

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 190

Establishing a National Drug Trafficking Task Force

WHEREAS, there is strong evidence that trafficking and use of narcotics and other dangerous drugs is expanding in the Republic of Palau, which has an increasingly detrimental effect on the health and general welfare of the People, especially on the youth of Palau; and

WHEREAS, combating the entry of illegal drugs and contraband into the Republic requires greater cooperation and coordination among all law enforcement agencies within the Republic; and

WHEREAS, the law enforcement agencies of the Republic must cooperate more closely with law enforcement agencies outside of the Republic in order to combat this domestic and international drug problem; and

WHEREAS, successful enforcement of Palau's drug laws requires a more precise delineation of responsibilities between the various law enforcement agencies within the Republic,

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President, pursuant to the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, it is hereby ordered that a Drug Trafficking Task Force ("Task Force") be established to better coordinate the activities of law enforcement agencies within the Republic and to foster cooperation amongst such agencies within the context of specifically delineated areas of responsibility.

1. Directive - All law enforcement agencies within the Republic of Palau are herein directed to join together in combating drug trafficking and drug use in the Republic through greater cooperation and within the context of more precise delineation of respective responsibilities. Specifically, members of this Task Force are directed to do the following:

- Work closely together to create a cohesive anti-drug trafficking planning and enforcement body to protect Palau's borders and ports from the importation of illegal drugs and contraband;
- To integrate Customs into the investigation and prosecution process where illegal drugs or contraband are seized at the various ports of the Republic;
- To develop and implement a strategic plan to effectively utilize resources, including drug dogs, at all ports of entry;
- To identify and pursue financial and technical assistance from international law enforcement agencies; and
- To establish and strengthen cooperative arrangements with other regional and international law enforcement agencies.

2. Membership - The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- The Director of Public Safety, to act as the Chairman of the Task Force;
- The Attorney General;
- The Special Prosecutor;
- The Chief of the Division of Drug Enforcement;
- The Chief of the Division of Customs;
- Four (4) members of the Division of Customs appointed by the Chief of the Division of Customs with the approval of the Director of Revenue, Customs and Taxation; and
- Four (4) members of the Division of Drug Enforcement appointed by the Chief of the Division of Drug Enforcement with the approval of the Director of the Bureau of Public Safety.

3. Reporting - The Task Force shall report to the President on a quarterly basis regarding the status of drug trafficking enforcement efforts.

4. Authority - All members of the Drug Trafficking Task Force shall be provided with all enforcement capabilities, pursuant to the laws of the Republic, in order to make the necessary seizures, investigations, arrests and detainments necessary to stem the flow of drugs into Palau.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this 1st day of January, 2001, at the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau