

(BARGE SINKS)
SAIPAN, APRIL 8 (MNS) --- A BARGE CARRYING SEVENTY-SIX CONTAINERS FULL OF FOOD, GENERAL CARGO AND U.S. MAIL FROM GUAM TO PONAPE BROKE APART SATURDAY (APRIL 6) AND SANK SIX MILES NORTHWEST OF THE TRUK LAGOON IN MORE THAN SEVEN-THOUSAND FEET OF WATER. THE BARGE AND THE TUGBOAT "CHALLENGER" BOTH BELONGED TO THE LUZON STEVEDORING COMPANY OF THE PHILIPPINES. THEY HAD BEEN HIRED BY TRANSPAC LINES RECEIVER JOHN MEADOWS TO HAUL THE CARGO TO PONAPE IN AN EFFORT TO DECREASE THE BACKLOG OF CONTAINERS STRANDED AT THE GUAM COMMERCIAL PORT WHEN THE TT SHIPPING LINE WAS DECLARED TO BE IN A STATE OF INSOLVENCY AND THE RECEIVERSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED. (974 11)

THE TUGBOAT AND THE BARGE HAD LEFT GUAM AT 7 P.M. MARCH 31, AND HAD BEEN PROGRESSING AT AN AVERAGE SPEED OF ABOUT FOUR KNOTS, ACCORDING TO RECEIVER MEADOWS. THE SHIP WAS ABOUT 550 MILES FROM GUAM, IN HEAVY SEAS, WHEN THE BARGE BEGAN TO BREAK UP. REPORTS FROM TRANSPAC OFFICIALS IN TRUK SAID THAT THE BARGE AND TUG THEN ATTEMPTED TO PROCEED TO TRUK WHEN THE TROUBLE WAS DETECTED. TWO DIVERS ON BOARD THE TUG WERE PREVENTED BY THE ROUGH WATERS FROM PROCEEDING TO THE BARGE TO ACTIVATE PUMPS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE VESSEL AND HER CARGO. A CRANE ON BOARD THE BARGE BROKE LOOSE AND FELL OVERBOARD FIRST, TAKING WITH IT SEVERAL OF THE CONTAINERS. THE BARGE CONTINUED TO BREAK APART AND EVENTUALLY SANK AT 11 A.M. SATURDAY.

MEADOWS SAID HIS INFORMATION INDICATES THAT THE TUG BOAT PROCEEDED FROM THE SCENE OF THE SINKING TO ANCHOR INSIDE THE TRUK LAGOON, THEN DEPARTED ON A COURSE FOR THE PHILIPPINES WHERE IT WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ABOUT APRIL 15.

ASSISTANT TRANSPAC RECEIVER FRANK RAYMENT LISTED ITEMS ON BOARD THE BARGE FROM A COPY OF THE VESSEL'S MANIFEST. THEY INCLUDED SIXTY-EIGHT 20-FOOT CONTAINERS AND EIGHT ADDITIONAL 8-FOOT CONTAINERS, ALL OF THEM LOADED AT GUAM. FIFTY-TWO OF THE CONTAINERS HAD ORIGINATED IN SHIPMENTS FROM THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

RAYMENT SAID THAT THIRTY-FOUR OF THE CONTAINERS WERE FULL OF WHAT HE CALLED "MIXED CARGO," WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FOOD AND OTHER GENERAL ITEMS. THERE WERE 13 CONTAINERS FULL OF BEVERAGES AND LIQUOR. ONE CONTAINER WAS INDICATED ON THE MANIFEST AS BEING FULL OF UNSPECIFIED POISONS. THERE WERE FOURTEEN CONTAINERS FULL OF RICE, ONE CONTAINERS OF GROCERY ITEMS, ONE CONTAINER OF SOAP, ANOTHER LOADED WITH FLOUR. THERE WERE ALSO A TOTAL OF NINE CONTAINERS FULL OF CHICKEN FEED WHICH HAD BEEN PUT ON THE BARGE AT THE SPECIAL REQUEST OF TRUST TERRITORY AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT LOW SUPPLY OF SUCH FEED IN PONAPE, WHICH IS ONE OF THE TERRITORY'S HIGH EGG-PRODUCTION AREAS. FINALLY, RAYMENT SAID, THERE WAS ONE 20-FOOT CONTAINER FULL OF U.S. MAIL LOADED AT GUAM DESTINED FOR PONAPE.

MEADOWS TOLD MNS SUNDAY THAT THE RECEIVERSHIP IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF NOTIFYING SHIPPERS AND CONSIGNEES OF THE CARGO LOSS SO THAT APPROPRIATE CLAIMS CAN BE FILED. BECAUSE THE TRANSPAC RECEIVER IS AN OFFICER OF THE TT HIGH COURT. JUDGE ARVIN H. BROWN WAS NOTIFIED OF THE INCIDENT, AND HE HAS ORDERED THE RECEIVER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO PROTECT THE SHIPPERS, INCLUDING, MEADOWS SAID, FILING SUIT AGAINST LUZON STEVEDORING COMPANY.

CHIEF OF THE TT TRANSPORTATION DIVISION, WAYNE THIESSEN, TOLD MNS THAT REPLACEMENT SHIPS ARE NOW BEING ALERTED AND PREPARED TO MAKE SHIPMENTS OF NECESSARY FOOD ITEMS INTO PONAPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT THE GUNNERS KNOT, A GOVERNMENT VESSEL, IS TO BE CHARTERED BY SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY AND IS SCHEDULED TO LOAD CARGO IN JAPAN FOR PONAPE IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT OPERATED SHIP MUSKINGUM IS TO LOAD CARGO EXCLUSIVELY FOR PONAPE AND GUAM IN THE COMING WEEK. THE MUSKINGUM HAD ALREADY BEEN PREPARING TO TAKE ON SHIPMENTS FOR BOTH TRUK

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AND PONAPE, BUT WILL NOW ACCEPT GOODS ONLY FOR PONAPE CONSIGNEES. A THIRD VESSEL, MAURU PACIFIC LINES SHIP ELIZABETH BORNHOFEN, A LARGE CONTAINER VESSEL, WILL BE LOADING GOODS IN SAN FRANCISCO ON APRIL 20 FOR PONAPE, TRUK AND THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT.

(TRADITIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE OPENS)

KOLONIA, APRIL 8 (MNS)---THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE OF FIVE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY'S SIX DISTRICTS WAS SCHEDULED TO OPEN MONDAY (APRIL 8) AT PICS HIGH SCHOOL, IN KOLONIA, PONAPE DISTRICT. THE TWO-WEEK MEETING WAS CALLED BY THE NANMWARKIS AND NANIKENS, PONAPE'S HIGHEST RANKING TRADITIONAL LEADERS.

ACCORDING TO HALVERSEN JOHNNY, PONAPE RADIO STATION MANAGER, DELEGATES WERE TO BEGIN ARRIVING ON PONAPE SUNDAY (APRIL 7). THOUGH INVITATIONS WERE SENT TO TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN EACH OF THE SIX DISTRICTS, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, WHERE THERE ARE NO TRADITIONAL LEADERS, PARTICIPATION FROM THAT DISTRICT IS NOT INDICATED. YAP, PALAU, AND TRUK, ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN SENDING ITS DELEGATES. NO RESPONSE FROM THE MARSHALLS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AS OF FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

ON OPENING DAY, FATHER JOHN CURRAN, S.J., WAS TO DELIVER THE INVOCATION TO BE FOLLOWED BY A WELCOMING SPEECH FROM THE NANMWARKI OF METALAHIMW MUNICIPALITY, SAMUEL HADLEY. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND REMARKS BY PONAPE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR LEO A. FALCAM, AND SPEAKER OF THE PONAPE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ITOH HARRIS WERE TO FOLLOW. AFTER LUNCH THE SAME DAY, THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS OF YAP, PALAU, TRUK AND THE MARSHALLS WERE TO MAKE THEIR OPENING REMARKS.

EACH DAY OF THE MEETING WILL BE DEVOTED TO A DIFFERENT TOPIC, WITH A DIFFERENT DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVE SERVING AS CHAIRMAN IN ROTATION. THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE CALLS FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE AGENDA ON APRIL 8, MICRONESIAN UNITY ON THE 9TH, CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ON THE 10TH, FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS ON THE 11TH, AND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN MICRONESIA ON THE 12TH. NEXT WEEK ON THE 15TH, THE CONFEREES WILL DISCUSS THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND LAW OF THE SEA; APRIL 17TH, RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM AND THE GOVERNMENT; APRIL 18-19, AN EVALUATION OF THE CONFERENCE AND ADJOURNMENT.

ON SATURDAY (APRIL 20) A FEAST HOSTED BY THE NANMWARKIS AND NANIKENS WILL BE GIVEN IN HONOR OF THE DELEGATES. ALSO

PONAPEAN TRADITIONAL DANCES AND SONGS TO BE PERFORMED BY THE NETT CULTURAL CENTER WILL BE FEATURED.

ALTHOUGH SOME PONAPEAN LEADERS HAVE DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF HOSTING SUCH A CONFERENCE SINCE 1969, THE FINAL DECISION TO IMPLEMENT IT WAS MADE THIS YEAR IN JANUARY. THE INVITATION TO THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS EXTENDED ON FEBRUARY 14, 1974. SINCE THAT TIME, THE PONAPEAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS BEGAN PREPARATION BY RAISING FUNDS AND GATHERING MATERIALS TO SUPPORT THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO JOHNNY.

THE TRADITIONAL PONAPEAN LEADERS FEEL THAT THE CONFERENCE IS NECESSARY BECAUSE UNTIL RECENTLY, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, AND THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES. THE LEADERS WISH TO DETERMINE THEIR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT; THE RELATIONSHIP OF MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES; THE CURRENT POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND THE DESIRABILITY OF MICRONESIAN UNITY. THE RELEASE OF PUBLIC LAND, LAW OF THE SEA, AND THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND CRITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS. JOHNNY SAID.

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THE PONAPEAN LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE THE APPROPRIATE LEADERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE MUNICIPALITIES AND ITS PEOPLE. THIS WAS THE ACTUAL STATE OF AFFAIRS BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE SPANISH IN 1885. UNDER THE SUCCEEDING GERMAN, JAPANESE AND AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS, THEY HAVE SEEN THEIR POWER STEADILY ERODING, THE REPORT FROM PONAPE SAID. IN ORDER TO REVERSE THIS PROCESS, THEY ARE BECOMING MORE INFORMED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND THEIR POSITION IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY WISH TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THEIR POWER AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

AS TRADITIONAL LEADERS, THEY ARE DISTURBED THAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION IS POORLY PREPARED TO CARRY ON THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, ACCORDING TO THE WSZD STORY. WESTERN INFLUENCE HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE TO A LARGE DEGREE. THE INFLUX OF AUTOMOBILES, SCOOTERS, MOVIES, FOODS AND STYLES HAS DIVERTED THE INTEREST OF THE CHILDREN. PARENTS RARELY TEACH TRADITIONS AS THEY DID IN THE PAST, AND DESPITE RECENT ATTEMPTS TO INCLUDE TRADITIONAL CURRICULA IN THE SCHOOLS, MUCH HAS BEEN LOST, ACCORDING TO JOHNNY. THE NANMWARKIS AND NANIKENS BELIEVE THAT IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSURE THAT THE IMPORTANT CUSTOMS ARE CARRIED FORWARD AND LOOK FOR A MORE IMPORTANT VOICE IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION.

THE NANMWARKIS AND NANIKENS OF PONAPE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS WILL GENERATE CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES FACING MICRONESIA TODAY. IT IS THEIR DESIRE TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ROLES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS AND IN MICRONESIA WHATEVER ITS FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS MAY BE.

(DEATH REPORTED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 8 (MNS)---WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED ON SAIPAN OF THE DEATH OF VIRGINIA FAYE MOSHER, WIFE OF A FORMER TRUST TERRITORY EMPLOYEE WHO MAINTAINED HER INTEREST IN THE TT EVEN AFTER SHE HAD LEFT MICRONESIA. MRS. MOSHER DIED IN HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA ON MARCH 31, 1974, AND WAS BURIED AT HER HOME TOWN OF SALINA, KANSAS.

MRS. MOSHER WAS WELL-KNOWN IN BOTH AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE TRUST TERRITORY, HAVING LIVED AND WORKED IN BOTH PLACES FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HER HUSBAND, PHIL, WAS ASSISTANT DISTAD IN PONAPE IN THE LATE 1950'S AND EARLY 1960'S, AND HE HAD ALSO SERVED AS PERSONNEL OFFICER IN AMERICAN SAMOA. MRS. MOSHER SERVED AS SECRETARY TO FORMER AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNORS RICHARD LOWE AND PETER COLEMAN, AND SERVED AT ONE TIME AS POSTMISTRESS FOR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

UPON RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, MRS. MOSHER SERVED IN THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIES AS SECRETARY TO THE DIRECTOR AT THAT TIME, MRS. ELIZABETH FARRINGTON, AND LATER AS SECRETARY TO AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS IN THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE MOSHERS HAD BEEN LIVING IN RETIREMENT IN FLORIDA IN THE PAST YEAR.

(TWO BILLS RECEIVED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 8 (MNS)---TWO MORE BILLS PASSED BY THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

THEY ARE: A MEASURE RELATING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW; (SB 185) AND A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE EDUCATION OF "SPECIAL" CHILDREN, EITHER THOSE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES OF HANDICAPS, OR CONVERSELY, THOSE WITH EXCEPTIONAL INTELLIGENCE OR TALENT, (SB 242).

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS 30 DAYS AFTER OFFICIALLY RECEIVING BILLS TO EITHER APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THEM.

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(MEAT RESTRICTION)

SAIPAN, APRIL 8 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE RECEIVED WORD THIS WEEK FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM THAT A RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS OF MEAT FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION IS NOW IN EFFECT.

ALL SHIPMENTS OF MEAT TO GUAM FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION, THAT IS, SHIPMENTS OF LESS THAN 50 POUNDS WITHOUT OFFICIAL TRUST TERRITORY INSPECTION CERTIFICATES, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PERMIT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM. THE IMPORT PERMITS MUST BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN MANGILAO PRIOR TO SHIPMENT OF THE MEAT.

(BROADCASTERS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 8 (MNS)---THE CHIEF OF BROADCAST DIVISION, ELIAS THOMAS, AND KASPER PETER, MANAGER OF TRUK RADIO STATION--WSZC--HAVE JUST RETURNED TO MICRONESIA AFTER ATTENDING A SPECIAL SEMINAR HELD AT SINGAPORE LAST MONTH, ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT ISSUE OF MICRONESIAN BROADCAST SERVICES NEWSLETTER.

THE SEMINAR WAS SPONSORED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ASIAN BROADCAST UNION, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE U.N. NAMING 1974 AS WORLD POPULATION YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THOMAS, FAMILY PLANNING WAS THE THEME OF THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE OF BROADCASTERS FROM 16 NATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE NOTED THAT THE "ROLE OF BROADCASTING IN WORLD POPULATION" WAS DISCUSSED IN WORKING SESSION, AND FINDINGS FROM THE VARIOUS GROUPS WERE REPORTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY LATER ON.

THOMAS WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE CONFERENCE, ADDING, "ALTHOUGH MICRONESIA HAS NOT FORMULATED ANY POLICIES ON FAMILY PLANNING AS YET, THE MERE FACT THAT LAND IS SO LIMITED HERE PROVES THAT IT IS A POTENTIAL PROBLEM THAT WILL HAVE TO BE FACED SOONER OR LATER."

"WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE POPULATION PROBLEMS WILL HELP US RELATE MORE CLOSELY TO THE PROBLEM IN FINDING A WAY TO COPE WITH IT," THOMAS SAID. HE STATED THAT KASPER WAS CHOSEN TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON THIS JOURNEY BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST CENSUS FIGURES, KASPER'S DISTRICT OF TRUK HAS THE LARGEST POPULATION.

"IT IS MY HOPE THAT WE CAN START A PROGRAM OF HAVING EACH INDIVIDUAL STATION MANAGER, ONE AT A TIME, ATTEND THE VARIOUS IMPORTANT CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS OUTSIDE MICRONESIA, SO THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN FROM PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND THEIR EXPERIENCES IN AREAS THAT RELATE TO BROADCASTING," THOMAS SAID. HE NOTED THAT A VIABLE PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE WILL BROADEN THE EXPERIENCE OF OUR STATION MANAGERS AND WILL ALSO GIVE AN IDEA OF HOW TO BENEFIT FROM AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH OTHER PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH COMMONLY FACE MORE THAN ONE NATION.

(PALAU HIGH SCHOOL FAIR)

KOROR, APRIL 8 (MNS)---THE SECOND ANNUAL ALL-SCHOOL FAIR IN PALAU DISTRICT IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD APRIL 25, 26 AND 27, ACCORDING TO DAVID NIGIRMI, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER. STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBERS HAVE BEGUN PREPARATIONS FOR THE THREE DAY AFFAIR.

THE FIRST FAIR WAS HELD LAST YEAR WITH ALL PUBLIC AND VARIOUS PRIVATE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING. THE RESPONSE OF THE PARENTS, THE GENERAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TOURISTS WAS SO ENTHUSIASTIC AND THE BENEFIT TO THE STUDENTS WAS SO GREAT THAT IT WAS DECIDED THAT THIS SHOULD BE MADE AN ANNUAL EVENT.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S FAIR IS "A DISPLAY OF BETTER PALAU" AT WHICH VARIOUS STUDENTS WILL SHOW AND LEARN GOOD

WORKMANSHIP, SHOW GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, APPRECIATE CULTURAL VALUES, AND DEVELOP FEELINGS OF BEING GOOD CITIZENS IN THE COMMUNITY.

ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL HIGHLIGHT THE UPCOMING FAIR WILL INCLUDE EXHIBITION AND SALE OF HANDICRAFTS MADE BY THE STUDENTS, TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, TRADITIONAL PALAUAN GAMES, AND TRADITIONAL SONGS AND DANCES BEING PRESENTED BY EACH SCHOOL. SCHEDULES OF EVENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC NOT ONLY AT HE FAIR, BUT ALSO AT VARIOUS HOTELS AND STORES IN KOROR. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE EVENTS WHICH WILL REFLECT "A DISPLAY OF BETTER PALAU."

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