

(EIGHT DROWN IN BOATING ACCIDENT)

SAIPAN, MARCH 25 (MNS) --- AN 18 FOOT MOTOR BOAT WITH 13 PEOPLE ABOARD CAPSIZED BETWEEN SAIPAN AND TINIAN MONDAY MORNING (MARCH 25). EIGHT PEOPLE, ONE OF THEM A FOUR-YEAR OLD BOY, ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE DROWNED. THE OTHER FIVE WERE RESCUED AND BROUGHT TO SAIPAN'S CHARLIE DOCK IN GOOD CONDITION.

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RESCUE OPERATIONS BEGAN LATE MONDAY MORNING AFTER THE BOAT WAS REPORTED TO BE LONG OVERDUE. MORE THAN 10 PRIVATE BOATS, AND THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT'S M-BOAT WHICH WAS ON TINIAN AT THE TIME WERE DISPATCHED TO THE AREA BELIEVED TO BE WHERE THE BOAT HAD CAPSIZED. THE STRICKEN BOAT WAS FOUND AND TOWED INTO CHARLIE DOCK MONDAY EVENING BY ONE OF THE BOATS PARTICIPATING IN THE RESCUE OPERATIONS.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE, THE BOAT LEFT FOR SAIPAN AT ABOUT 9:30 AND SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED ON SAIPAN AT 11:00. A SECOND MOTOR BOAT WITH SEVERAL PASSENGERS ALSO LEFT TINIAN HALF AN HOUR LATER. WHEN THE SECOND BOAT BERTHED AT CHARLIE DOCK, IT WAS NOTICED THAT THE FIRST BOAT HADN'T ARRIVED.

IMMEDIATELY THE POLICE AND THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR WERE NOTIFIED AND SOON AN APPEAL WAS ISSUED TO SAIPAN'S BOAT OWNERS TO JOIN IN THE SEARCH. RESCUE BOATS RETURNED TO SAIPAN LATE MONDAY EVENING WITHOUT LOCATING ANY OF THE EIGHT WHO WERE REPORTED MISSING.

RESCUE OPERATIONS CONTINUED TUESDAY MORNING (MARCH 26) WITH THE GOVERNMENT ISSUING GASOLINE TO ALL PRIVATE BOAT OWNERS ASSISTING IN THE SEARCH. THE SEA CONDITION WAS "VERY ROUGH" ACCORDING TO RESCUERS.

MOST OF THE PASSENGERS ABOARD THE BOAT WERE STUDENTS RETURNING FROM TINIAN. REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE Q. ATALIG TERMED THE ACCIDENT "A MAJOR TRAGEDY" FOR THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN.

NAMES OF THE MISSING PERSONS WERE BEING WITHHELD TUESDAY.

(MARSHALLS STATUS COMMISSION BILL SIGNED)

MAJURO, MARCH 26 (MNS) --- THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE BILL NUMBER 9, ENACTED DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE MARSHALLS NITIJELA, BECAME DISTRICT LAW 21-1 TUESDAY (MARCH 26) IN CEREMONIES AT THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DEBRUM IN MAJURO. THE BILL AMENDS A PREVIOUS DISTRICT LAW TO IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, AND PAVES THE WAY FOR THE DISTRICT TO BEGIN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE MARSHALLS CAN ENTER INTO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE FUTURE STATUS QUESTION AS DISTRICT LEADERS HAVE INDICATED THEY WISH TO DO.

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let DISTRICT  
SIGN?*

IN THE FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL SIGNED INTO LAW THIS WEEK, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION WAS REDUCED FROM EIGHTEEN TO EIGHT. FOUR MEMBERS WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NITIJELA; TWO WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR; AND TWO MEMBERS WOULD COME FROM THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

AS HE SIGNED THE BILL INTO LAW, DISTAD DEBRUM REMARKED THAT THE DAY WOULD BE AN HISTORIC ONE FOR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, "MARKING AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE ENDEAVORS TO MEET THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND FULFILL THEIR ASPIRATIONS."

THE TRADITIONAL IROIJ LEADERS OF THE MARSHALLS WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONIES DURING WHICH THE SIGNING TOOK PLACE, LED BY IROIJ KABUA KABUA, WHO IS ALSO THE PRESIDING JUDGE IN THE DISTRICT COURT. NITIJELA SPEAKER ATLAN ANIEN HEADED THE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL AND REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI BALOS WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE HISTORIC OCCASSION.

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IROIJ LOJELAN KABUA SAID OF THE SIGNING OF THE BILL, "THIS MARKS THE EMERGENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS FROM A STATE OF WEAKNESS THAT HAD PERMEATED THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR DEVELOPMENT." HE SAID HE HAD BEEN MOVED BY THE REMARKS DELIVERED BY DISTRICT LEADERS AT THE OPENING OF THE NITIJELA SESSION EARLIER THIS MONTH, AND SAID THAT THE MARSHALLS NOW HAS THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE A FUTURE WHICH COINCIDES WITH THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE.

(AIRLINE HEARING CONTINUES)

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---TESTIMONY IS CONTINUING INTO ITS THIRD WEEK ON SAIPAN IN THE RE-OPENED CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB) HEARING INTO THE SAIPAN/JAPAN ROUTE CASE. THE PROCEEDINGS ARE STILL IN WHAT IS TERMED PHASE ONE, AN INVESTIGATION OF ACTIVITIES OF THE AIRLINES IN ATTEMPTING TO WIN SUPPORT IN MICRONESIA FOR THEIR APPLICATIONS.

OBSERVERS AT THE TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COURT, WHERE THE HEARINGS BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREER MURPHY ARE TAKING PLACE, NOW EXPECT THAT PHASE ONE COULD LAST ANOTHER WEEK AND A HALF OR MORE. PHASE TWO, WHEN IT BEGINS, WILL BE AN ATTEMPT BY THE CAB TO DETERMINE WHERE THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA STAND ON THE ROUTE AWARD.

AS THE THIRD WEEK BEGAN MONDAY (MARCH 25), REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO AIRLINES WHICH ARE THE MAJOR CONTENDERS FOR THE ROUTE, CONTINENTAL AIR MICRONESIA AND PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS, WERE TESTIFYING AS WITNESSES CALLED BY THE CAB BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT. THEY TOLD OF THEIR TRAVELS THROUGH THE TRUST TERRITORY DURING THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS, THEIR CONTACTS WITH BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THEY DID TO TRY AND WIN SUPPORT FOR THEIR COMPANIES.

IN ADDITION TO PAN AM AND CONTINENTAL, NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES IS ALSO AN APPLICANT FOR THE ROUTE, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM TOKYO AND OSAKA IN JAPAN TO SAIPAN. ALL THREE AIRLINES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE HEARING, AS ARE A NUMBER OF CIVIC PARTIES IN MICRONESIA WITH AN INTEREST IN THE CASE. THE DAILY SESSIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

(TINIAN FISHERMAN DROWNS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---ANTONIO C. REYES, 25, OF TINIAN IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT DROWNED SATURDAY (MAR. 23) WHILE SPEARFISHING OUTSIDE THE REEF OFF TINIAN'S LEPROSARIUM BEACH, ACCORDING TO THE TUESDAY (MAR. 26) ISSUE OF THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT REYES'S LEG BECAME ENTANGLED IN THE STRING OF HIS SPEARGUN, PREVENTING HIM FROM COMING TO THE SURFACE.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT ON SAIPAN WHO INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT SAID THAT REYES HAD GONE INTO A CAVE UNDER WATER, SAW A SHARK AND TRIED TO GET OUT WHEN HIS LEG WAS CAUGHT.

REYES'S FISHING COMPANION, HIS UNCLE BOBBY REYES, SWAM OUT TO LOOK FOR HIM AND TRUED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO FREE HIS LEG.

UNABLE TO FREE HIM, THE UNCLE SWAM ASHORE TO GET HELP. MOUTH TO MOUTH RESUSCITATION AND CHEST MASSAGE FAILED TO REVIVE REYES, IT WAS REPORTED. THE MEN HAD BEEN FISHING FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS.

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(HOMESTEAD DEEDS READY)

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT APPROXIMATELY 209 QUITCLAIM DEEDS TO AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEADERS ON SAIPAN, FOR WHOM CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS, REGULATIONS AND HOMESTEAD PERMIT CONDITIONS WERE ISSUED MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, WILL BE ISSUED AND WILL BE READY TO BE PICKED UP BY THESE

HOMESTEADERS AT THE DISTRICT LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SUSUPE VILLAGE, SAIPAN ISLAND, MARIANA ISLANDS, UPON REQUEST AT ANY TIME ON OR AFTER MARCH 29, 1974, DURING NORMAL OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS.

THE LAND DESCRIPTIONS IN ABOUT 15 OF THESE DEEDS ARE BASED ON ACCURATE FIELD SURVEYS AND MAPPING. THESE SURVEYS AND MAPPING ARE PART OF AN ON-GOING PROCESS UNDER A CONTRACT SIGNED IN JANUARY, 1974 WITH A PRIVATE SURVEYING FIRM TO PROVIDE ALL OF THESE HOMESTEADERS WITH ACCURATE LAND DESCRIPTIONS. THE REMAINING LAND DESCRIPTIONS, ABOUT 194, ARE BASED ON PROVISIONAL DESCRIPTIONS OF QUESTIONABLE ACCURACY AND SUBJECT TO SURVEY IN THE CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE, COLEMAN SAID. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ALL OF THESE HOMESTEAD LANDS WILL BE ACCURATELY SURVEYED AND MAPPED BY JANUARY, 1975.

THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER CAUTIONED THESE HOMESTEADERS THAT THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR HOMESTEAD LANDS IN THE DEEDS, WHETHER OR NOT SURVEYED AND MAPPED, MAY NOT EXACTLY COVER THE SAME LANDS DEVELOPED BY THE HOMESTEADERS. WHAT A HOMESTEADER WILL ACTUALLY RECEIVE IS LIMITED TO THE LAND DESCRIBED IN THE DEED, SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION UPON SURVEY IN THE CASE OF PROVISIONAL DESCRIPTIONS, AND TO THE INTEREST IF ANY, THE GOVERNMENT NOW OWNS IN THAT LAND. SOME LANDS WILL ENCRACH UPON THE LANDS OF OTHERS. SOME PARTS OF EACH PARCEL MAY BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING AND FUTURE ROADS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND EASEMENTS FOR PUBLIC USE PURSUANT TO LAW.

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE THE ENCROACHMENT PROBLEMS, THE DEPUTY HICOM SAID ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO MODIFY BOUNDARIES TO THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWN ADJACENT LANDOWNERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SURVEY PROCESS. IN ADDITION, THESE HOMESTEADS LANDS WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS LAND REGISTRATION AREAS, UNDER THE LAW. THIS WILL ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING THESE PROBLEMS, AND ENABLE ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES OVER EXACT BOUNDARIES AND EXTENT OF TITLE. THUS, IF BOUNDARIES CANNOT BE FIXED TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL CONCERNED, DISPUTES WILL BE RESOLVED IN THE NORMAL MANNER BY THE LAND COMMISSION.

HOMESTEADERS MAY EITHER PICK UP THEIR DEEDS AT ANYTIME ON OR AFTER MARCH 29, 1974, AT THE DISTRICT LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICE, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS, OR THEY MAY WAIT UNTIL EXACT SURVEYS AND MAPPING HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR UNTIL TITLE ADJUDICATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER COLEMAN CONCLUDED.

(MBS REPS TO SINGAPORE SEMINAR)

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---TWO STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE (MBS) WILL REPRESENT THE TRUST TERRITORY AT A SEMINAR ON "RADIO BROADCASTING AND POPULATION PROBLEMS" SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN SINGAPORE THIS WEEK, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FROM THE HEADQUARTERS BROADCASTING CENTER.

KASPER PETER, MANAGER OF STATION WSZC, TRUK, AND ELIAS THOMAS, CHIEF OF THE HEADQUARTERS BROADCAST DIVISION, LEFT THE TT MONDAY (MAR. 25) FOR THE WEEK-LONG SEMINAR IN SINGAPORE. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN THE TT APRIL 1ST.

BECAUSE MBS IS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF ABU, RETURN TRIP AND LIVING COSTS OF ONE OF THE MBS PARTICIPANTS ARE TO BE ABSORBED BY THE ABU, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

(TT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE AT CRAFT FAIR)

SAIPAN, MARCH 26 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY STUDENTS ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM WERE AMONG PARTICIPANTS AT THE WINDWARD CRAFT FAIR HELD AT TURTLE COVE ON GUAM LAST WEEKEND, IT WAS REPORTED THIS WEEK BY THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

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THE TWO-DAY EVENT EXHIBITED EVERYTHING FROM PAPER FLOWERS TO A HUGE MODEL KAPINGAMARANGI CANOE IN THE BOOTH FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT PONAPEAN WOODCARVER DERUIT MARUAME, AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA IN KOLONIA, PONAPE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE FAIR AND DEMONSTRATED HIS TECHNIQUE FOR MAKING HANDICRAFT AT THE COLLEGE'S BOOTH.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE DANCES FROM THE OUTER ISLANDS OF YAP PERFORMED BY THE MICRONESIAN DANCERS, AND REMAISSANCE MUSIC BY THE RECORDER SOCIETY OF GUAM, IT WAS NOTED.

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