

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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Marionnes

DR. JOHN IAMAN TO ENROLL AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Truk

SAIPAN, M.I. (August 26)...Dr. John Iaman, Marshall Islands District Director of Public Health, will depart from the Trust Territory in early September to enroll as a special student in Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Ponape

Dr. Iaman's enrollment on a special basis at Georgetown has come as a result of negotiations which were initiated by High Commissioner M. W. Goding and which have been carried on for many months by the Trust Territory Government and that university in an attempt to provide further education for medical practitioners in the Trust Territory in order that they may obtain the M. D. degree.

Yep

"If Dr. Iaman is successful in his first semester's work, he will continue at Georgetown University, and after completing certain required premedical courses, he will be eligible to become a candidate for medical school there," said Luke A. Howe, M.D., Acting Director of the Department of Public Health.

Paleu

John Iaman was born in 1924 in Marakei, Gilbert Islands. He was attending St. Joseph's College in the Gilberts in 1941, when he, with a party of priests, nuns and other students set out in a large sailing canoe for another island. However, they drifted

(more)

Dr. Iaman/Page 2

off course and finally landed on Mili Atoll in the Marshall Islands where they were interned by the Japanese. When the Gilbertese students heard a rumor that they would all be killed, Iaman escaped from the camp. Luckily finding an abandoned canoe on the ocean shore, he paddled out to sea where he was picked up by an American cruiser. He served as a scout with the U.S. Armed Forces for the remainder of the war. After the war ended he remained in the Marshalls, first employed as an interpreter and later in the medical field. He received his medical education in Guam at the U.S. Navy School for Medical Practitioners from 1946-1949. He was the first Micronesian to complete his internship and be accredited for medical service in the Trust Territory. Dr. Iaman worked as medical officer at the Ebeye Hospital for two years before being appointed Acting District Director of Public Health for the Marshalls. He was appointed District Director of Public Health in 1960.

In June 1961, Dr. Iaman became a naturalized citizen of the Trust Territory.

In 1952-53, Dr. Iaman received special training in pathology at the San Bernardino County Hospital in California. In 1953-54 he served an internship at the Hilo Memorial Hospital in Hawaii.

In 1964 he attended a Rural Health Conference on Maternal and Child Health held in Papeete, Tahiti.