**POLLAND VISITED OLTER**-Roving Ambassador of the Marshalls, Milton Polland (right), stopped over in Pohnpei on his way to the Southeast Asian countries and paid a courtesy call on President Bailey Olter (left), last January. Polland, a businessman, was accompanied by Executives of C.C.S & G Limited, including Phillip Cavana, President; Mary Grace, Secretary-Treasurer; and Frosty Fethorolf, Director of Real Estate Development. C.C.S. & G., Ltd., a U.S. company, which has expressed interests in providing construction, financing and training to FSM citizens for manning Fishing Fleets. An interest commensurate with the current economic development policies of the FSM Government. During the call on the President, the delegation showed President Olter a video tape on their business activities in Denmark.

# The Philippines to close overseas offices

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The government of the Philippines announced that they will be closing several of their overseas offices.

The Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs has announced that consistent with the ongoing efforts to streamline its diplomatic and consular operations abroad, 12 foreign service establishments will be closed by June 30th, this year, according to a release from the Philippine Embassy in FSM.

The department had undertaken a long and exhaustive study that considered the geopolitical, economic, and consular implications relative to each post. The recommendations were reviewed and approved by the President.

Nine of the country's 60 embassies and missions will be taken out of service on the 30th of June this year. These embassies are in Amman, Jordan; Dakar, Senegal; Rabat, Morocco; Bucharest, Romania; Warsaw, Poland; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Pohnpei, FSM; Havana, Cuba; and Lima, Peru.

Also scheduled for closure at the same time are three consulates, all in the U.S., out of the 19 worldwide. These are in Seattle, Washington; Houston, Texas; and in San Diego, California. Altogether, the closure of these 12 comprise at 15 percent reduction in the number of Philippine Foreign Service posts around the world.

A new Philippine consulate will be opened in Milan, Italy. Other than the opportunities for trade and commerce that this financial and industrial center in northern Italy presents, a large number of Filipinos live and work there.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Roberto R. Romulo stated that the decision on the closures was made with a great deal of anguish but he believes that it is in the best interests of the Foreign Service. One Hundred Twenty-Seven DFA personnel will be affected and most will be reas-

signed to the home office, which has a severe shortage of qualified staff. The Secretary added that these closures will partially resolve the DFA's manpower problem in Manila.

However, the final resolution of the staffing requirements both in Manila and in the posts overseas will not be completed until the middle of the year.

## FAA to upgrad airport navigational aids

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is in the process of upgrading airport navigational aids at the four major airports in the FSM pursuant to a memorandum of understanding earlier signed between the Department of Transportation and FAA, according to the Department of Transportation and Communication.

The project involves the replacement of all Non Directional Beacons (NDBs) and Distance Measuring Equipments (DMEs) with state of the arts equipment that would reduce operational and maintenance attendance by airport personnel. The project has commenced in

the State of Pohnpei early February and will move to Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae with the completion of the Pohnpei installations at the end of February.

For approximately one week during the actual installation of the new equipment in each state, air service disruption may be experienced during extreme adverse weather conditions.

In the State of Pohnpei the critical period was between February 22 and March 1, 1993 when flights are subject to delay, overflight or cancellation during extreme adverse weather conditions due to decommissioning and recommissioning of airport navigation aids.



**JARVIS VISITED POHNPEI** - A brief ceremony was held at Pohnpei Harbor in honor of Jarvis, a Coast Guard Cutter which arrived Pohnpei, February 13, 1993 as a familiarization visit. Jarvis visited Yap state where she rescued a boat in Satawal. Jarvis also visited Chuuk, and Kosrae. The Commanding Officer on Jarvis is Captain R.D. Sirois and has a crew of 24 officers, 153 enlisted (daily liberty 130), 378 ft. in length with a 40 ft. beam and draft of 24 ft.

## • Peter Sitan left MMA and became NFC President

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - The recent Executive Director of the Micronesian Maritime Authority, Peter Sitan resigned from his position effective, March 1, 1993, to take up a new post as President/CEO of the National Fisheries Corporation (NFC). Sitan will after that date and before he takes up his position at the National Fisheries Corporation, will serve in a advisory capacity to MMA.

Effective March 1, 1993, the current Deputy Director of the Authority, Bernard Thoulag will assume the full authority and responsibility of the Authority as its Acting Executive Director until the Board of Directors appointed a new Executive Director.

The seven-member Board of Directors of the National Fisheries Corporation (NFC) appointed Mr. Peter Sitan by unanimous vote as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of NFC during its meeting at Palikir, January 18-20 this year.

Sitan, 38, of Ettal Island, Chuuk State was graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a B.A. degree in Biology, 1978. He spent his high school years in the Mortlock Junior High, Mispah High School on Weno, St. Joseph High School in Hilo, Hawaii and graduated from Maui, Hawaii. While a high school and college student in Hawaii, he spent almost all summers crewing on small salmon fishing vessels in Kodiak, Alaska. He also spent a month working at a salmon cannery in Kodiak.

His work experience has focused mainly on fisheries development and management dating back to 1978 when

he began his government career as Assistant Fisheries Officer, Marine Resources Division in Chuuk State. While in Chuuk, he also taught Marine ecology, part-time at the Community College of Micronesia, Chuuk campus.

From 1981-1986, Sitan served as Deputy Director of MMA, the regulatory arm of the FSM National Government charged with management of the country's 200 Mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) including licensing of fishing vessels, surveillance up to 1985,



*Peter Sitan*

fisheries policies development and involved in national fisheries development project proposals throughout the nation. He spent most of his time supervising operation of the MMA, participated in fisheries access negotiations, and directed fisheries researches and information analysis.

From 1986 to the present, Sitan has headed the MMA as its Executive Director where earnings from access licenses of MMA were greatly increased from \$3.5 million before 1986 to the current annual average of \$12.5 million. Last year's earnings has already surpass \$15.4 million. Under his stewardship, the information gathering research, and

analysis capability of MMA has vastly improved. It is widely recognized as one of the leading fisheries agencies in the Pacific.

In his various posts, Sitan did practical research, information analysis, managed finances and other employees. During his career he has broaden his training in fisheries. Practical training included an eight week course organized by the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in Noumea, fisheries management courses sponsored by Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) at Honiara and International Ocean Institute, mineral resources course at East-West Center in Honolulu, Maritime Boundary delimitation workshop in Apia, a fellowship in New Zealand to study and observe purse seining, and several fellowships from the government of Japan to study the fisheries industry of Japan. In addition he has served as expert and resource person on a number of regional and international panels of fisheries conferences including FAO, and UNDP. He served on a panel that did a comprehensive performance review of FFA in the past ten years. He has traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia, North America, Western Europe, Australia, and the South and Western Pacific regions. A skilled negotiator, Sitan has headed many fishing access negotiations involving foreign fishing fleets of U.S., Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, Mexico and the Philippines.

While presently a member of the NFC Board of Directors since 1988, Sitan previously sat on the Board of Directors of FSM Dev. Bank and the Truk Foreign Investment Board.

He is married to Elihter Edgar of Parem, Pohnpei State.

### THE NATIONAL UNION

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