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### SEID AND FOUR PALAUANS MISSING

SAIPAN, M. I. (DEC 8)...A search Monday for a missing 18-foot canoe with three Palauans aboard led to another incident in which Mr. Sid Seid, Resident Manager of the Van Camp Fisheries branch in Koror, and another Palauan have been reported overdue and missing since 5 p.m. Monday in a piper cub float plane which was taking part in the search-rescue mission.

According to reports from Palau District Administrator Boyd Mackenzie, the aircraft departed about 7:30 Monday morning to participate in the search for the missing canoe but has not returned since. The plane is owned by the Van Camp Fisheries and is used in fishing operation for locating schools of tuna. It was piloted by Seid, who was accompanied by a Palauan employee of Van Camp.

The 18-foot canoe is reported to have been missing since Sunday afternoon, December 5. Earlier an attempt by the Coast Guard in Angaur Island to locate the missing canoe resulted in a Coast Guard 16-foot outboard motor boat developing engine trouble and drifting for nearly 12 hours before the boat was spotted by a Coast Guard

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plane. There were four persons in the boat. They were picked up at about 12:30 p.m. Monday by an M-Boat dispatched from Koror.

The search for the missing canoe and the Van Camp aircraft has been intensified, with Joint Sea-Air Rescue Center in Guam sending out four Navy and Coast Guard planes which are now raking the search area--approximately within 150 miles off the southwest shores of Peleliu and Angaur Islands. Trust Territory SA-16 aircraft, which departed Guam 2:30 this morning and arrived Koror at about 7:00 a.m., is also participating in the search mission. Mr. Dan Seid, Resident Manager of the Far East Line Office in Guam and brother of the missing Seid, flew down to Koror on the Trust Territory SA-16 early this morning to join the search party.

District Administrator Mackenzie also reported yesterday that all available government and private small sea craft, including all the tuna fishing boats from Van Camp and Western Carolines Fishing Companies, are at sea sweeping the search area for the missing craft and victims. The surrounding vicinity of the rock islands, between Koror and Peleliu, is being searched also, particularly for the missing aircraft. The officials and search parties in Palau are hopefully searching the rock islands area on the possibility that the piper cub plane, out of fuel, went down near the rock islands.

Thus far, all search efforts have been negative.

The three Palauans missing aboard the canoe are: Santiago Akino, Kaiich Delmel, and Hideosi Mereb. The other missing Palauan who was with Mr. Seid is Mutsuo John.

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District Administrator Mackenzie has also suggested the possibility of requesting the Philippine authorities for additional search assistance to work the sea area from Mindanao toward Palau.

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