

(TT WATER TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BOARD)

SAIPAN, FEB. 8 (MNS) --- THE TRUST TERRITORY WATER TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BOARD CONCLUDED A THREE-DAY MEETING THIS WEEK AT HEADQUARTERS ON SAIPAN BY VOTING TO GRANT TRANSPACIFIC LINES A THIRTY-DAY TEMPORARY EXTENSION ON ALL OF THE COMPANY'S RATES NOW IN EFFECT, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TT TRANSPORTATION DIVISION. 1974 11

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD INCLUDE RALPH F. BAGLEY, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD; ELIAS OKAMURA, ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS; AND WILLIAM PENROSE, WHO IS GENERAL MANAGER OF THE SHIPPING LINE.

THE RATES EXTENDED INCLUDE THE CONTROVERSIAL \$20 PER-TON-SURCHARGE ADDED EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND A 6 PER CENT SURCHARGE IN ADDITION TO \$10-A-TON AND 12 PERCENT HIKES TEMPORARILY APPROVED AT LAST YEAR'S HEARING.

THE RULING TO EXTEND ALL PRESENT RATES (RATHER THAN ONLY THE TWO TEMPORARY RATES APPROVED AT LAST YEAR'S HEARING) WAS MADE OVER THE OPPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT. CHAIRMAN BAGLEY SAID THAT HIS ACTION, AS SECONDED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SHIPPING LINE, WAS NOT AN "ENDORSEMENT OF THE RATE INCREASES." THE EXTENSION WILL MERELY MAINTAIN THE PRESENT RATES PENDING THE REVIEW OF THE COMPANY'S STANDING AT A SPECIAL MEETING BEING HELD IN HONOLULU THIS WEEK BETWEEN HIGH COMMISSIONER, EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, STANLEY S. CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

IN A SECOND IMPORTANT RULING, THE CHAIRMAN, WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE CARRIER, LIMITED THE SCOPE OF THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION TO REVIEW ADEQUACY OF THE PARTICULAR TYPE OF SYSTEM MAINTAINED BY THE CARRIER AT THE TIME OF THE HEARING.

IF ANSWER TO OPPOSING ARGUMENTS, BAGLEY PUMPED OUT THE 1968 CONTRACT DEFINED THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES TO BE ENACTED IN THE EVENT THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO QUESTION THE CARRIER'S OVERALL SYSTEM.

OKAMURA, IN RESPONDING TO THE CHAIRMAN'S RULING, SAID THE TT GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY SUBMITTED A LETTER OF REQUEST TO THE CARRIER TO STUDY SOME TEN ALTERNATIVE SHIPPING SYSTEMS AND COSTS AND COME UP WITH THE MOST FEASIBLE SYSTEM FOR THE TT, BUT SO FAR THE COMPANY HAS NOT PRODUCED ANYTHING ON THE MATTER.

DURING WEDNESDAY'S TESTIMONY THE CARRIER ALSO REVEALED A BREAKDOWN OF ITS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SO-CALLED \$20 PER TON BUNKER SURCHARGE AS \$3.20 FOR FUEL COST INCREASES, \$2.30 FOR MV LOTTE REITH CHARTER HIRE INCREASES AND THE REMAINDER TO COVER CASH FLOW SHORTAGES.

COMPLAINTS FROM YAP DISTRICT WERE AIDED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YAP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DURING THE THREE-DAY HEARING. A LIST OF SOME 23 CHARGES WERE LEVELED AGAINST THE SHIPPING LINE IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, JOSEPH W. BEADLES, JR.

AMONG THE CHARGES AGAINST THE COMPANY ARE: LOCAL PILFERAGE OF CARGO; RELEASE OF CARGO WITHOUT ORIGINAL BILL OF LADING BY THE COMPANY'S AGENTS; SHIP SCHEDULING TOTALLY UNRELIABLE; INACCURATE AND UNRELIABLE CARGO NOTICES OF ARRIVAL INABILITY TO LOCATE CARGO AFTER DELIVERY TO YAP; REFUSAL BY DISTRICT TRANSPAC MANAGEMENT TO SIGN OTHER REQUIRED FORMS FOR DELIVERY; REPORTED AROUND THE DOCK AND WAREHOUSE; SHORT SHIPPING OF CARGO AND MIXUP IN VAN NUMBERS AND IN SOME CASES NO RECORD OF VANNED CARGO.

ALSO THERE WERE OTHERS: THE DIFFICULTY OF COLLECTING LOCAL TRANSPAC BILLS; LACK OF CONCERN OF DOCK EMPLOYEES IN HANDLING OF CARGO; POOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TRANSPAC SAIPAN AND LOCAL AGENT AS TO THE DETAILS OF THE INCOMING VESSELS; AND DAMAGEABLE CARGO LEFT EXPOSED TO THE RAIN AND SUNLIGHT WAS A LITTLE EFFORT MADE TO PROTECT THE CARGO. 0559

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RESPONDING TO THE CHARGES, THE COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVE ADMITTED THAT MOST WERE VALID. THE SPOKESMAN FOR TRANSPAC WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE RECENT "SHIFTING OF EMPLOYEES HAS GREATLY IMPROVED THE PRESENT SERVICES AT YAP'S PORT." THIS FACT WAS CONFIRMED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YAP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHO PRESENTED THE LETTER OF COMPLAINTS TO THE BOARD.

SIMILAR COMPLAINTS WERE ALSO HEARD FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PONAPE BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

(STATE DEPT. TO ASSIST TRAVEL OF TT CITIZENS)

SAIPAN, FEB. 8 (MNS)---AMERICAN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES OVERSEAS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO FACILITATE THE ENTRY INTO FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF TRUST TERRITORY CITIZENS TRAVELING ON PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE TT HIGH COMMISSIONER, ACCORDING TO WORD RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT THIS WEEK.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ALL AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS, A COPY OF WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE STATUS LIAISON OFFICE BASED AT THE HEADQUARTERS ON SAIPAN, INSTRUCTS THEM TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO INFORM IMMIGRATION OFFICES IN THE VARIOUS FOREIGN COUNTRIES ABOUT THE STATUS OF TT CITIZENS TRAVELING UNDER PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, AND TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT BEARERS OF SUCH PASSPORTS ARE ACCORDED THE SAME DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES AS ARE ACCORDED TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THIS MOST RECENT MOVE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO FAMILIARIZE FOREIGN OFFICIALS WITH TT CITIZENS ON TRAVELING STATUS WAS PROMPTED BY NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM TT CITIZENS AND OFFICIALS OF THE TT GOVERNMENT TRAVELING ON TT PASSPORTS,

CONCERNING THE DIFFICULTIES THEY HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN TRAVELING TO AND LEAVING FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHEN BEARING TT PASSPORTS, EVEN WHEN THEY POSSESS THE NECESSARY VISAS. MICRONESIAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN TRAVELING ABOARD AT AN INCREASING RATE AND MANY OFFICIALS AND LEGISLATORS ARE SCHEDULED TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES DURING THE COMING YEAR. IF, IN SPITE OF THIS NEW INSTRUCTION, MICRONESIAN TRAVELERS ENCOUNTER SOME DIFFICULTY WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES THEY SHOULD

CONTACT THE NEAREST AMERICAN EMBASSY OR CONSULATE FOR HELP.

THE RECENT INSTRUCTION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ALL ITS OVERSEAS POST CALLS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT ARTICLE ELEVEN OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT THE UNITED STATES AS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCORDING DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROTECTION TO INHABITANTS OF THE TT WHEN TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE TT OR OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

TRUST TERRITORY RESIDENTS DO NOT REQUIRE A VISA OR PASSPORT TO VISIT THE U.S., IF THEY PROCEEDED IN DIRECT AND CONTINUOUS TRANSIT FROM THE TT TO THE U.S. THEY ARE STILL REQUIRED TO PRESENT EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE NATIVES AND RESIDENTS OF THE, TT HOWEVER.

PASSPORTS ARE NORMALLY REQUIRED FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS FOR NATIVES AND RESIDENTS OF THE WHO ENTER THE U.S. AS IMMIGRANTS. IN MANY CASES, FOREIGN NATIONALS ALSO REQUIRE VISAS TO BE OBTAINED IN ADVANCY.

SINCE 1959, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS PROVIDED FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TT. THE PASSPORT IS VALID FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE ISSUED AND MAY BE RENEWED FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. TT PASSPORTS SHOULD NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE U.S. PASSPORT ISSUED TO CITIZENS AND NATIONALS OF THE U.S. THEY ARE NOT IDENTICAL AND DO NOT LOOK ALIKE.

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IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR PASSPORT, THERE IS AN OFFICIAL  
PASSPORT FOR HIGH RANKING MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND  
MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.