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TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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SAIPAN-TINIAN PRODUCE BANNED BY GUAM

SAIPAN, M.I. (June 23). Various common fruits and vegetables from Saipan and Tinian temporarily have been banned from Guam, effective June 20, according to a message received by Manuel N. Sproat, Director of Agriculture, Trust Territory, from David Flores, Director of Agriculture, Guam.

Mr. Sproat said the following are affected by the quarantine, which has been put into effect to control Oriental fruit fly: Avocado, mango, banana, breadfruit, guava, tomato, papaya, star apple, and citrus fruits grown on trees - grapefruit, lemon, lime, orange, tangerine, etc.

Entry of these fruits and vegetables from Rota into Guam is permissible provided certification of origin accompanies each shipment.

Mr. Flores said that the quarantine was result of a discussion with Loren Steiner, Investigations Leader of the Entomology Research Division, Hawaii Fruit Fly Investigations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, who has been directing the fruit fly eradication programs in the Marianas and on Guam. The temporary measure was suggested by Mr. Steiner to eliminate the possibility of infestation of Guamanian fruit and vegetable crops in case the fly still remains on Saipan-Tinian.

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Mr. Sproat said today that it will be known within a month what the future holds for the Marianas District on this matter.

"The determining factor," he said, "is whether we have been successful in eradicating the insect from the Saipan-Tinian area. No wild fruit flies have been trapped either on Tinian or Saipan for the last five weeks. Mr. Steiner stated that if none were picked up during the ensuing four weeks, the species can be considered eradicated from the district."

Mr. Sproat regards the economic affect of the quarantine on the Northern Marianas as "great". He said: "The farmers here look to Guam as their primary market. Shutting this market off would certainly create a very serious hardship for those that produce such crops for cash, especially on Tinian, where sources of income other than farming are quite limited."

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