

(CONFERENCE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS PLANNED)

PONAPE, MARCH 27 (MNS)---PLANS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR A CONFERENCE OF MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS, TO BE HELD IN PONAPE DISTRICT NEXT MONTH. THE MEETING IS BEING CALLED BY THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF PONAPE, THE NANMWARIS AND NANIKENS, TO DISCUSS MATTERS SUCH AS THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA, MICRONESIAN UNITY, A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM PALAU, YAP, TRUK AND THE MARSHALL ISLAND HAVE BEEN INVITED TO JOIN THE PONAPE LEADERS IN THE CONFERENCE, WHICH BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M. MONDAY, APRIL 8, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE IN KOLONIA, PONAPE. NANMWARKI TAKESY HADLEY OF MATELENIHMW WILL WELCOME THE DELEGATES AT THAT TIME AS COORDINATOR OF THE CONFERENCE FOR THE HOST PONAPE LEADERS.

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EACH DAY OF THE MEETING WILL BE DEVOTED TO A DIFFERENT TOPIC, WITH A DIFFERENT DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVES SERVING AS CHAIRMEN IN ROTATION. THE TENTATIVE AGENDA CALLS FOR A DISCUSSION OF MICRONESIAN UNITY ON APRIL 9, FOLLOWED IN ORDER BY DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF MICRONESIA, THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA, THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN MICRONESIA, THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND LAW OF THE SEA, THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM AND THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA, AND FINALLY, ON THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE, AN EVALUATION AND FORMULATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE UNIQUE, TERRITORY-WIDE MEETING OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS WILL OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO TALK OVER MANY OF THE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES WHICH ARE THE EVER-DAY CONCERNS OF THE ELECTED POLITICAL LEADERS OF MICRONESIA. SINCE THERE ARE NO TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THE MARIANAS, PARTICIPATION FROM THAT DISTRICT IS NOT INDICATED.

(DROWNING UPDATE)

SAIPAN, MARCH 27 (MNS)---SEARCH EFFORTS CONTINUED WEDNESDAY (MARCH 27) TO FIND THE EIGHT PERSONS BELIEVED TO HAVE DROWNED MONDAY MORNING (MARCH 25) WHEN THE BOAT IN WHICH THEY WERE RIDING CAPSIZED BETWEEN SAIPAN AND TINIAN. A NUMBER OF PRIVATE BOATS FROM TINIAN AND SAIPAN ARE STILL ASSISTING IN THE SEARCH.

LATE TUESDAY AFTERNOON, THE BOATS HAD TO CALL OFF THE SEARCH BECAUSE OF ROUGH SEAS. HOWEVER, EVIDENCE TURNED UP THAT EVENING IN THE AREA WHERE THE BODIES MIGHT BE FOUND WHICH LEAD TO A DECISION TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH.

FIVE OF THE THIRTEEN PASSENGERS WERE RESCUED. STILL MISSING ARE MARIA BARCINAS, 49; CATALINA BARCINAS, 20; SOLEDAD AYUYU, 17; SOLEDAD SANTOS, 30; EVELYN PANGELINAN, 16; JUAN SAN NICOLAS, 19; MAXIMA P. MANGLONA, AGE UNKNOWN; AND RAY BLAS, 4. ALL ARE FROM TINIAN EXCEPT MISS PANGELINAN.

TWO NAVY VESSELS, THE USS CANNON AND GUAM'S NAVAL AIR STATION CRASH BOAT, PARTICIPATED IN THE SEARCH TUESDAY. THE USS CANNON RETURNED TO GUAM TUESDAY NIGHT. SAIPAN'S DIVERS ALSO JOINED IN TUESDAY'S SEARCH BUT FOUND NOTHING.

POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NAVY BOAT FOUND ONE OF THE CAPSIZED BOAT'S ENGINES. THE CAPSIZED BOAT WAS TOWED INTO SUGAR DOCK MONDAY AFTERNOON, SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE ACCIDENT. THE GROUP WAS TRAVELLING FROM TINIAN TO SAIPAN WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED A FEW HUNDRED YARDS OFF THE NORTHERN END OF TINIAN.

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(SIX COMPLETE JOB CORPS TRAINING)

SAIPAN, MARCH 27 (MNS)---SIX STUDENTS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY HAVE COMPLETED TWO YEARS OF TRAINING IN VARIOUS TRADES AT THE JOB CORPS CENTER IN HAWAII, IT WAS ANNOUNCED

THIS WEEK BY THE CHIEF OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, WILLIAM ALLEN.

HE SAID THREE OF THE TRAINEES ARE FROM THE MARSHALLS: ETRI LEMTO, WHO SPECIALIZED IN WELDING; JOSEPH GIDEON, CARPENTRY; AND TIMOTHY ANOK, AUTO MECHANICS.

ALSO SPECIALIZING IN AUTO MECHANICS ARE HUDSON BAKEN FROM PONAPE AND RAITAN RUBEN OF TRUK. THE CANDIDATE FROM THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, JUAN OLOPAI, COMPLETED TRAINING IN WELDING.

THE SIX TRAINEES ARE RETURNING TO THE TT THIS MONTH AND WILL BE EMPLOYED IN JOBS IN THEIR DISTRICTS UTILIZING THE SKILLS THEY HAVE LEARNED.

(BOATING SAFETY TIPS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 27 (MNS)---AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MISSING SMALL CRAFT IN THE WATERS AROUND THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY IN RECENT MONTHS HAS PROMPTED THE GOVERNMENT TO PUBLISH A LIST OF BOATING SAFETY SUGGESTIONS IN THE MARCH 14 EDITION OF THE ATOLL PIONEER, WHICH IS PUBLISHED IN TARAWA. COINCIDENTALLY, THIS PAPER WAS RECEIVED ON SAIPAN THE SAME DAY THAT THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT OFF TINIAN TOOK EIGHT LIVES (SEE PREVIOUS STORY). MARIANAS POLICE REPORT THAT THIS BOAT CARRIED NO LIFE JACKETS OR OTHER SAFETY DEVICES.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOAT OWNERS IN MICRONESIA, HERE ARE THE SAFETY RULES RECOMMENDED IN THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS, RULES WHICH, IF FOLLOWED, COULD HELP TO PREVENT SMALL BOAT ACCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE.

THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT A BOAT SHOULD CARRY DEPENDS UPON THE TYPE AND SIZE OF CRAFT AND THE AREA IN WHICH THE BOAT OWNER INTENDS TO CRUISE. THE LIST OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT GIVEN HERE IS MEANT FOR THE 13-18 FOOT OUTBOARD MOTOR BOATS WHICH HAVE BECOME VERY POPULAR WITH OUR LOCAL FISHERMEN FOR USE INSIDE LAGOONS AS WELL AS NEARBY OUTSIDE COASTAL WATER:

- A) A SPARE MOTOR--THIS IS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF PROPULSION IN THE EVENT OF A BREAKDOWN.
- B) TWO PADDLES OR OARS--THIS IS A MUST AND THEREFORE SUITABLE ROWLOCKS MUST BE A PART OF THE VESSEL.
- C) ANCHOR AND WARP (ROPE)--EVERY CRAFT MUST CARRY THESE. A 5 TO 10 LBS. ANCHOR WITH AT LEAST 15 FATHOMS OF 2" WARP.
- D) MOTOR SPARES AND TOOLS--AT LEAST TWO SPARE PROPELLER COTTER PINS, ONE SPARK PLUG, SUITABLE SPANNERS, PLIERS, SCREW DRIVERS, ETC.
- E) FRESH WATER--AT LEAST ONE GALLON FOR EVERY PERSON THE BOAT CARRIES.
- F) SPARE FUEL--ONE SPARE CONTAINER HOLDING AT LEAST 25 PERCENT OVER AND ABOVE THE REQUIRED FUEL FOR THE PLANNED VOYAGE.
- G) HIGHLY VISIBLE ORANGE-RED SHEET--THIS IS USEFUL AS A COVER AND TO ATTRACT ATTENTION. IT COULD ALSO BE USED AS AN IMPROVISED SAIL. THE DIMENSION SHOULD BE AT LEAST 6 FT X 4 FT WITH CYCLES AND LANYARDS IN EACH CORNER.
- H) BUCKETS--A BUCKET OR TWO COULD BE VERY USEFUL AS BAILER OR AS A SEA ANCHOR IN DEEP WATER WHEN MADE FAST TO THE END OF THE ANCHOR WARP AND STREAMED AHEAD.
- I) COPRA SACKING--THIS SACK, APART FROM ITS OBVIOUS OTHER USES, CAN BE VERY USEFUL TO DOUSE OUT FIRES WHEN WET.
- J) BOUYANT OBJECT--EITHER A LIFEBOUY OR OTHER BOUYANT OBJECT WHICH COULD SERVE AS A SEAT OR LIFEBOUY IN THE EVENT OF YOUR BOAT SINKING.
- K) RADAR REFLECTOR AND HELIOGRAPH--A SHINY SQUARE 40-LB BISCUIT TIN OR A 4-GALLON KEROSENE TIN WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AS A MEANS OF ATTRACTING ATTENTION AS A MIRROR TO REFLECT SUNLIGHT OR AS A RADAR REFLECTOR WHEN PLACED ATOP A MAST OR AN OAR HELD VERTICALLY.

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L) PYROTECHNIC SIGNALS--A STANDARD SET IN WATERPROOF CONTAINER CONSISTING OF FOUR ROCKETS, SIX HAND FLARES AND TWO ORANGE SMOKE SIGNALS ENSURES MEANS OF ATTRACTING ATTENTION BOTH BY NIGHT AND DAY.

M) WATERPROOF ELECTRIC TORCH (FLASHLIGHT)--HANDY AT NIGHT.

THE ATOLL PIONEER ALSO ADVISES BOAT OPERATORS TO ASK THEMSELVES THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BEFORE THEY LEAVE ON A BOATING TRIP:

IS MY BOAT, MOTOR AND EQUIPMENT IN SOUND CONDITION?

CHECK YOURSELF, HAVE I TOLD A RESPONSIBLE PERSON MY DESTINATION AND EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN? (REMEMBER THE RULE FOR BOATS AS WELL AS CARS IS, IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE).

HAVE I SUFFICIENT FUEL TO GET ME WHERE I PLAN TO GO AND RETURN WITH A SAFETY MARGIN?

IN THE EVENT OF MY MOTOR GIVING TROUBLE, HAVE I ANY KNOWLEDGE OF TROUBLE SHOOTING AND THE NECESSARY TOOLS AND SPARES TO EFFECT REPAIRS?

IF MY MOTOR BREAKS DOWN IN REASONABLE DEPTH OF WATER, HAVE I ANY MEANS TO STOP MY BOAT FROM BEING CARRIED OUT TO SEA WHILE ATTEMPTING TO REPAIR IT?

IF SOMEONE ARRIVES TO ASSIST, HAVE I SUFFICIENT ROPE TO USE AS A TOW LINE?

HAVE I ANYTHING ON BOARD TO ATTRACT ATTENTION WITH IF I AM IN TROUBLE?

IF MY BOAT GETS SWAMPED, HAVE I ANYTHING TO BAIL IT OUT WITH?

IF MY BOAT SINKS, HAVE I SOME FLOTSAM THAT I COULD COMFORTABLY HANG ON TO?

IF I AM ADRIFT HELPLESSLY, HAVE I SUFFICIENT WATER TO SUSTAIN MYSELF BEFORE HELP COMES? A COVER FOR PROTECTION FROM THE SUN WHICH COULD ALSO BE USEFUL AS AN IMPROVISED SAIL SHOULD WIND CONDITIONS BE FAVORABLE?

"BE PREPARED," THE ATOLL PIONEER SAYS, "IS THE MOTTO OF ALL GOOD SAILORS. THE SEA RARELY GIVES ANYONE A SECOND CHANCE. THIS MEANS THAT BEFORE PUTTING TO SEA ONE SHOULD HAVE A PLAN FORMULATED TO MEET ALL POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES ALWAYS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE WORST OF POSSIBLE CONDITIONS."