

Interior calls meet on Transpac

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Interior Department's Office of Territories today ordered a meeting in Hawaii next week to get at the problems of the financially-troubled Transpacific shipping line and their impact on service to the Trust Territory.

"In view of worsening Transpac situation I believe it imperative we meet to review entire problem with a view toward taking appropriate remedial action", Stanley Carpenter, director of the territories office, cabled High Commissioner Edward Johnston.

Carpenter set the meeting for Feb. 7 and 8 at the Ala Moana hotel in Honolulu. Carpenter and C. Brewster Chapman, associate solicitor for territories, are scheduled to represent Interior.

They have asked Johnston, members of the Congress of Micronesia concerned with Transpac's problems, officials of Transpac, and territorial officials involved to attend "to allow for the fullest possible exchange of views on the subject."

The shipping line, which has the exclusive contract to perform government shipping among the islands of the Micronesian Trust Territory, has had a series of money problems which have brought it close to deciding whether to seek federal financial aid or consider bankruptcy proceedings.