

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

DECEMBER 15, 1965
RELEASE: 176-65

RYUKYU FISHING BOAT RESCUES THREE PALAUAN FISHERMEN

SAIPAN, M. I. (DEC 15)...The families of three Palauan fishermen, missing since December 5 in an 18-foot canoe, received good Christmas tidings today from the High Commissioner for the Ryukyu Islands, who also has informed the Trust Territory authorities of the rescue.

The fishermen, Santiago Akino, Kaiichi Delmel, and Hideosi Mereb, were picked up by a Ryukyu fishing vessel, HYUGA MARU NO. 12, approximately 240 miles west southwest of Angaur presumably early yesterday. The fishing vessel reported the rescue to the Ryukyu Fisheries Radio Station, which in turn relayed the good news to the Trust Territory officials through the High Commissioner of Ryukyu Islands.

The search for the missing 18-foot canoe, which began late on the afternoon of December 5, led to the tragic disappearance of Sid Seid and Mutsuo John, who were taking part in the search mission in a Piper Cub float plane owned by the Van Camp Fisheries branch in Koror.

(MORE)

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An intensive one-week search-rescue operation for the missing canoe and plane was called off in the afternoon of December 12, after both sea and air search units failed to discover any trace of the missing crafts. The biggest sea-air search mission in the Trust Territory's history, the operation involved planes from the Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force, in Guam. The 13th Air Force from the Philippines also took part in the operation. The Trust Territory SA-16 aircraft, fishing boats from the Van Camp and Caroline Fisheries, and other private and government boats in Palau also participated. The search-rescue mission was discontinued after all the participating units reported negative results. The search officials, however, were still hopeful and requested that lookout units in the eastern areas of the Philippines be on the alert for the three Palauans on the canoe and Mr. Seid and his companion, who might be on a raft. To date Mr. Seid and his Palauan companion, Mutsuo John, have not been located, but the discovery of the three Palauans on the canoe renewed hopes for finding the missing pair.

Fishing vessel HYUGA MARU NO. 12 is now proceeding to Naha, Ryukyu Islands, with the drifters aboard. The vessel is expected to arrive at Naha on December 20.

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M. S. Van Cleave

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DECEMBER 13, 1965
RELEASE: 175-65

HEAD OF ECONOMIC TEAM LEAVES BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH

SAIPAN, M.I. (DEC. 13). . . Ivan Bloch, chief of party of the economic development team which is developing a long range economic plan for the Trust Territory, left Saipan today for health reasons. He and Mrs. Bloch will spend a few weeks in Hawaii, where he will receive treatment, before continuing to their home in Portland, Oregon.

James R. Leonard will act as head of the economic party, which was sent to Saipan last June on contract with Nathan Associates, Inc., until a new leader arrives early in February. The third member of the team is J. Raymond Carpenter.

Mr. Bloch heads his own economic consulting firm, Ivan Bloch Associates, in Portland, and will return to it in a limited capacity.

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DECEMBER 13, 1965
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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JAPANESE FISHERMEN

SAIPAN, M. I. (DEC. 13)...A ship of mourning will arrive at Agrihan Island, in the Northern Marianas, from Japan on December 17, and depart the same day. Fifty-nine relatives of the 206 Japanese fishermen who died October 7 in Typhoon Carmen will hold a memorial service^{and} erect a symbolic wooden grave post at an appropriate site on Agrihan.

The mourners, including representatives of bereaved families, officials of Shizuoka Prefectural Government, two physicians, priests, and representatives of the press, will arrive aboard the 330 ton Fuji Maru, commanded by Toru Tsuji, with a crew of 21.

The Government of Japan is sponsoring the pilgrimage to Agrihan in an effort to comfort the families of the victims of the unprecedented disaster.

(MORE)

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The victims were crew members of eight Japanese fishing vessels, desperately attempting to take refuge in the Northern Mariana Islands, disappeared in Typhoon Carmen on October 7, which devastated some of the northern islands in the Marianas. Only 39 crew members of a fishing vessel, which wrecked at Agrihan, were the known survivors of the disaster.

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