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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS

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CARPENTER TO HEAD U.S. DELEGATION TO SPC MEETING

Stanley S. Carpenter, Director of Territorial Affairs for the Department of the Interior will lead the United States Delegation to a meeting of South Pacific Commission (SPC) member governments in Wellington, New Zealand, from March 5 to 7. The delegation will also include officials from the State Department, and from the U.S. Embassy in Fiji.

This special meeting is in response to a resolution passed at the South Pacific Conference held in Guam last September. The resolution called for a review of procedures under the Canberra Agreement, the basic document of the SPC, with a view toward merging the annual Commission and Conference sessions.

If member governments can reach agreement in Wellington, the merger would result in a yearly combined meeting involving virtually all territories in the Pacific and the eight members of the SPC: the United States, Western Samoa, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Nauru, Fiji and Australia. Territories would thereby become more fully involved in the decisions affecting the SPC, and the organization, it is hoped, would become more relevant and effective.

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