Troon inks first international deal

By PETER BLAIS and wire service reports

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, USA — Troon Golf, a major U.S. course development and management firm, has expanded into the international market with the addition of two of Scotland’s most famous layouts, the Ailsa and Arran courses at Turnberry.

The Scottsdale, Arizona-based company will manage the two courses and hold a minority subordinated ownership interest.

The resort was acquired for approximately $51.5 million by Starwood Lodging Corporation, based in Phoenix, Ariz., from Nitto Kogyo Co. Ltd., a golf course ownership firm based in Tokyo. Nitto Kogyo had owned the 800-acre development since 1987 and invested $35 million in the property.

"Today [Dec. 23, 1997], is a momentous day for our company," said Troon President Dana Garmany. "Ex-

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Philippines puts golf development on hold

By M. LEVANS

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government has ordered a halt to the building of new golf courses due to water shortages caused by the El Nino weather pattern.

The Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) stopped processing land conversion applications by golf course developers until the drought situation ends, which may not be until mid-1998.

"This is an initiative...to conserve water in the light of the El Nino phenomenon and the growing crit-
Golf being put on hold in Philippines

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cism that these projects compete with our water supply," said Artemio Adasa, undersecretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Adasa said two golf projects — Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, and Covite and Mount Arayat Golf and Country Club in Arayat, Pampanga — have been stopped and future projects will also be rejected as long as the water shortage continues.

According to reports from Manila, a presidential task force monitoring golf course projects will form teams to inspect the water use of golf courses, particularly those without water permits.

"The good thing is that the government is showing a concern for the implications of adverse environmental factors," said Ron Fream, founder of Santa Rosa, Calif.-based Golfplan, which has several projects going in the Philippines. "But the short-term solutions don't help anyone."

Water shortages have been a recurring problem for golf course developments in the Philippines, where a reported 150 courses are up and running. Since this problem continuously plagues the region, Fream said that golf course developments are going to have to work smarter, with long-term solutions in mind.

"Developments need to work with intermittent water supplies and design cost-effective irrigation systems that don't water the entire course. You have to conserve," said Fream. "Tourism is growing and they have to address the problem."

Fream's current project in Silang for Kuok's Shangri-La Hotels was designed to take the sewage-treated water from the eventual community and reuse it on the golf course. The project will have reservoirs on site to store 30 days worth of irrigation water.

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