REPEATED WARNING AGAINST INVOLVEMENT OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS IN ILLEGAL DRUGS

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Reports reached this Administration that a certain vessel manned by Filipino crew was recently held in a Japanese port after a thorough search yielded evidence of some crew smoking marijuana on board.

As a consequence, the vessel was reportedly off-hired and the guilty seamen were arrested, jailed and finally deported. A more serious repercussion of such incident, however, was the imposition of stricter sanctions such as restriction on board with no shore liberty for all crew while said vessel was in Japan.

In this connection, the strict warning to seafarers against use of illegal drugs is reiterated. Agencies/shipowners concerned are enjoined to inculcate in the minds of departing seamen the dangers and repercussions of involvement in prohibited drugs. All manning agencies and shipowners are likewise encouraged to institute their own internal controls to prevent similar incidents from happening not only in Japan but in other ports as well. The full cooperation of everyone concerned is utmost so as not to tarnish the good image of the Filipino seamen in general.

For information and appropriate action.

Adopted: 18 Mar. 1992

(SGD.) JOSE N. SARMIENTO
Administrator

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