



PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Saipan, Mariana Islands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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NEW SHIP CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERED BY TERRITORY

SAIPAN, M.I. (FEB 4)...Preliminary design work and cost estimates on two new steel ships and a number of smaller utility vessels to meet growing needs within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have been asked of several shipbuilding yards according to a headquarters announcement.

The largest ship to be considered is a steel 125 to 130 foot diesel-powered vessel for additional cargo/passenger service throughout the three million square mile Territory. The ship under consideration would be pressed into service as a replacement vessel or possibly as an addition to the eight ship fleet now in operation.

Headquarters transportation officer James M. Cook said this vessel would be designed specifically for the type service found in the Trust Territory.

A second vessel, in the 90 to 100 foot class, is being considered as an administrative ship. As a combination agriculture, economic and social development, and medical and dental service vessel, it would serve many of the more isolated district areas as well as centers of population.

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Additional tentative plans call for two 75 to 80 foot diesel-powered units to meet administrative requirements in such large areas as the Truk lagoon where field trip ships are now being used for this purpose. Design specifications call for the units to be equipped with radio and radar and would be required to cruise at 14 knots.

Cook said several requests have been made for a utility boat to meet out-lying island emergency needs. As an answer to these requests design specifications for a 26 to 36 foot diesel-powered trunk cabin boat have been requested. The steel-hulled boats could be used in open seas in relative safety.

Cook added that while no contracts have been awarded for any of these vessels design work and cost estimates are being gathered.