

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 177

*Declaring the Grounding of the K-B Queen to be
A Disaster Emergency and Suspending the Procurement Laws.*

WHEREAS, the vessel the “K-B Queen” ran aground in Peleliu Channel on or about March 7, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the K-B Queen contained and contains substantial amounts of diesel fuel and oil, as well as cargo which could result in serious ecological harm if discharged indiscriminately in the waters of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the National Government has been unable to raise and control the K-B Queen with resources at its disposal; and

WHEREAS, reports from the State of Peleliu have stated that there already has been some leakage of the materials carried by the K-B Queen which has compromised the environmental integrity of the waters around Peleliu; and

WHEREAS, the K-B Queen is now a navigational hazard and obstructs a vital link for the people of Peleliu; and

WHEREAS, the K-B Queen carries the potential of completely blocking the Peleliu channel; and

WHEREAS, there is an imminent threat of significant ecological damage if the K-B Queen continues to discharge matter into the waters of Palau and great ecological damage if the K-B Queen breaks up and releases all she carries into the waters of Palau; and

WHEREAS, there are private entities with resources sufficient to raise and control the K-B Queen,

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to 34 PNC § 5305(c), I hereby declare the grounding of the K-B Queen to be a disaster emergency and, pursuant to 40 PNC § 628, hereby order that the procurement rules be suspended with respect to obtaining the private service(s) necessary to raise and take control of the K-B Queen and prevent any further discharge of her load into the waters of Palau

AND FURTHER ORDER that the Minister of Resources and Development or his designee immediately procure the services necessary to raise and take control of the K-B Queen and prevent any further discharge of her load into the waters of Palau.

SO ORDERED THIS 14th DAY OF MARCH, 2000,

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau