PRESS RELEASE



Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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TWELVE RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIJI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Dec. 9... Twelve students have been chosen by the Trust Territory Medical Scholarship Committee to enter the January 1967 class at the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva. They are as follows:

Marianas -- Edward Diaz, Steve Satur;

Palau--Yukio Schmull;

Yap--Stanislaus Gufsag, Ignatius Regue;

Truk -- Patrick Gerhart, Kolid Keybond;

Marshalls--Alec Keju, Smith Maikel;

Ponape--Frank Kun Lono, Hiram Ezekias, Simao Norman.

No new students have entered the Fiji School of Medicine since 1962 when a major policy change was instituted by the Trust Territory Government whereby scholarships were granted only leading to the full medical degree.

Because no new doctors or dentists will graduate from any school until at least 1971, the Territory is threatened with a serious shortage of medical and dental practitioners. As a result the decision was made this year to send students to Fiji as well as to continue our scholarship program to train Micronesian M D's.

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The Fiji School of Medicine, founded in 1878, was known as the Central Medical School until 1960. It offers a 5-year Assistant Medical Officer's course leading to a Diploma; a 3-year Assistant Dental Officer's course; and 3-year ancillary courses in physio-therapy, pharmacy, and pathology as well as training health inspectors or sanitarians.

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