～ 日本海難防止協会シンガポール連絡事務所発SRO news ～
（Ref No：21－043）

１　米国インド太平洋軍司令部のジョン・アキリーノ司令官は23日パラオを短時間訪問し、ルールに基づく国際秩序と地域の安全保障への貢献に対するパラオの取組みを称賛した。ウィップス大統領は、米国とのパートナーシップに対する感謝の意を強調するとともに、特にパラオの国境等を「軽視する」人々の脅威に直面した場合、米国との関係が重要になると述べた。
原文
（25th February 2022, Island Times）

２　Gateway Inc.の共同創設者で富豪のテッド・ウェイト氏が保養のためパラオに来訪した。同氏が慈善家・環境保護主義者として創設したウェイト財団及びウェイト研究所は、政府による持続可能な海洋開発を支援する NGO ネットワークであるBlue Prosperity Coalition（BPC）の創設メンバーとなっている。農業・漁業・環境省のスティーブン・ビクター大臣は、BPC がパラオ政府と共同でPNMSの有効性の評価を行い、環境・経済的利益の実現化を確実にすると述べた。
原文
（25th February 2022, Island Times）

３　ミクロネシア連邦（FSM）のディビッド・パニュエロ大統領は、ブリンケン国務長官と太平洋島嶼国の首脳らが参加したオンライン会議（※SRO News21-042参照）で、まず気候変動問題について言及し、FSMとインド太平洋地域が直面している最大の脅威であるとして、米国は COP26 で約束した数兆ドル規模のBuild Back Better 法案を滞りなく通過させる必要があり、この米国の本物のリーダーシップが豪州、インド、中国その他の国々を説得するために不可欠だと述べた。また、自由連合盟約について、更新の交渉について、タイムリーな結論を求めると述べた。そして、今回の会合が米国の太平洋島嶼国への関与の強化の始まりであることを支持すると述べた。
　また、ブリンケン国務長官は、ハワイで開催されるパニュエロ大統領が議長を務める次回Pacific Islands Conference of Leadersについて、バイデン米大統領が主催することを発表した。
原文
（16th February 2022, Kaselehlie Press）

４　米国の沿岸警備隊と海軍は昨年 12 月、ミクロネシア連邦（FSM）のカピンガマランギ環礁（ポンペイ州）の狭くなった水路を爆破により広げる作業を実

施した。沿岸警備隊の巡視船 Sequoia が海軍の水中建設チームを輸送し、約 4 日間の作業で 1 万平方フィート（約 930 ㎡）を爆破した。
　また、作業期間中、カピンガマランギの住民に 1,700 ガロン（6,400 リットル）のボトル飲料水を引き渡した。
原文
（16th February 2022, Kaselehlie Press）

５　マーシャル諸島（RMI）の国家災害委員長は、ハワイでの 7 日又は 14 日間の隔離が「意味をなさない」とした上で、ハワイでの新型コロナ感染症例数の大幅な減少は、（※同地での）隔離期間を 7 日から 3 日に短縮できる前向きな兆候だと述べた。現在、RMI はワクチン完全接種者には 7 日間、その他は 14 日間ハワイでの隔離を求め、旅行者は RMI 到着後さらに 14 日間の隔離が必要である。一方、内閣はハワイでの隔離期間を 3 日間とする基本計画を原則承認したが、RMI 保健福祉省は当面の間の現状維持を推奨している。
原文
（22nd February 2022, Radio NZ）

６　（※トンガの海底火山噴火で損傷した）トンガ国内の海底通信ケーブルの修理に 1 年を要する可能性がある。Tonga Cable 社の CEO は、「修理に最大 110 km のケーブルが必要と見込まれ、同タイプのケーブルを世界中で探しているが、見つからなかった場合は製造・輸送に 6～9 か月要する。1 年かかるとみておいた方が無難だ。」と述べた。国際ケーブルは 2 月 22 日に修理を完了している。
原文
（1st March 2022, Matangi Tonga）

７　シンガポール海峡で 2022 年 1 月以降（※3 月 2 日までに）16 件の武装強盗事件が報告され、アジア海賊対策地域協力協定情報共有センター(ReCAAP　ISC)は 2 月 21 日及び 3 月 2 日、インシデント・アラートを発出した。特にインドネシア・バタム島 Nongsa 沖で 2 月に 5 件、3 月 2 日には 4 時間のうちに 3 件の事件が発生しており、ReCAAP　ISC は、シンガポール海峡での継続的な事件の発生、特にバタム島 Nongsa 沖での事件の増加に懸念を表明し、船舶に対して警戒を強化するよう勧告している。
原文
（21st February 2022, ReCAAP ISC）
原文
（2nd March 2022, ReCAAP ISC）

Secretary Blinken announces President Biden to host forthcoming Pacific Island Conference of Leaders in Honolulu

FSM Information Services

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On February 12th, 2022, His Excellency David W. Panuelo—President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)—virtually met with the Honorable Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America, the Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Acting Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, and other Pacific Island Leaders, to discuss issues of mutual interest, such as tackling the Climate Change crisis, strengthening democratic principles and norms, and otherwise advancing a Free & Open Indo-Pacific.

Acting Prime Minister Sayed-Khaiyum opened the meeting, describing Fiji's broad appreciation for the U.S. re-engaging with Pacific Island Countries. Among other items, the Acting Prime Minister requested the return of the U.S. Peace Corps to Fiji and Pacific Island Countries.

Secretary Blinken spoke next, speaking at length about the U.S. having common interests, as well as values, with Pacific Island Countries, such as the preservation of a Free & Open Indo-Pacific and tackling the Climate Change crisis which, President Panuelo noted, was rightly described as "literally an existential issue." The Secretary spoke of the United States' support for the Pacific Islands Forum as a powerful vehicle for Pacific nations to speak with one voice, and described in detail how the United States seeks to play a more consistent and larger role within the Pacific.

President Panuelo spoke next, and his remarks will by extension constitute the bulk of this release. After sharing solidarity with the Kingdom of Tonga (a sentiment shared unanimously by all attending parties), President Panuelo first spoke on the issue of Climate Change. "In the interest of brevity, I will get right to the point. The issues facing the Federated States of Micronesia are well-known, and so are the solutions. Climate Change remains the greatest existential threat facing our Nation and the Indo-Pacific region. It represents a national security threat to our Nation, and our citizens lives and livelihoods. What Micronesia needs to see our American allies do is to successfully pass the original multi-trillion-dollar Build Back Better legislation, as promised to the global community at COP26. Genuine American leadership on tackling Climate Change in this manner is essential towards convincing Australia, India, China, and other countries that solving this matter of life and death is also in our collective economic and social interest. Passing that legislation shows the leadership of speaking through actions, not words," President Panuelo said.

"Climate Change can only be defeated by a global community dedicated to fairness, equality, democracy, and the rule of law. For our first and foremost ally, the United States, that might include passing your proposed Freedom to Vote Act and strengthening democratic participation at home. For Micronesia, that might include passing our proposed Freedom of Information Act so that our citizens know what their Government is doing on their behalf. For our entire region, that absolutely must mean the advancement of a Free & Open Indo-Pacific," President Panuelo continued.

The President then defined his interpretation of what a Free & Open Indo-Pacific means, saying "A Free & Open Indo-Pacific means that peace, security, stability, and freedom of navigation in the Pacific Ocean is inseparable from peace, security, stability, and freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean. Crucially, this freedom and openness is the result of the international rules-based order and the rule of law."

Moving onwards to the Compact of Free Association, President Panuelo said "Any law or group of laws, taken in isolation, run the risk of amounting to just words on paper, no matter how noble their intent. Those laws must be backed by both tangible and intangible things, and the actions of people who believe in them and enforce them. It is for this reason, as well as the general prosperity of our people, that the Federated States of Micronesia seeks the timely conclusion on the negotiations of our Compact of Free Association, and with the aim that our Enduring Partnership be so much the envy of other Indo-Pacific countries that they, too, will purposefully seek to strengthen their relations with the People & Government of the United States of America."

President Panuelo concluded his remarks by saying "Welcome, Secretary Blinken, to the Blue Pacific Continent. I solicit your support that today's meeting be the beginning of an increase in engagement from the United States of America to all Pacific Island Countries. To show our solidarity, I announce today that the Federated States of Micronesia, following consultations among Leaders of the Micronesian Presidents' Summit, and on the basis of consensus, temporarily rescinds the withdrawal by the Federated States of Micronesia from the PIF Agreement in order to take a 'pause' on its withdrawal from the PIF from being effective, and to allow for specific substantive reforms of the PIF leadership to materialize by June 2022 and no later."

The other Pacific Island Countries attending the meeting spoke at length about mutually shared challenges, such as the Climate Change crisis, and public health, economic health, and ocean issues.

Secretary Blinken provided closing remarks, announcing that the U.S. Government is looking forward for U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. to host the forthcoming Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, of which President Panuelo is the Chair, to occur in-person in Honolulu, Hawaii, and with the intent for that meeting to continue the conversation at the highest level, and follow-up on many of the ideas raised in the discussion during the February 12th meeting.

The Kaselehlie Press
February 16 - March 1, 2022

Coast Guard and Navy complete channel widening in FSM

The Coast Guard and U.S. Navy use controlled explosive dredging techniques to clear roughly 10,000 square-feet taking approximately 6,500 pounds of explosives to clear from December 4-8, 2021. The Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia carried members from the Navy's Underwater Construction Team Two (UCT-2) to widen the shoal channel which had narrowed due to marine overgrowth. (U.S. Coast Guard photo courtesy of the Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia)

Story by Petty Officer 3rd Class Ryan Fisher
U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Hawaii Pacific

February 10, 2022
SANTA RITA, Guam - Crews from the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam improve navigation safety in Kapingamarangi Atoll.

The Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia carried members from the Navy's Underwater Construction Team Two (UCT-2) to widen the shoal channel from December 4-8, 2021, which had narrowed due to marine overgrowth.

In close coordination with FSM National Government, Pohnpei State, and Kapingamarangi Atoll leaders, the Coast Guard/Navy team used controlled explosive dredging techniques. The targeted area for removal was roughly 10,000 square-feet and took approximately 6,500 pounds of explosives to clear over the course of 4 days.

"I am proud of the efforts of our crew and the Navy's UCT-2 crew in completing this challenging mission," said Cdr. Ryan Adams, commanding officer of the CGC Sequoia. "This channel widening will allow merchant vessels to more easily navigate the island, which will provide vital supplies to more than 300 residents who call Kapingamarangi home."

"The United States and the FSM share a special and unique bond. It is through this friendship that we were all able to accomplish this mission. The widening of the channel will now improve accessibility for commerce and emergency situations especially when responding to natural disasters," said U.S. Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor. "We know how important this channel is to the lives of the people of Kapingamarangi. As with all citizens of the FSM, we share an enduring partnership and look forward to continue collaborating going forward."

Additionally, crewmembers from the CGC Sequoia and the Navy's UCT-2 detachment delivered approximately 1,700 gallons of bottled drinking water to the residents of Kapingamarangi while deployed to the island. The water was provided by the Ayuda Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Guam.

All water was delivered to a remote drop site under a no-contact policy due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.