

March 13, 82
Hon. Adv.

DeRussy sale 'OK'

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if \$\$ go to cut debt

Combined News Services

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told the Senate yesterday the Pentagon would make the "sacrifice" and sell Fort DeRussy on Honolulu's Waikiki Beach — if the proceeds are used to reduce the national debt.

"This is a unique military recreation area," Weinberger said in a letter to Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., who has been calling for the sale of some federal property to help reduce America's trillion-dollar national debt.

"It would be no small sacrifice for military people of all services stationed throughout the Pacific area to give up this important recreational facility, and it would unquestionably hurt morale because recreational leaves at this area are greatly anticipated.

"However," Weinberger told Percy, "I believe the times call for this kind of sacrifice."

Therefore, he said, the Defense Department "is prepared to make the open land at Fort DeRussy available for sale if the proceeds of

that sale are actually used to reduce the national debt."

Weinberger included this provision because, as he explained, "under existing statutes . . . the land at Fort DeRussy would not bring one cent into the federal treasury."

But Percy, a member of the Senate Government Affairs Committee, believes the sale of Fort DeRussy land could raise up to \$500 million.

"Fort DeRussy is the perfect example of the kind of property we need to sell to begin to bring down our \$1 trillion national debt," Percy said in a statement.

Weinberger said in his letter that special legislation is needed to allow the sale of Fort DeRussy properties, and Percy said he would introduce such legislation soon.

Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye says that the 1968 Military Construction Act bars the administration from disposing of Fort DeRussy without congressional consent.

And, though Percy anticipates a sale could bring in millions, city officials say the estimates don't take

into consideration the fact that the property falls within the city's Waikiki Special Design District. The beachfront property is designated as a "public precinct," with a 25-foot height limit and a 100-foot building-free setback zone at the beach.

The mauka portion of the DeRussy site is designated for "resort-hotel" use, but there's also a height limit of 25 feet, which would put a crimp in any plans to develop a hotel there.

However, the height limits could be changed by the City Council in amending the Waikiki design district.

In Washington last night, Hawaii Rep. Daniel Akaka said he would prefer that the land remain in open space.

However, if the government decides to dispose of Fort DeRussy, Akaka said he'd like to see it used "for some extended convention facilities for the Waikiki area. This is something I always felt was lacking in the area. We have hotel rooms, but not a huge convention facility. I would think that would be a good use of that area . . ."

U.S. stirs Third World anger with shifts on sea-law draft

United Press International

UNITED NATIONS — In a move that infuriated Third World members, the United States yesterday proposed several crucial amendments to a draft law-of-the-sea treaty that took more than 150 countries eight years to negotiate.

"These changes will take us another three years," one angry delegate said.

Leigh Ratiner, deputy chairman of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference, presented a 31-page document containing amendments to 22 articles and adding three articles, U.N. spokesman Raul Trejos said.

In an hour-long speech to the Group of 21 — composed of 10 industrialized and 10 developing countries plus China — Ratiner explained the reasons for the U.S. changes, dealing mostly with the section that would establish an international authority to control the exploitation of sea-bed minerals valued at several trillion dollars.

The Third World and countries that have vast mineral deposits

on the inside:

● The state House is expected to consider a bill that would allow the state to lease out pieces of ocean just as it does with its lands. Page A-4.

want the treaty to contain language that rigidly controls the mining of the sea beds.

Diplomatic sources at the Group of 21 meeting said delegates from several developing countries — including Chile, Peru and Zaire — were fuming over the suggested American changes to a document that took more than 150 countries eight years to negotiate.

Canada, too, was reported angry with the U.S. suggestions.

The group will begin considering the U.S. document Monday and prepare a report for the full conference, but a Latin American source said the Americans would be asked how flexible they are prepared to be.

"We want the United States to make its position clear," the source

said. "These changes present us with a dilemma — to accept or reject them."

Shortly before the current session resumed Monday, conference president T.T.B. Koh of Singapore told reporters the majority of delegates rejected renegotiation of the treaty.

Hawaii has long been interested in the law-of-the-sea negotiations, and through the international Law of the Sea Institute at the University of Hawaii has been the forum for a number of conferences and meetings bringing together specialists on the international law question.

Another reason for Hawaii interest is that there's been considerable study about the potential of the Big Island as a site for a manganese nodule processing plant. These nodules are at the base of the deep-seabed mining controversy.

A UH oceanographic vessel and U.S. Geological Survey ships are to do research on the potential of deep-sea minerals in the South Pacific under an agreement signed this week by the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

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