MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 41
Series of 1990

TO: All Licensed Manning Agencies Deploying Filipino Fishermen

SUBJECT: Providing Filipino Fishermen with the Appropriate Basic Conversational Language Training Prior to Embarkation

There have been numerous reports of incidences of maltreatment of Filipino fishermen by Taiwanese crew aboard Taiwanese fishing vessels in almost all fishing grounds. Because of constant physical abuse, a number of Filipino fishermen ended either deserting their vessels or participating in brawls, in the process, being killed or killing and consequently sent to jail.

It has been observed that a major cause of the relationship problems between the Filipino crew and the Taiwanese crew is the language barrier. The inability of the Taiwanese crew to speak and understand English on one hand and the Filipinos' lack of knowledge of the basic conversational Chinese language on the other hand, more often than not, have resulted in physical harm on either parties.

In an effort to address these problems, all licensed manning agencies deploying fishermen are instructed to provide said fishermen prior to their embarkation with the appropriate basic conversational language training as part of their orientation program package. The implementation of such a language training shall be subject to monitoring by the POEA.

For strict compliance.

18 July 1990.

[Signature]

JOSE N. SARMIENTO
Administrator