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 OF ABSENCE, THE FOLLOWING (ISCHALL'S SECOND REPORT),  
 (THE LOG VOYAGE HOME)

ENEWETAK ATOLL, MARCH 18 (MNS)---"IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK,"  
 THOSE WERE THE WORDS OF THE FIRST  
 ENEWETAKASE TO OFFICIALLY RETURN HOME AFTER AN ABSENCE OF  
 TWENTY-NINE (29) YEARS.

FOLLOWING HIM ONTO THE WOODEN PIER, OVER THE STERN OF  
 THE MS MILITOKI, WERE HIS WIFE AND FIFTY-FOUR (54) OTHERS,  
 THE MEMBERS OF TEN FAMILIES REPRESENTING BOTH DRI ENEBI  
 AND DRI ENEWETAK PEOPLES, AMONG THE GOURP WERE YUNG  
 CHILDREN, INFANTS, YOUNG ADULTS AND A FEW WHO REMEMBERED  
 THE DEPARTURE SO MANY YEARS AGO, ACCOMPANYING THEM ON THE  
 SHIP FROM UJELANG WAS MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR  
 OSOAR DEBRUM AND THOMAS G. MATTSON, MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES.

THE ARRIVALS SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED WITH WHAT THEY  
 SAW AS THEY WENT ASHORE. THE CHILDREN QUICKLY RAN TO THE  
 SANDY BEACH AND THROUGH THE VILLAGE AREA WHERE UNLIKE UJELANG,  
 THERE WERE FEW ROCKY AREAS, THE OLDER FOLKS SAT UNDER NEARBY  
 PALM TREES TO ENJOY THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES, OTHERS  
 WROTTLED THROUGH THE CONVERTED BUTLER BUILDINGS WHICH WERE:

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TO BE THEIR TEMPORARY HOMES UNTIL NEW ONES ARE BUILT.

THE RETURNEES WERE GREETED BY A RECEPTION PARTY UNDER  
 A WELCOME ARCH READING "UJAPTAN ISLAND - YOKWE KOM", THE  
 PARTY WAS HEADED BY BRIG. GEN. THOMAS E. LACY, USAF, COMMANDER,  
 FIELD COMMAND, NUCLEAR DEFENSE AGENCY AND INCLUDED  
 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER,  
 ERDA, HOLMES AND NARVER, AND REP. ATAJI BALOS OF THE CONGRESS  
 OF MICRONESIA.

GEN. LACY EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR THEIR SAFE VOYAGE  
 BACK HOME AND SAID HE "LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING TOGETHER  
 ON THE CLEAN-UP IN THE MONTHS AHEAD." IN RESPONSE,

SAID IT WAS "AN HONOR TO BE THE FIRST RETURNEES TO  
 THE ISLANDS WE LEFT THIRTY YEARS AGO," HE SAID IT WAS A  
 "MOMENT OF HISTORY" AND HE THANKED EVERYONE WHO MADE IT  
 POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO RETURN HOME, ADDING SPECIAL THANKS TO  
 MARSHALLS DISTRICT DEBRUM.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE  
 NUCLEAR AGENCY, LT. GEN. WARREN D. JOHNSON WAS ALSO READ.  
 GEN. JOHNSON HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SUPPORTER AND ADVOCATE  
 OF THE RETURN OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE TO THEIR HOME ISLANDS.

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GEN. JOHNSON SAID THAT HE REGRETTED NOT BEING WITH THE  
 RETURNEES ON THIS "HISTORIC" OCCASION AND SAID HE SHARED  
 THEIR "GREAT JOY."

JOHNSON IS BEING REPLACED AS DNA CHIEF ON MARCH 31 BY  
 VICE-ADMIRAL ROBERT R. MONROE.

A LOAD, HOSTED BY THE HOLMES AND NARVER EMPLOYEES ON ENEWETAK ISLAND WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE EVENING. THE CLEAN UP PROGRAM WILL BEGIN IN APPROXIMATELY SIXTY DAYS. SIX HUNDRED (600) U.S. SERVICE PERSONNEL WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CLEAN UP UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DNA. ERDA WILL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE. THE CLEAN UP, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE THIRTY-FOUR (34) MONTHS, IS DESIGNED TO REMOVE THE DEBRIS LEFT OVER FROM THE NUCLEAR TESTING AS WELL AS THOSE FACILITIES THAT ARE DEEMED NO LONGER USABLE. RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIALS WILL BE SUNK IN A DEEP PIT ON RUNIT ISLAND AND CAPED BY TWO FEET OF CONCRETE. THE RUNWAY, HANGER, AND SELECTED BUILDINGS ON ENEWETAK ISLAND WILL REMAIN. THE REEFER PLANT, THE DESALINIZATION PLANT AND OTHER STRUCTURES WILL GO. THE \$28 MILLION CLEAN UP PROGRAM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A \$10 MILLION REHABILITATION PROGRAM

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UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR. HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT, ESPECIALLY BY THE RETURNEES THEMSELVES, THAT ENEWETAK ATOLL WILL NEVER BE WHAT IT WAS MANY YEARS AGO. (COM LEADERSHIP MEETS ON PONAPE)

PONAPE, MARCH 12 (COM)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONVENED A LEADERSHIP MEETING ON PONAPE TUESDAY (MARCH 15). THE AGENDA COVERED SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS AS WELL AS DISCUSSION OF A RECENT LETTER FROM THE U.S. PROPOSING TO CONVENE A MEETING TO DISCUSS MICRONESIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND HOW THEY "MIGHT BEST PROCEED WITH DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF MICRONESIA" SUBSEQUENT TO SUCH A MEETING.

THE LETTER FROM U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT SECRETARY CYRUS VANCE AND INTERIOR SECRETARY CECIL ANDRUS PROPOSES A MEETING BETWEEN U.S. AND MICRONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY, AT A TIME AND PLACE TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON. IDENTICAL LETTERS WERE SENT TO THE SPEAKERS OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES, AS WELL AS THE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

IN THEIR MEETING TUESDAY AFTERNOON AND WEDNESDAY MORNING,

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THE LEADERSHIP DRAFTED AND FINALIZED A RESPONSE TO VANCE AND ANDRUS. THE RESPONSE INDICATES THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WELCOMES SUCH A MEETING, AND ALSO ASKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUCH AS WHO WILL REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE MEETING. IT FURTHER NOTES THAT THE COMMISSION ON FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TRANSITION IS EMPOWERED BY LAW TO CONDUCT STATUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR MICRONESIA, AND THEREFORE ANY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE IN ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS.

IN ADDITION TO THIS LETTER, THE LEADERSHIP ALSO IS SENDING IDENTICAL LETTERS TO THE SPEAKERS OF THE DISTRICT

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