

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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Marianas

### SCIENTISTS TO STUDY MICRONESIAN NAVIGATION AT PULUWAT

Truk

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Dec. 13 . . . A team of three scientists is expected to arrive in January 1967 to conduct a six-month field study and investigation on Micronesian sailing and navigation on remote Puluwat Atoll in the Truk District.

Ponape

The Three scientists, who all have conducted various research in the Territory, are: Dr. Thomas Gladwin, Social Science Consultant on Field Investigation, National Institute of Mental Health; Dr. Saul H. Reisenberg of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; and Dr. Samuel H. Elbert, a linguist at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Gladwin, who is in charge of the field study, was in Truk from 1947 to 1951 as an anthropologist and wrote a monograph based on his field work on Romonum, Truk District. He has also visited Puluwat Atoll on a number of occasions as field trip officer. Dr. Reisenberg was the former Staff Anthropologist. His last visit to the Trust Territory was in 1963 when he conducted an archeological investigation of the famed Nanmadol ruins in Ponape. Dr. Elbert had been in Truk and authored the first Trukese-English Dictionary, prior to receiving his linguistic training.

Yap

Palau

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Puluwat was chosen for the study, since <sup>a</sup>number of fully qualified Micronesian navigators are found there. The team proposed to conduct a study which will provide a comprehensive understanding of the technological and psychological aspects of sailing and navigation as set in their total linguistic and cultural context. The ethnographic and linguistic studies will begin with behaviors associated with sailing and navigation, and then extend outward to full descriptive analyses. The technological study will encompass not only navigational procedures, canoe design and manufacture, and sailing techniques, but also the relative efficiency of each of these under varying circumstances. The role analysis aspect will deal with the social and psychological interrelationships of crews on canoes, and the relationship of these roles to behavior in the society as a whole.

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