

# PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

RELEASE: 67-67

Marianas

## QUARANTINE AGAINST SAIPAN AND TINIAN BANANAS DECLARED

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,  
Mar. 16 . . . Trust Territory Staff Entomologist Robert Owen has  
declared a quarantine against Saipan and Tinian bananas and banana  
plants, under the authority contained in Section 733 of the Trust  
Territory Code.

Truk

Ponape

The quarantine is due to a serious bunchy top type disease of  
bananas which, in the Trust Territory, occurs only on Saipan and Tinian  
in the Mariana Islands. Mr. Owen has declared that all plants and  
parts thereof, including fruit, of banana and related plants are, as  
of this date, and until further notice, prohibited from moving from  
Saipan and Tinian to any other part of the Trust Territory. Plants  
in the same family with banana include plantain, flowering banana,  
bird of paradise, lobster's claw, traveler's tree, palm and abaca  
or manila hemp.

Marshalls

Yap

Agricultural quarantine inspectors in other Trust Territory  
Districts have the authority to confiscate bananas and banana plants  
and either destroy them in their entirety or return them to Saipan  
or Tinian depending on the owner's choice. Agricultural personnel  
on Saipan and Tinian are authorized to attempt to prevent the export  
of bananas, banana plants and related plants to other parts of the  
Territory.

Palau

MORE

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Bananas are a basic subsistence food in the Trust Territory and a potential economic crop for the future. Therefore, compliance with this new quarantine is urgently requested.

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UDUI/PIO/2148