

(NEW SHIP DUE TO TT SOON)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 23 (MNS) ⁷⁴ THE FIRST NEW SHIP BUILT SPECIALLY FOR THE MICRONESIAN INTER-ISLAND SERVICE, THE M/S MICRONESIA PRINCESS, IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN SAIPAN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE NEW SHIP IS DUE TO LEAVE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, FROM PUSAN, KOREA, WHERE SHE WAS CONSTRUCTED. 11

GORDON TYDINGCO, MANAGER OF THE HEADQUARTERS MANAGEMENT BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, SAID OFFICIAL DELIVERY OF THE SHIP FROM SHIPYARD TO THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT WAS MADE ON THE FIFTEENTH OF THIS MONTH. DALE WENDLER, MANAGER, FINANCE BRANCH, OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED THE MICRONESIA PRINCESS ON BEHALF OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT. TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT WAYNE THIESSEN, WAS ALSO IN PUSAN TO ASSIST IN THE OFFICIAL DELIVERY OF THE VESSEL.

ACCORDING TO TYDINGCO, THE SEA TRIALS WENT WELL AND ALL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA WERE EQUALLED OR EXCEEDED. THERE ARE STILL A FEW ITEMS LEFT TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE SHIP SAILS FOR MICRONESIA, HE SAID.

THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS JOHN ONGRUNG FROM PALAU. THE CAPTAIN AND A CREW OF THIRTEEN ARE ALREADY IN PUSAN. TYDINGCO ALSO TOLD MNS THAT THERE WILL BE AN OPEN HOUSE WHEN THE SHIP ARRIVES IN SAIPAN, THE EXACT DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

THE SHIP IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A SHORT RUN TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THEN HEAD FOR YAP AND PALAU DISTRICTS TO RELIEVE THE M/S JAMES COOK, WHICH HAS TO GO TO DRYDOCK. TYDINGCO SAID AFTER SERVING IN YAP AND PALAU THE MS MICRONESIA PRINCESS WILL PROCEED TO TRUK, PONAPE AND THE MARSHALLS PERFORMING FIELD TRIP SERVICE IN EACH DISTRICT. THE PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF THE SHIP WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER THIS INITIAL SERVICE, TYDINGCO EXPLAINED.

THE SHIP IS THE FIRST TO BE CONSTRUCTED OF A PLANNED SERIES OF EIGHT SHIPS. ADDITIONAL SHIPS WILL BE BUILT DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THE 242-FOOT SHIP WAS BUILT BY THE KOREAN SHIPPING FIRM DAE-SUN 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.

THE 1,600 TON SHIP IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING 800 TONS OF CARGO WITH A TOP SPEED OF 15 KNOTS. MAXIMUM DECK PASSENGER CAPACITY IS MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED, WHILE PASSENGER CABINS CAN ACCOMODATE TWELVE. THE SHIP IS ALSO CAPABLE OF CARRYING UP TO THIRTY-SIX 20-FOOT CONTAINERS, DEPENDING ON THE OTHER CARGO SHE WILL CARRY.

(BILLS RECEIVED)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 23 (MNS) --- THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 18 OF THE BILLS PASSED BY THE RECENT SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHICH WAS HELD ON SAIPAN. ELEVEN ARE HOUSE BILLS AND SEVEN SENATE BILLS. TWENTY-THREE BILLS WERE PASSED DURING THE SESSION, AND ONE HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW.

HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON HAS 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT TO ACT ON EACH OF THE BILLS. THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE RECEIVED ON AUGUST 15 AND MUST BE ACTED UPON ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 14: THE REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION, (SB 370); AND A BILL APPROPRIATING \$72,000 FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT DELEGATES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, (SB 371).

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THE FOLLOWING BILLS MUST BE ACTED UPON ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 18: A MEASURE APPROPRIATING \$70,000 FOR IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF MAJURO DOCK, (HB 200); A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$49,000 FOR SUPER DISPENSARY IN JALUIT ATOLL IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 100); AN APPROPRIATION OF \$304,000 FOR PUBLIC PURCHASES IN YAP DISTRICT, (HB 252); \$239,000 FOR TWO PUBLIC PROJECTS IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 266); \$95,000 FOR DEFRAYING ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE SIX DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES, (HB 316); \$385,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN TRUK DISTRICT, (HB 331); \$52,000 AND A FURTHER AUTHORIZATION FOR NEXT YEAR OF \$48,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT MARITIME ACADEMIES FOR MICRONESIAN YOUTH, (HB 343); \$215,000 FOR PERSONNEL AND FEEDING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, (HB 347); \$356,000 FOR PUBLIC PURCHASES AND PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HB 358); AND \$357,000 FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, (HB 360).

THE FOLLOWING BILLS HAVE A DUE DATE FOR ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 21ST: A BILL TO RETURN PUBLIC LANDS TO LEGAL ENTITIES IN EACH DISTRICT, (SB 296); A BILL APPROPRIATING \$350,000 FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC PURCHASES IN PONAPE DISTRICT, (SB 330); A MEASURE TO CREATE A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, (SB 347); A MEASURE WHICH WOULD GIVE THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AUTHORITY TO INITIATE PROGRAMS TO FOSTER A GREATER SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY IN MICRONESIA, (SB 359); AND A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$35,000 FOR PUBLIC TRAINING IN WASHINGTON D.C., (SB 366).

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MAY CHOOSE TO SIGN THE BILLS, IN WHICH CASE THEY BECOME LAW. OR HE MAY VETO ONE OR MORE OF THE BILLS, RETURNING THEM TO THE CONGRESS FOR RE-CONSIDERATION. AS A THIRD ALTERNATIVE, HE MAY CHOOSE TO TAKE NO ACTION AT ALL ON A MEASURE, IN WHICH CASE IT WOULD BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE AT THE END OF THE 30-DAY PERIOD.

(RUSSIAN SHIP IN TRUK)

TRUK, AUGUST 23 (MNS)---MORE THAN 600 JAPANESE TOURISTS AND 380 CREWMEN FROM THE RUSSIAN CRUISE SHIP SS FEDOR SHALAYAPIN ARRIVED ON MOEN, TRUK DISTRICT THURSDAY AFTERNOON (AUG. 22).

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME A CRUISE SHIP HAD ENTERED THE TRUK LAGOON SINCE WORLD WAR II, ACCORDING TO TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER NOHA RUBEN. RESIDENTS OF MOEN ISLAND DECORATED HOTELS AND OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTION SITES FOR THE OCCASION.

THE JAPANESE TOURISTS TOURED MOEN ISLAND IN PICK-UP TRUCK TAXIS AND WERE ENTERTAINED BY TRADITIONAL TRUKESE DANCERS ON THE LAWNS OF THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL.

THE LEISURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF JAPAN CHARTERED THE 21,406 TON RUSSIAN PASSENGER LINER FOR A CRUISE THAT INCLUDES TRUK, SAIPAN, AND RABAU, IN NEW GUINEA, TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL PACIFIC RESORT AREAS.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP COINCIDED WITH THE CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION ON DUBLON, BUT THE TOURISTS ARRIVED TOO LATE IN THE DAY TO WATCH TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, RUBEN REPORTED.

THE FEDOR SHALAYAPIN IS DUE TO MAKE A SECOND CALL AT SAIPAN SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.

(EPB CONFERENCE)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 23 (MNS)---MEMBERS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD WILL MEET IN YAP THIS MONTH FOR A WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR

OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUMANGAI.

AMONG THE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ARE THE RECENT PESTICIDE SPILL IN YAP AND THE SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS TO REMOVE ALL BANNED PESTICIDES FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY TO DISPOSAL SITES IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF; OIL SPILLS FROM THE COAST GUARD LORAN STATION AND OTHER FACILITIES ON YAP; PROPOSED CHANNEL BLASTING PROJECTS IN THE OUTER ISLANDS OF YAP; AND THE REQUEST TO REMOVE OIL AND OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ABOARD SUNKEN WORLD WAR II WRECKS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY WHICH ARE CONSIDERED THREATS TO DIVERS AND THE LAGOON ENVIRONMENT.

THE MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND BEGINS NEXT WEEK ON MONDAY (AUG. 26).