

~~Jan 19~~ 1974

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MNS)---THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON SAYS THAT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON WILL MAKE WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A "MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT" REGARDING THE TRUST TERRITORY ON WEDNESDAY (TT TIME) THIS WEEK.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE STATEMENT IS TO BE DELIVERED BY RADIO BROADCASTS IN EACH OF THE TERRITORY'S DISTRICT CENTERS, BY RADIO TELETYPE TO EACH DISTRICT CENTER BY THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE, AND BY SHOWINGS OF FILMS AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN THE DISTRICTS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT. ON SAIPAN, THE MORTON STATEMENT WILL BE BROADCAST ON TELEVISION TO VIEWERS IN THAT DISTRICT CENTER IN ADDITION TO THE RADIO BROADCAST AND MNS COVERAGE.

THE OFFICIALS ADDED THAT THE STATEMENT WILL NOT RELATE TO ANY ONE SPECIFIC ISSUE, BUT RATHER WILL BE A BROAD STATEMENT RELATING TO UNITED STATES POLICIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

EVERYONE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY IS URGED TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE TIME FOR THE MORTON STATEMENT IN HIS LOCALITY.

(SHIP SEIZED)

YAP, JAN. 21 (MNS)---ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, A TAIWANESE SHIP NAMED CHUI FENG WAS SEIZED IN YAP DISTRICT MONDAY (JAN. 14) FOR ILLEGAL FISHING AT LOMOTREK ATOLL.

THE HOME PORT FOR THE SHIP IS KAOHSHIUNG, TAIWAN, AND THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS CHING SENG HATSU. THE OWNER OF THE VESSEL IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE SHIP IS WITH THE FONG FISHERY CO. LTD.

WHEN THE SHIP WAS SEIZED, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT SHARKS, TUNA AND MARLIN WERE ABOARD. THE VESSEL WAS SENT TO WOLEAI IN THE YAP DISTRICT TO AWAIT THE FIELD TRIP SHIP AND BOTH VESSELS ARE SUPPOSED TO ARRIVE IN KOLONIA, YAP TUESDAY (JAN. 22). COURT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE TAIWANESE SHIP UPON REACHING YAP DISTRICT CENTER.

IN RELATED NEWS, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR IN PALAU REPORTED IN THE DECEMBER MONTHLY REPORT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THAT THE JAPANESE SHIP KOTO MARU, WHICH HAD BEEN HELD IN CUSTODY IN THE HARBOR IN PALAU FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, HAS LEFT KOROR. THAT SHIP WAS PICKED UP FOR FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS BETWEEN ANGAUR AND PELELIU, AND WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE PALAU AFTER PAYMENT OF AN \$18,000 FINE.

(JUDGE RINGANG DIED)

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MNS)---JUDGE PABLO RINGANG, PALAU'S PRESIDING JUDGE AND ONE OF THE OLDEST MEMBERS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY JUDICIARY, DIED JANUARY 19 ON KOROR AFTER A LONG ILLNESS.

JUDGE RINGANG JOINED THE TT JUDICIARY IN 1946 AND HAD BEEN WITH THE PALAU COURT EVER SINCE UNTIL HIS RECENT DEATH, SERVING MOST OF HIS LONG TENURE AS THE DISTRICT'S PRESIDING JUDGE. THE 62-YEAR-OLD-JUDGE ATTENDED JAPANESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PALAU AND THE EQUIVALENT OF A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN JAPAN FROM 1927 TO 1930. HE ALSO TOOK COURSES IN LEGAL TRAINING FOR TWO YEARS AT WASEDA COLLEGE (NOW WASEDA UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN) IN THE EARLY 1930'S.

ON MAY 1, 1973, THE JUDGE RECEIVED THE TRUST TERRITORY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ANNUAL LAW DAY AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE JUDICIARY.

FUNERAL CEREMONIES WERE HELD IN THE PALAU LEGISLATURE HALL AND THE JUDGE WAS BURIED ON SUNDAY, JAN. 20, IN THE CATHOLIC CEMETARY ON KOROR.

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(SEATON DIED)

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MNS)---WORD WAS RECEIVED OVER THE WEEKEND FROM WASHINGTON THAT FORMER SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FRED A. SEATON, WHO SERVED AS SECRETARY FROM 1956 TO 1961, PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 16.

SEATON WAS THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO VISIT THE TRUST TERRITORY DURING THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION. DURING HIS TWO VISITS, ONE IN 1957 AND OTHER IN 1959, SEATON, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER DELMAS NUCKER, VISITED ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE TERRITORY, INSPECTING EVERYTHING RANGING FROM STONE MONEY IN YAP TO OBSERVATION OF THE TRUK CONGRESS IN SESSION. PERHAPS THE FORMER SECRETARY'S MOST MEMORABLE CEREMONIAL DUTY, HOWEVER, WAS HIS DEDICATION OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRAL SCHOOL (PICS) IN PONAPE IN 1959. PICS WAS THEN THE ONLY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

(TT HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING)

SAIPAN, JAN. 21 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL CONCLUDED ITS FOURTEENTH MEETING ON SAIPAN LAST WEEK WITH PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION CALLING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE OVERALL HEALTH NEEDS IN MICRONESIA.

COPIES OF THE RESOLUTION WILL BE SENT TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE RESOLUTION DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED TWENTY PERCENT BUDGET CUT IN THE OVERALL HEALTH SERVICES BUDGET IN FISCAL YEAR 1975, ADDING THAT MULTIPLE PROBLEMS HAVE BECOME UNAVOIDABLE WITH ALARMING CONSEQUENCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH THROUGHOUT THE TT.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA ARE AN IMPORTANT PART AND PARCEL OF OVERALL ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORY'S STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE MATURITY, THE COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WITHOUT GOOD HEALTH FOR ITS CITIZENS, THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES ENACTED BY ITS LEGISLATIVE BODIES CANNOT BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

IN ITS DELIBERATIONS, THE COUNCIL NOTED THE PLANNED REDUCATION OF THIRTY-ONE HEALTH PERSONNEL IN FISCAL YEAR 1975, ADDING THAT THIS WILL BE BELOW THE ADEQUATE MANNING LEVEL OF HEALTH PERSONNEL. THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE REDUCATION IN HEALTH PERSONNEL AND OTHER IMPORTANT CATEGORIES IN THE BUDGET FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN FISCAL YEAR 1975 AND SAID THAT THIS WILL DEFINATELY CRIPPLE THE OVER ALL HEALTH PROGRAM IN MICRONESIA WITH A POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE HEALTH OF CITIZENS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

OTHER THINGS THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED IN THE RESOLUTION INCLUDE THE NEW 20-BED HOSPITALS FOR EPEYE AND KUSAIE AND FEEDING PROGRAMS SCHEDULED TO START THIS YEAR.

THE RESOLUTION WAS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL DR. ANTONIO GOLBUU OF YAP AND NICK BOSSY, SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL; AND ALSO WAS ENDORSED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

DURING ITS MEETING ON SAIPAN LAST WEEK, THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED THE SALARY SCHEDULES FOR HEALTH PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY AND REQUESTED THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES TO CONSIDER GOING TO PALAU TO MEET WITH THE PALAU DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES STAFF, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, AND THE NURSING ASSOCIATION, TO DETERMINE AN AGGREEABLE ARRANGEMENT TO CORRECT ALLEGED INEQUITIES IN SALARIES FOR STAFF NURSES THERE. THAT PROBLEM WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL BY THE NURSING ASSOCIATION OF PALAU.

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ON OTHER MATTERS THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT THE EXISTING SIX MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULES THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY BE RETAINED AND PROPOSED THAT SOME WORKABLE MANNER OF MEETING THE COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT BE CONSIDERED. PERHAPS, A TAX-TYPE OF MEDICAL FEE SHOULD BE LOOKED INTO, "WITH THE VIEW THAT THOSE WHO CANNOT PAY THROUGH THIS TAXATION MECHANISM SHOULD PAY IN SOME OTHER FORM FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THEM," THE COUNCIL SAID.

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