

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

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Marianas

"SAN ANTONIO TO GET SOLAR STILL"

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,

Truk

Jan. 5 . . . Fourteen Micronesian and American Community Development staff members representing all districts of the Territory and including six Peace Corps volunteers, will participate in the construction on Saipan of a demonstration solar still for converting sea or brackish

Ponape

water into drinking water. The distillery plant, a duplicate of similar stills recently erected in Majuro in a joint Trust Territory Community Development-South Pacific Commission experiment conducted under the leadership of Professor Everett Howe of the University of California, is

Marshalls

designed for small household use, converting as much as ten gallons of potable water in a 24 hour period. While ideally suited to atolls with low rainfall, the distillery offers certain advantages for southern Saipan where the salt content of piped water is noticeably high (600 parts per million as opposed to the U.S. Public Health standard of potability of 300 parts per million).

Yap

The public is cordially invited to observe the erection of the still Friday afternoon and Saturday morning (January 6 and 7) outside the residence of Mr. Robert Burns, Deputy Director of Peace Corps/Micronesia, in San Antonio Village.

Palau

MORE

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Also on display and in operation will be the plywood hand-operated washing machine commissioned by the Community Development Department at Headquarters, and being promoted as an improvement to village living in outlying areas where people do not have electricity. Designed for a six pound wash load with a capacity of fifteen gallons, numerous washers of this general design are currently in use in the Marshalls district. Temporarily on loan to the district Community Development Officer, and destined for Yap district aboard the next voyage of the Palau Islander, this washing machine is being demonstrated in the several villages of Saipan. This particular model was constructed by Mr. Alfonso "Fong" Taimaano of Susupe at a cost of twenty dollars. Commented one anonymous observer, "It may not be a Maytag, but kids can operate it without getting their hands caught in the wringer."

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