

XERO COPY

Mrs. Jan Clerie

XERO COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

NOVEMBER 29, 1965
RELEASE: 166-65

ROQUE LEAVES TT AFTER NEARLY 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

SAIPAN, M. I. (NOV 29). . .M/V ROQUE, a 560-gross-ton twin-screw ship which has been part of the Trust Territory fleet for nearly 15 years and operated by the Pacific Micronesian Line until last August under contract is to leave the warm waters of Micronesia soon for San Diego, California, where Campbell Machine Inc. has assumed ownership of the 21-year-old AKL steel vessel.

Acting Assistant Commissioner for Administration Frank H. Moulton, who is also serving as Contracting Officer for the High Commissioner, said bill of sale and other necessary documents are being prepared today for execution between the Trust Territory Government and the Campbell Machine Inc., represented by its president, Mr. Sverre Jangaard, who arrived in Saipan early last week to accept the vessel. Mr. Jangaard was accompanied by Mr. Tage Kristian Vestergaard, also of the Campbell Machine Inc. Two more representatives of the company are expected to arrive Saipan soon, one of whom will serve as master of the ROQUE while en route to San Diego. Director of Property and Supply Robert R. Wion said Mr. Jangaard has indicated he would recruit

(MORE)

ROQUE LEAVES TT - Page 2

the rest of the crew locally to take the vessel to the West coast. The company's officials here indicated that the ROQUE will be renovated and used as a fishing vessel.

Built in 1944 M/V ROQUE, according to available records at the Headquarters in Saipan, has been operating in Trust Territory waters since July of 1951; when the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was transferred from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior.

The Campbell Machine Inc. became the next owner of ROQUE with its bid of \$38,000 last October. Bids were opened in Saipan, October 15, 1965.

Besides her long and faithful logistic service in every district of the Territory, M/V ROQUE will be long remembered in Micronesia, especially in the Marshalls where an expectant mother aboard gave birth to a baby girl during one of the field trips in 1963 and subsequently named her daughter "Roquetta" in honor of the vessel.

The ROQUE was retired from service at the end of August after it had been determined that the AKL type vessels were uneconomical for field trip services among the widely scattered and thinly populated tiny islands of Micronesia. Smaller 100-foot steel vessels built to order for local specifications are replacing the former AKL's.

ROQUE's departure date for San Diego has not yet been established.

- 30 -

PIO/2148