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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
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Honorable Joseph E. Talbot, Chairman  
United States Tariff Commission

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Dear Mr. Talbot:

On April 25, 1960, the Secretary of the Tariff Commission requested that we advise your office concerning the proper method of computing per diem for travel by a civilian employee involving the crossing of the international dateline.

The voucher accompanying the letter shows the following travel schedule:

Oct. 22	Lv. Washington, D. C.	12:00 noon	via United States #705
	Arr. San Francisco, Cal.	5:20 p.m.	
	Lv. " " "	9:00 p.m.	via P.A. W.A. Flight 851
24	Arr. Tokyo, Japan	7:05 a.m.	
Nov. 21	Lv. " " "	1:00 p.m.	Flight #838
	Arr. San Francisco, Cal.	5:30 a.m.	
	Lv. " " "	9:00 a.m.	
	Arr. Washington, D. C.	7:45 p.m.	
	Taxi, airport to home.		

It is evident from the schedule just quoted that the employee has used the calendar dates and the clock times of the zones or places he happened to be at the time of departures and arrivals. Thus, he has added 1 day because of his crossing the international dateline en route to Tokyo, and has deducted one day because of his crossing the international dateline on the return trip to Washington.

He computes his per diem as follows:

10/22 - noon to midnight = 1/2 da. @ \$12 ....	6.00	
10/23 - 12:01 a.m. to 10/24, noon = 1 1/2 das. @ \$6	9.00	
10/24, 12:01 p.m. to 11/21, 6:00 p.m. = 28 1/2		
das. @ \$14 =	395.50	
11/21 - 6:01 p.m. - midnight = 1/4 day at \$12	3.00	413.50

Section 6.6 of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations reads as follows:

"6.6. International dateline.--In computing per diem in cases where the traveler crosses the international dateline (one hundred and eightieth meridian), actual elapsed time shall be used rather than calendar days."

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While that provision specifies the use of "elapsed time" rather than "calendar days" so that for travel time per diem computation purposes the calendar day change that occurs upon the crossing of the international dateline is not applied, nevertheless, the standard times of the particular zones are for application in cases when, as here, the elapsed travel time exceeds 24 hours. On an elapsed time basis--that is, without changing calendar day because of crossing the international dateline--the arrival and departure times in this case would be as follows:

October 22	Lv Washington, D.C.	12 Noon
	Arr San Francisco, Calif.	8:20 p.m.
	Lv " " "	9:00 p.m.
October 23 (Calendar day 10/24)	Arr Tokyo, Japan	7:05 a.m.
October 24 to Nov. 19 November 20 (Calendar day 11/21)	Lv " " "	1:00 p.m.
November 21	Arr San Francisco, Calif.	8:30 a.m.
" "	Lv " " "	9:00 a.m.
	Arr Washington, D. C.	7:45 p.m.

The per diem computation under that schedule would be as follows:

10/22	noon to midnight	1/2 day @ \$12	\$ 6.00
10/23	midnight to noon	1/2 day @ \$ 6	3.00
10/23	noon to midnight	1/2 day @ \$14	7.00
10/24 to 11/19		27 days @ \$14	378.00
11/20	midnight to 6 p.m.	3/4 day @ \$14	10.50
11/20	6 p.m. to midnight	1/2 day @ \$ 6	1.50
11/21	midnight to noon	1/2 day @ \$ 6	3.00
11/21	noon to midnight	1/2 day @ \$12	6.00
			<u>\$415.00</u>

You will note that under that method the "calendar day" at Tokyo is not used during the entire period. The same result for per diem purposes may be obtained by use of the claimant's travel schedule, with the adjustments hereinafter noted. In computing the per diem under his schedule for "travel time" to Tokyo the calendar day increase which he allowed because of his crossing the international dateline is required to be deducted. Also, in computing the return "travel time" from Tokyo to San Francisco, the calendar day for per diem computation would be advanced 1 day to adjust the calendar day deduction shown on his travel schedule because of his crossing the international dateline. We believe this method carries out the intent of the existing regulations. The "per diem computation" is identical with the elapsed time computation, above, and has the advantage of using the "Tokyo calendar day" while on temporary duty.

*Per page 761a - e*

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While the travel schedule shown by the claimant is correct, the per diem computation should be revised to read as follows:

10/22 noon to midnight			$\frac{1}{2}$ day at \$12	\$ 6.00
10/23	1 day @ \$6	\$6		
10/24 midnight to noon	$\frac{1}{2}$ day @ \$6	$\frac{3}{2}$		
		<u>\$9</u>		

International Dateline (I/D) adjustment (Arr at Tokyo considered as 7:05 a.m. 10/23)

				<u>-6</u>
				<u>3</u>
10/24 noon to midnight			$\frac{1}{2}$ day at \$14	3.00
10/25 to 11/20			27 days at \$14	378.00
11/21 midnight to 6 p.m.			$\frac{3}{4}$ day at \$14	16.50
I/D adjustment (Lv Tokyo 1 p.m., 11/21, arr San Francisco 11/22, 8:30 a.m.)	1 day @ \$6	1.50		
	1 day @ 6	3.00		
	1 day @ 12	3.00		
		<u>+ 7.50</u>		
11/21 6 p.m. to midnight			$\frac{1}{4}$ day at \$12	3.00
				<u>7.50</u>
				\$415.00

The voucher, returned herewith, should be computed in accordance with the above computation and certified for payment, if otherwise proper.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosure