

Launch New TT Ship In Korea

SAIPAN (MNS)—Launching ceremonies were held Monday in Pusan, Korea, for the new Trust Territory ship the "MS Micronesia Princess."

High Commissioner and Mrs. Edward F. Johnston, speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia Bethwel Henry and his wife Marilne and Elias Okamura, assistant to the director of Transportation and Communications, travelled to Korea to attend the christening ceremony.

Mrs. Henry is the official sponsor of the ship. Together with Mrs. Johnston they participated in the official christening ceremony. The speaker's wife broke the traditional bottle of champagne on the bow of the ship.

Gordon Tydingco, manager of the headquarters management branch, Department of Transportation, and Communications, said the ship is 60 per cent complete and will be delivered to the TT within six months. The 242-foot ship was built by the Korean shipping firm Daesong Shipbuilding and Engineering

Company Ltd. and was designed, constructed and equipped specifically to meet the requirements of transoceanic support and intra-district service for Micronesia.

According to Tydingco, 12 major naval architecture and marine engineer firms were considered for the original ship design. The firm of Thomas T. Lunde Inc. of San Francisco was selected to do the architectural work.

Some of the characteristics of intended service for the new ship include: To operate to outer islands, of each district from district centers on schedule approved by the district administrator; carry special heavy lift cargo and difficult cargo on special runs, and to operate as a part on the total integrated Micronesian transportation system after 1978. The new ship will be able to carry up to 38, 20-foot containers, depending on the

other cargo she will carry. Special additional container designs have been developed to allow the ship to carry extra refrigerated containers as well as special 20 by eight foot mobile cabins that can serve alternately as extra passenger staterooms, multiple berth bunk-rooms, extra galley, dispensaries, water reservoirs and/or portable power generation units.

Designed to carry a crew up to 12 on long voyages with a smaller crew on shorter voyages,

the ship and others of her type to be built later will be used to provide regular service to Micronesia's 100 inhabited islands. The 2,050-ton ship is capable of carrying 800 tons of cargo and is also capable of traveling at 15 knots. Maximum deck passenger capacity is more than 100.

This ship is the first to be constructed in a planned series of eight ships. Additional ships will be built during the next few years.

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