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CONSULTED AT EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY IN THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM.

DISTAD DEBRUM SAID THAT HE WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS FOR THEIR LONG AND HARD EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE THE RETURN OF THE ATOLL TO THE PEOPLE. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING WITH DEPUTY HICOM COLEMAN LATER IN THE WEEK AND TO BEGINNING THE PLANNING FOR THE REVERSION OF ENIWETOK TO THE TRUST TERRITORY SO THAT THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM COULD GET UNDERWAY.

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ACCORDING TO THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED TUESDAY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE SAME TYPE OF SURVEY, CLEANUP AND REHABILITATION PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BEEN USED AT BIKINI. "AS AN INITIAL STEP, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, "THE U.S. PLANS TO COMMENCE THE SURVEY OF THE ATOLL PROBABLY LATE THIS SUMMER. THE CLEANUP AND REHABILITATION OF THE THREE ISLANDS---PARRY, JAPTAN AND ANIYAANII---IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE ATOLL, WILL RECEIVE FIRST PRIORITY."

PRIOR TO THE RETURN OF ENIWETOK TO TRUST TERRITORY JURISDICTION BY THE END OF 1973, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, "THE UNITED STATES IS COMPLETING SOME RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TESTING ON THE ATOLL WHICH WILL NOT INVOLVE NUCLEAR DETONATIONS OF ANY TYPE. THESE TESTS WILL IN NO WAY INTERFERE WITH AN EARLY COMMENCEMENT OF THE REHABILITATION PROCESS AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1973."

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(SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN APPOINTED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18, (MNS)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA HAS BEEN APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE REPRESENTATIVE HANS WILLIANDER OF TRUK AND REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL OF PALAU.

THE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK WAS CREATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 40-35, WHICH AUTOMATICALLY BECAME LAW MARCH 26. THE COMMITTEE IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE THE EFFECTS OF IRRADIATION ON THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO SECURE ANY AND ALL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE AFFECTED ATOLLS. IT IS ALSO CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING COMPENSATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK FOR THE INJURIES WHICH THEY SUFFERED DUE TO EXPOSURE TO IRRADIATION.

ACCORDING TO SENATOR BORJA, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS BEGUN INITIAL HEARINGS INTO THE RONGELAP AND UTIRIK SITUATION ON SAIPAN. ON MONDAY THE COMMITTEE CALLED ON DR. WILLIAM PECK, TI HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR, AND DR. HAYAKAWA OF JAPAN FOR SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE OVERALL SITUATION OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE.

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