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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JAPAN'S PORT CITY OF KOBE TO BE SITE OF PORTOPIA '81

Exposition to Commemorate Completion of Kobe Port Island

KOBE, Hyogo Prefecture / July 31, 1979 A gala celebration to introduce the world's largest man-made island is being planned by the city fathers of Kobe, the leading trading port of Japan. The Kobe Port Island Exposition--PORTOPIA '81, for short--will run for six months beginning March 20, 1981. PORTOPIA '81 organizers estimate that the Exposition will attract some 4.5 million visitors to the Kobe Port Island site.

The Exposition theme committee has selected "The Creation of a New City of Culture on the Sea" as the central theme for PORTOPIA '81 to reflect the basic concept that the sea has historically formed a barrier separating and isolating the cultures and civilizations of the world. While technological progress has made it possible for man to conquer these boundaries, PORTOPIA '81 will explore a future in which marine cities such as the Kobe Port Island will serve to bring together the peoples of the world and their cultures.

Planned for the 128-acre Exposition site are a series of theme pavilions and exhibition halls, open air theaters, auditoriums and spacious plazas with an exciting array of events including special exhibits, shows and concerts. An all-weather swimming pool for water sport competitions, a bazaar setting to showcase food and crafts of the world and the indispensable amusement park for youngsters are just a few of the featured attractions planned for PORTOPIA '81. Construction on the Exposition site is scheduled to begin next June.

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Birth of the World's First Marine City

The world's largest man-made island (approx. 1,077 acres) and focal point of PORTOPIA '81, Kobe Port Island will lie off the shore of its namesake, the Port of Kobe. Budgeted at \$2.5-billion, land fill operations on the marine city were started in 1966. By spring of 1981, an unmanned, totally computer-operated train will link downtown Kobe to the Kobe Port Island. Also slated for completion by that time are the 30-floor Kobe Port Island Hotel, an international exposition hall (7,176 sq. yds.) and the New Central Municipal Hospital (1,000 beds). Further along, a 6,000 family unit high rise apartment dwelling will join the group of major construction projects planned for the completely self-sustaining island.

Upholding the tradition of Kobe as the nation's foremost trading port, Kobe Port Island boasts another first, the world's largest container ship terminals which are already in operation.

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