

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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Marianas

### TT HEALTH PERSONNEL ATTEND SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS OF CORAL ATOLLS

Truk

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, May 9 . . . Dr. Arobati Hicking and Nascha Siren of the Trust Territory's Department of Public Health are in Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, attending a seminar on "health problems of coral atoll populations." Dr. Hicking is senior medical officer and special assistant to the director of public health; Mr. Siren is director of sanitation. The seminar began May 2 and will conclude May 12.

Ponape

Because of the complexity of the problems to be discussed, the seminar has been divided into two sections. One is concerned with social development; the other, health. Items to be reviewed relate to housing sanitation and over-crowding, food production and nutrition, fisheries and fish poisoning, acculturation and mental health, demography and family planning, and any ecological factors which can influence the health conditions and welfare of atoll populations.

Marshall's

Yap

The forum is to provide a chance to exchange ideas and experience, assess the importance of the problems, and to select priorities for long-term programs. Seventeen participants and observers attending will come from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, French Polynesia, Nauru, Tokelau Islands and the Trust Territory. They include medical officers, health educators, health inspectors and other government personnel.

Palau

MORE

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Consultants and resource persons include the following: Dr. E. Hamblett, chief medical officer, Gilbert and Ellice Islands; Dr. M-H. Sacht, biologist of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.; Prof. F. Doumenge of the University of Montpellier, author of a recent study on "Man in the South Pacific"; Prof. A. Guilcher of the University of Paris; and Prof. A.H. Banner of the University of Hawaii.

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