

1975

(MARSHALLS IMPOSES SURCHARGE TAX)

MAJURO, JUNE 12 (MNS)---THE MARSHALL ISLANDS BECAME THE FIRST DISTRICT LAST WEEK TO ENTER INTO ITS LAW BOOKS AN INCOME SURCHARGE PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 6-52. THE BILL, PASSED DURING THE LAST SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON. P15

ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM MAJURO, LOCAL LEADERS ARE NOW WAITING TO SEE IF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WOULD ISSUE A SECRETARIAL ORDER COUNTERMANDING THE SURTAX MEASURE AS IT WOULD APPLY TO KWAJALEIN. 11

PUBLIC LAW 6-52 WAS HAILED BY MARSHALLESE LEADERS AS THE FIRST MEANINGFUL COMPROMISE THE MARSHALLS AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA EVER ARRIVED WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTROVERSIAL 50 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING ARRANGEMENT. THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT HAD INSISTED THAT THE 50 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP MICRONESIA UNIFIED.

ACCORDING TO THE RELEASE, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER APPROVED THE MEASURE BUT WITH CERTAIN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT DICTATED RESERVATIONS.

MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE IS THE UNITED STATES POSITION THAT U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE SURTAX.

KWAJALEIN MISSILE RANGE, THE GREATEST SINGLE SOURCE OF INCOME TAX REVENUES IN THE IT IS THE ONLY MILITARY INSTALLATION IN MICRONESIA WHICH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE SURTAX.

INTERIOR'S THREAT TO ORDER THAT KWAJALEIN WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE TAX IS SEEN AS A UNITED STATES MOVE TO RENDER THE TAX LAWS USELESS, THE RELEASE INDICATED.

"THIS WILL BE A CLASSIC CASE OF ACTUAL UNITED STATES INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL MICRONESIAN AFFAIRS," ONE MARSHALLESE LEADER COMMENTED. "WE FOUND A WAY TO IRON OUT OUR DIFFERENCES BUT THE UNITED STATES NOW THREATENS TO SABOTAGE OUR EFFORTS AT UNITY."

THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION AS TO WHAT ACTION DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OSCAR DE BRUM WOULD TAKE ON NITIJELA BILL 96, THE SURTAX MEASURE.

LOCAL LEADERS SUSPECTED THAT DISTAD DEBRUM WOULD BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM HIS SUPERIORS AT HEADQUARTERS ON SAIPAN TO VETO THE BILL THEREBY ELIMINATING THE NECESSITY OF AN ACTUAL SHOW DOWN BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

ACCORDING TO THE RELEASE, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS ASSUMED TO BE READY TO CHALLENGE THE SECRETARIAL ORDER IF ISSUED AGAINST PL 6-52. DEBRUM ALLOWED THE MEASURE TO BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE.

MARSHALLESE LEADERS CLAIMED THEY WERE TOLD BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, EMMETT RICE, THAT THE ORDER WILL BE ISSUED. RICE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE AT THE INSISTENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WHICH CONSIDERS KWAJALEIN TO BE A FOREIGN BASE AND NOT SUBJECT TO ANY TERRITORIAL TAXES.

"THIS IS QUITE STRANGE," NITIJELA VICE-SPEAKER NAMO HERMIOS SAID WEDNESDAY. "KWAJALEIN PRESENTLY PAYS MICRONESIAN INCOME AND DISTRICT SALES TAXES AND NOW THEY SAY THEY SHOULD NOT PAY. I FOR ONE, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO SUCH AN OBVIOUSLY FOOLISH THING AS ISSUING A SECRETARIAL ORDER BLOCKING MICRONESIAN EFFORTS TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME AN ADMISSION

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OF A POLICY TO KEEP MICRONESIA DIVIDED AND DEPENDENT," HE ADDED.

MARSHALLESE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING VARIOUS OPTIONS WHICH MAY BE OPEN FOR THEM INCLUDING ONE OF JOINING FORCES WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO FIGHT THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR IF ADVERSE ACTION ON THE MEASURE IS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

(KOREAN FISHING VESSEL AGROUND)

SAIPAN, JUNE 12 (MNS)---THE CREWMEN OF THE KOREAN FISHING VESSEL WHICH WENT AGROUND ON WOLEAI ATOLL, FRIDAY (JUNE 6) ABOUT 370 MILES WEST OF YAP ISLAND PROPER, LEFT THE ATOLL THURSDAY. ACCORDING TO BOYD MACKENZIE, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR DISTRICT AFFAIRS.

THE NAM HAE 212 WAS CARRYING A CREW OF 16 WHEN IT WENT AGROUND. TWO OTHER FISHING VESSELS FROM THE SAME COMPANY, THE NAM HAE 232 AND NAM HAE 226, ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AND ATTEMPTED TO PULL THE VESSEL OFF THE REEF.

WHEN THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO MOVE THE STRICKEN SHIP, THE CREWMEN WENT ASHORE AND BEGAN DRINKING.

MACKENZIE SAID THE CREWMEN TOOK COCONUTS AND WERE REPORTED TO BE "CHASING WOMEN" ON THE ISLAND. THEY STAYED ON THE ISLAND FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE FISHERMEN RETURNED TO THEIR SHIPS TUESDAY (JUNE 10).

A NAVY P-3 AIRCRAFT ARRIVED AT THE SCENE AND FLEW OVERHEAD FOR TWO HOURS TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SHIP'S POSITION. A NAVY GUIDED MISSILE SHIP, THE USS PARSON ALSO ARRIVED ON THE SCENE WEDNESDAY (JUNE 11) AND INVESTIGATED THE SITUATION AND CONFIRMED THE REPORT THAT THE CREWMEN "CHASED WOMEN" AND REMOVING COCONUTS FROM THE ISLAND.

NO ONE WAS INJURED, IT WAS REPORTED. THE NAVY SHIP LEFT THE ISLAND WEDNESDAY.

THE COAST GUARD HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REMOVE THE FUEL ON BOARD THE SHIP. NO FINAL DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE AS WHAT TO DO WITH THE SHIP.

THE CHIEF OF WOLEAI HAS REQUESTED THE TT GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE SHIP REMOVE FROM THE REEF.

SPECIAL CONSULTANT DWIGHT HEINE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE INCIDENT. HE SAID THE INCIDENT CAN "GET OUT OF HAND" IF THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE ANY ACTION.

"SUPPOSE SOME OF THE ISLAND MEN GET ANGRY ABOUT THEIR WIVES OR DAUGHTERS BEING CHASED, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?" ASKED HEINE.

"IT COULD CAUSE AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS IF SOMEONE GETS KILLED", HEINE SAID.

THE TT SPECIAL CONSULTANT WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT TAKING THE INCIDENT LIGHTLY. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEND ITS OWN FIELD TRIP SHIP TO WOLEAI.

CITING PALAU'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE TAIWANESE SHIPS THAT WENT AGROUND ON HELEN REEF IN WHICH THE MICRONESIA PRINCESS WAS SENT TO THE SCENE TO INVESTIGATE, HEINE SAID THAT THE SAME SHOULD BE DONE. "APPREHEND THEM, PUT THEM IN JAIL AND FINE THEM. DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH IT," HE STRESSED.

(KUSAIE RECEIVES FIRST BULK GASOLINE SHIPMENT)

KUSAIE, JUNE 12 (MNS)---THE MOBIL MICRONESIA TANKER M.V. HALEKULANI ENTERED LELU HARBOR, KUSAIE ISLAND RECENTLY AND CONNECTED A HOSE TO THE PUBLIC WORKS FUEL BARGE. WITHIN A SHORT WHILE 62,000 GALLONS OF MOBIL GASOLINE HAD BEEN PUMPED INTO THE BARGE AND THE GASOLINE SHORTAGE ON KUSAIE WAS OVER.

THE DELIVERY OF MOBIL GASOLINE IN BULK IS A HISTORIC OCCASION FOR MOBIL AND KUSAIE. PREVIOUSLY ALL GASOLINE SUPPLIES HAS BEEN IN DRUMS AND BECAUSE OF DRUM SHORTAGES AND SHIPPING DIFFICULTIES, OUTAGES OF GASOLINE SOMETIMES OCCURRED. ADDITIONALLY, BULK SHIPMENT RESULTS IN COST SAVINGS WHICH BENEFIT THE KUSAIEAN PEOPLE.

THE DELIVERY WAS ARRANGED BY SYL TULLEY, PONAPE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND BRIAN FRASER, MOBIL MANAGER. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CAPTAIN TEVES OF THE HALEKULANI, THE SHIP WAS DIVERTED TO KUSAIE.

"HERE IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT AND MOBIL WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA," A MOBILE SPOKESMAN SAID.

(COPRA PRICE REDUCTION)

SAIPAN, JUNE 12 (MNS)---THE MEMBERS OF THE COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD (CSB) HAVE VOTED TO REDUCE THE PRICE OF COPRA FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS YEAR.

THE NEW PRICE IS EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 1975, AND IS AS FOLLOWS: \$140, \$130 AND \$120 PER TON FOR TRADES 1, 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY FOR COPRA PURCHASED IN THE DISTRICT CENTER.

FOR OUTER ISLANDS: \$115, \$105 AND \$95 PER TON FOR GRADES 1, 2 AND 3 RESPECTIVELY IF SERVICED BY GOVERNMENT VESSELS OR \$105, \$95 AND \$85 IF SERVICED BY PRIVATE VESSELS.

THE NEW PRICE REDUCTION IS A RESULT OF DECLINING SALES PRICES IN THE WORLD. EVEN WITH THIS REDUCTION, THE CSB CONTINUES TO LOSE MONEY IN SUBSIDIZING THE PRICE OF COPRA.

(AUTHORITY PLANS ASIA TRIP)

KOROR, JUNE 12 (MNS)---THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY HAS FINALIZED PLANS FOR A MONTH-LONG TRIP TO ASIA IN AUGUST.

THE TRIP, SECOND OF ITS KIND ORGANIZED BY THE AUTHORITY, WILL INCLUDE JAPAN, OKINAWA, TAIWAN, HONG KONG, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES. THE FIRST TRIP TOOK PLACE LAST SUMMER.

THE PLANE FARE PER PERSON, ACCORDING TO FRANCISCO T. ULUDONG, MANAGER OF THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY, IS \$600.00. ULUDONG SAID THAT THE HOTEL AND FOOD COSTS WOULD ADD ANOTHER \$400 TO THE TRIP EXPENSIVE.

THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED MUST REGISTER WITH THE PALAU FISHING AUTHORITY BY JUNE 30, ACCORDING TO ULUDONG. THEY ALSO MUST HAVE PASSPORTS AND YELLOW CARDS. ULUDONG SAID THAT VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO THESE COUNTRIES WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE AUTHORITY AND AIR MICRONESIA.

ULUDONG EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE TRIP IS BEING ORGANIZED FOR PALAUAN FISHERMEN, ANY PERSON WHO IS INTERESTED IN FISHING AND ECONOMICS IN GENERAL CAN GO ON THE TRIP.