

## Australian Ambassador presents his credentials to President Olter

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Peter Symour Bedel Stanford of Australia arrived Pohnpei November 15, to take up his duties as the second Australian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the FSM and presented his credentials to President Bailey Olter on November 19 at a ceremony held in the President's Cabinet Room. On hand for the ceremony were Vice President Jacob Nena, members of the Executive Cabinet, Diplomatic Corps, and other officials and friends.

Ambassador Stanford succeeded the first Australian Ambassador Kenneth Brazel who started the Australian mission in Pohnpei and left the FSM, May 29, 1991.

Stanford, before becoming Ambassador was the Director of the Conventional and Nuclear Disarmament Sec-  
(See CREDENTIALS, Page 2)



**AUSTRALIAN ABASSADOR PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS** - President Bailey Olter accepts credentials presented by Australian Ambassador to the FSM Peter Stanford, in a brief ceremony held Novmeber 19, at the Cabinet Room in the presence of the Vice President, Cabinet Members, Diplomatic Corps and other official and friends. From left to right are: President Olter and Ambassador Stanford.



## THE NATIONAL UNION

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## President Olter sends Yuletide Greetings

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter sends his Yuletide Message to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia. The text is as follow:

"My fellow Micronesians:

My family joins me in extending our best wishes for the holiday season to you and your families. It is a special time for all of us.

It is a time to joyfully celebrate and reflect on the message the birth of our Lord brings to the world. The holiday

season in our islands and communities is a time to renew and strengthen friendships, when our hearts are filled with the joy of sharing and pleasant expectations for the future. It is a time to bring joy, peace and hope to our families, relatives, friends and in a larger sense, our communities, islands, states and our nation. It is a time to reflect on the past and set new goals for ourselves. It is a time to reach out to those who suffer losses and lend them support and pray that our Lord touches their hearts and

comforts their minds, lead them and provide them peace, security and comfort in their lives

As we take the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, I ask us to keep the spirit of the holiday season alive and continue to dedicate ourselves to the goals and the meaning of what Christmas and the New Year brings to us in our lives. It is in this spirit that we wish you and your loved ones, peace, happiness and success now and in the coming New Year.

(Continued from Page 1)

tion. Stanford has served overseas in Papua New Guinea, Malaysia and Fiji, where he was Deputy Chief of Mission.

Along with his letter of credence, Ambassador Stanford presented a letter of recall for his predecessor, Ambassador Brazel to President Olter as required by diplomatic practice.

In his statement as the ceremony, Ambassador Stanford pointed out that "Australian representation here reflects the importance we attach to relations with the FSM." He went on to say that Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gareth Evans in his foreign policy statement to foreign correspondents in Sydney on September 23 1988 has emphasized that, "this is a region of the highest foreign policy and security significance to Australia."

Ambassador Stanford pointed out that Australia is very much, "aware of the important relationship which the FSM has with the United States of America. A relationship which is underlined by

the Compact of Free Association which is so important for your national development. It is our hope that in our dealings with you we will continue to complement that relationship in a way which all three countries will find fruitful."

Stanford concluded his statement by expressing his hope and exaction that the relation between Australia and the FSM continues to develop to our mutual advantage. He said, "I will certainly be working hard with you, President Olter, and your new government to promote that process (relations between Australia and the FSM) in every way possible."

In his responding statement, President Olter said that the relations between the FSM and Australia have continued to grow and expand in responds to the demands and requirements for peace and development in our region.

The President pointed out with gratitude that, "Australia's partnership in multilateral diplomacy has been more

than cordial. Australia has been at the forefront in the efforts that led to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for the FSM. Australia's support for FSM membership in the United Nations will be remembered by succeeding generations, so our people."

President Olter assured Ambassador Stanford and the Government of Australia of the support of the FSM Government for Australia's desire to become a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environmental Program and for Australia's candidate for the International Law Commission.

Olter pointed out FSM's serious concerns on the issue of the environment and in particular the global warming and climate changes and asked for Australia's assistance in securing appropriate international agreement on reversing the present trend and level of destructive activities by industrialized nations that have contributed greatly to the degradation of the world environment.

## THE GO LOCAL CLUB

By Bermin F, Weilbacher

There's a song that goes like... "WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE, LONG TIME PASSING, WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE, LONG TIME AGO....." So where has the GO LOCAL CLUB GONE, long time passing???

Sometimes it's unbelievable how time seems to fly by — and it has, since August 1989, the last public appearance of the GO LOCAL CLUB column!!

What has happened since then???

1. THE BERLIN WALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN AND SUDDENLY EASTERN EUROPE TURNED TO DEMOCRACY.
2. SADDAM HUSSEIN became a household world.
3. Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf retired.
4. BAILEY OLTER BECAME THE THIRD FSM PRESIDENT.
5. The 22nd Forum was held in Pohnpei, FSM and
6. The MOSCOW COUP (pronounced like "koo" not koop) failed, and many of us (in Pohnpei!!!!) saw it LIVE ON TV, thanks to Bernard Helgenberger and CNN.

Whew! After those major happenings, one should stop, right? WRONG!!

There are two kinds of local activities that attract more and more investment than you and I realize. People talk, and sometimes complain about them a lot, but nothing has been able to slow them down. No, they are not the State nor National Governments!

You ever wonder where all those groups of colorfully uniformed people get their money to travel around just to sing songs and eat plenty???

Or did you ever wonder how much your relatives and friends spend when someone make THE LAST JOURNEY.?

# Physician Manpower for the year 2000 and beyond

**PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)** - In February, 1992 sixteen students from Micronesia will graduate as physicians from the Pacific Basin Medical Officers Training Program (PBMOTP). This will be an historic event. Not only will these doctors become the first physicians to graduate within Micronesia, but also 6 of the 16 graduates will be women, four of whom will be the first women physicians from the Federates States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshalls Islands, according to Gregory J. Dever, M.D., Director, PBMOTP Associate Professor of Pediatrics, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii.

The PBMOTP, which is based in Pohnpei and has clinical rotations throughout Micronesia, was established in 1986 and is a five-year physician training program. The Program is funded through U.S. Public Health Service and is conducted by John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii. The PBMOTP's purpose is to solve the difficult problem of the severe shortage of Micronesian and American Samoan physicians in the Pacific by training the next generation of health leadership for these regions.

## **Where Are The Doctors?**

Unfortunately most of the Micronesian physicians who were originally trained years ago at the Fiji School of Medicine have retired, gone into business or politics, or died. Contributing to this decreasing number of Micronesian doctors is that over the last 20 years less than 20 Micronesians have graduated from any medical school in the world - including only four from the Fiji School of Medicine. Of the very few Micronesian physician graduates from U.S. medical schools, most have stayed in America to live and work. Multiple efforts to bring them back home to work have been frustrating. In the FSM and Palau combined only three have returned.

Now in the FSM there are about 10 Micronesian physicians in government service who actually see patients on a daily basis and about half of these will

retire within the next 5 to 10 years.

By the year 2000 it is estimated by the Micronesian Directors of Health that almost 90 physicians will be needed just to keep up with physician retirements and the need for more physicians to provide expanded health services to keep pace with the population growth which is doubling in numbers every 17 to 23 years. In the FSM alone 54 physicians are estimated as needed. To complicate matters there are less than 5 Micronesians currently studying in any medical school outside of Micronesia.

## **The Next Generation - The Beginnings**

Through the foresight and hard work of the Micronesian and American Samoan health leadership, the University of Hawaii, and key Micronesian political and government executives, the planning for the PBMOTP started in 1981. Complementing this regional activity, the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, headed by Senator Daniel Inouye, coordinated legislation in the U.S. congress to authorize and fund the U.S. Public Health Service to establish a physician training center in Micronesia. Shortly thereafter, in January 1987, 23 students started classes at the PBMOTP campus in Pohnpei.

## **A Pacific Model in Medical Education**

After five years the PBMOTP now has 63 students from Micronesia and American Samoa and is about to graduate its first class. The Program is formally recognized by the World Health Organization and the South Pacific Commission and is considered one of the "major focal points" in the network of physician training institutions in the Pacific. Additionally the PBMOTP is a member of the world-wide WHO-linked Network of Community-Based Medical Educational Institutions. In a 1989 speech in Tokyo referring to the development of training science-based health personnel specifically suited to the conditions of the Pacific, WHO Director for the Western Pacific, Dr. S.K. Han, states, "model such as the Pacific Basin Medical Officer Training Program in Pohnpei are providing the basis for adapting these new technologies to social change and cultural environments

of the Pacific.."

In 1988, because of the innovative curriculum and teaching process at the PBMOTP, WHO asked the Program to join a task force to revitalize the Fiji School of Medicine. Today the new curriculum structure and teaching process at the PBMOTP stated, "the SPC notes with appreciation the important contribution that the PBMOTP has made to the establishment of appropriate medical education in the Pacific. The PBMOTP has provided an innovative model for changes at the Fiji School of Medicine" This is not surprising as the former PBMOTP Associate Director, Dr. Jimione Samisoni, is now the Dean of the Fiji School of Medicine. Soon both medical schools will be exchanging faculty between the Fiji and Pohnpei campuses.

## **The Graduates - The First Wave**

In February 1992, 16 students of the 23 students who originally entered the Program in 1987 will graduate and be awarded a Diploma in Community Health, Medicine, and Surgery (DCHMS). This will not only qualify them for full physician licensure in the region but also give them the opportunity to go on to postgraduate specialty training outside of Micronesia. Starting Medical Officer salaries will average about \$18,000 year. Additionally, Local Internship Programs will be established within their jurisdictions as well as a Junior Faculty Development Fellowship Program at the PBMOTP whereby physician graduates both become junior faculty as PBMOTP Assistant Clinical Instructors and exchange faculty with the Fiji School of Medicine.

In recognition of their academic excellence three PBMOTP prospective graduates are being invited to Honolulu by the Pan Pacific Surgical Association to attend their Pacific-wide conference in January 1992 - all expenses paid.

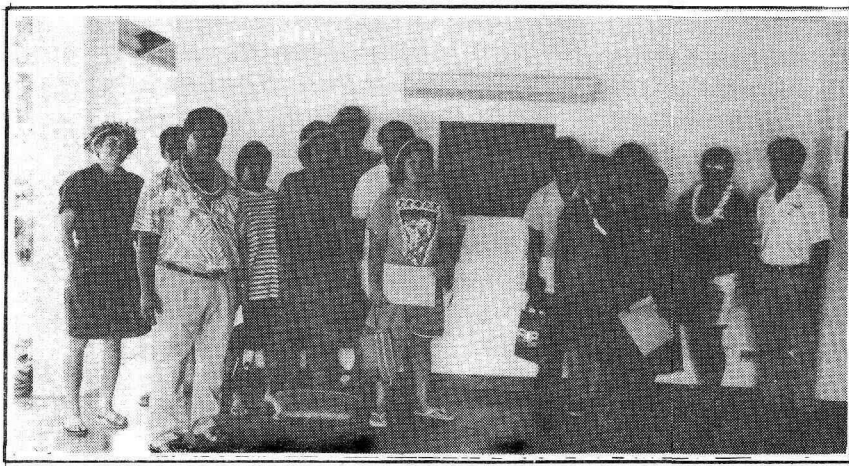
By 1997, 80-90 physicians will graduate from the PBMOTP to meet the number of physicians estimated as needed in Micronesia by the Year 2000.

**Assistant Medical Officers - The New Medexes**

(See *MEDICAL OFFICERS* Page 4)

# Pacific Basin Medical Officers Train

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 1991



**COMMUNITY HEALTH TRAINING IN YAP** - Yap Dispensary Managers Retaining Program #4 graduates and staff in which PBMOTP Year 5 AMO's retrained 26 Yap Stae Dispensary Managers in pediatrics and antenatal care. This is the last of four one-month long training programs conducted in Yap in 1991. Eight Medexes and Health Assistants were trained in this program in October. From left to right: Dr. Donna Upson, PBMOTP instructor; Selestin Dipmal, Health Assistant, Fais; Abe Ichin, AMO, PBMOTP Year 5 Student (Chuuk); Elizabeth Iehsi Keller, AMO, PBMOTP Year 5 Student (Pohnpei); Charm Hasugulit, Health Assistant, Ifalik; Mike Taweriluo, Health Assistant, Woleai; Josephine Lemangtur, Health Assistant, Woleai; Joe Haleyalmang, Medex, Woleai; Kennedy Remit, AMO, PBMOTP Year 5 Student (Chuuk); Kathy Mitrad, Health Assistnat, Yap; Julie Malietur, Health Assistant, Ulithi; Francesca Guchol, Health Asistant, Yap; Steven Malumai, Health Assistant, Elato, and Andrew Yatilman, Assistant Director of Health, Yap State.



**READING X-RAYS** - From left to right are year five AMO's Thomas Rikin and Martin Bell, both from Yap.



**PBMOTP students posing for a group photo.**



**PRACTICING SUTURING (MAKING STITCHES)** - Year 3 AMO Faiese Roby, American Samoa (married to Year 5 AMO Kasyan Roby, from Chuuk).



**CLASS OF 1992** - Standing for a group photo are the first class of the Training Program in Pohnpei. The class will be graduating in November. Standing: Thomas Rikin (Yap), Martin Bel (Yap), Livenson T... (Pohnpei), Winston Likiaksa (Kosrae), Jay Sarofalipy (Yap), ... Dever. Kneeling: Ginger Douglas (Pohnpei), Debbie Ngem... Carmen Alik (Marshall Is.), Kasyan Roby (Chuuk).

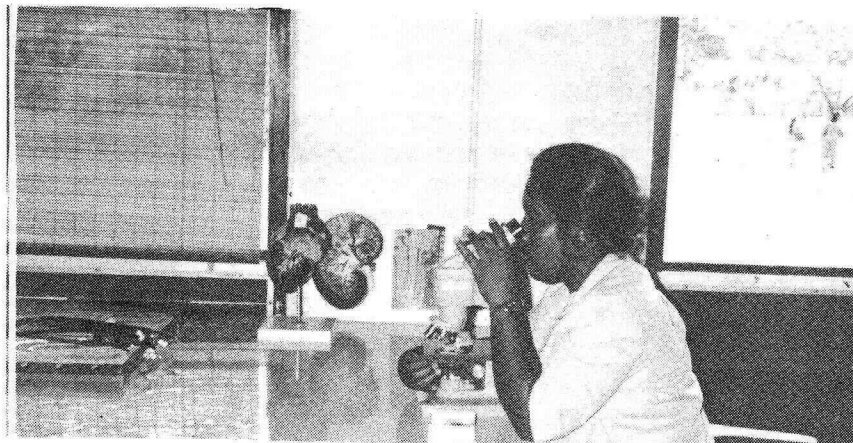


**PRESENT AND FORMER PBMOTP FACULTY** - At the First PBMOTP in November. Standing from left to right: Dr. Sitaleki Fina... Associate Director); Dr. Rex Hunton, PBMOTP Associate Director, Pointer, PBMOTP Assistant Clinical Professor; Dr. David Tipene-L... the University of Auckland School of Medicine); Dr. Jimione Samson... Dr. Aminis David, Director of Health, Pohnpei State, PBMOTP Clinical Secretary of Human Resources, FSM (PBMOTP Environmental Health and Instructor; Dr. Annete Robertson, PBMOTP Assistant Clinical Medicine); Dr. Gregory Dever, PBMOTP Director, Associate Profes

# Training Program in the FSM in Action



...s to be graduating from the Pacific Basin Medical Officers February 1992. From left to right, standing: Rihmen Lanzo ulung (Kosrae), Vita Skilling (Kosrae), Elizabeth Iehsi Keller el Ichin (Chuuk), Ianser Edward (Pohnpei), and Dr. Gregory s (Palau), Sylvia Osarch (Palau), Kennedy Remit (Chuuk),



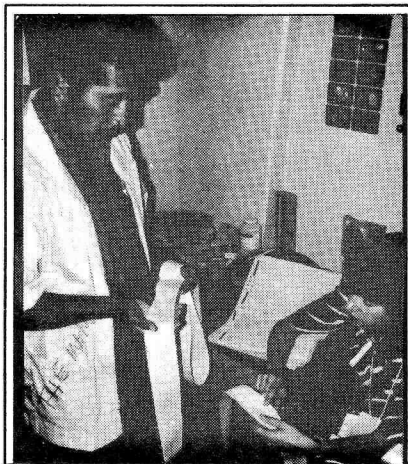
**USING THEIR MICROSCOPE** - Year 5 Vita Skilling, AMO (of Chuuk, and from Kosrae by marriage) will be graduating in February, 1992 and will be the first Chuukese female physician. The future Dr. Skilling, in recognition of her academic excellence, has been invited, along with future Drs. Debbie Ngemaes (Palau) and Kennedy Remit (Chuuk) by the Pan Pacific Surgical Association to attend their Conference, all expenses paid, in January 1992.



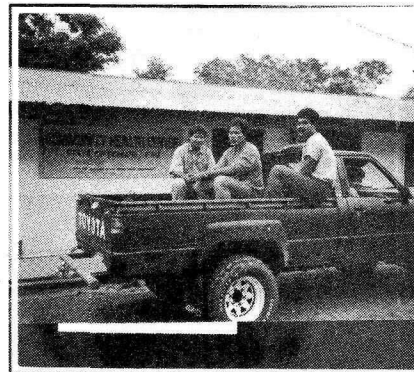
...fic Conference on Communiyt Health in edical Education at the Health Coordinator, South Pacific Commission (former PBMOTP formerly University of Auckland School of Medicine); Dr. Adrian ch, PBMOTP Community Health Coordinator (on sabbatical from Dean, Fiji School of Medicine (fomer PBMOTP Associate Direcor); Instructor. Sitting from left to right: Nachsa Siren, Acting Assistant Consulatant); Tina Takashy, MPH, PBMOTP Student Coordinator Professor (formerly Communiyt Health Lecturer at Fiji School of r of Pediatrics, John A. Burns School of Medicine.



**PEDIATRIC ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COURSE** - From left to right: Dr. Bill Ato (now Director of Research, University of Colorado Family Practice Residency, Colorado Springs) and now Year 5 AMO's Rihmen Lanzo and Elizabeth Iehsi Keller - both of Pohnpei. AMO Keller will be one of the first women physicians from Pohnpei (AMO Ginger Douglas will be the other).



**READING AN EKG** - Year 5 AMO Winston Likiaksa of Kosrae.



**COMMUNITY CLINICS (KOLONIA POHNPEI)** - From left to right: Robert Maddison (Marshall Is.), Henry Lucio (Chuuk), and Peter Hasugalmal (Yap), all year 3 students.

## 6 Medical Officers

(Continued from Page 3)

After three years of successful study, the program awards an intermediate Assistant Medical Officer Diploma (AMO) which qualifies students for Medex licensure. Currently all 25, Year 4 and 5 students are now licensed Medexes in the FSM. As of December, 17, 1991, more students has completed their third year of studies and become AMO's. Shortly thereafter they become part of the 42 licensed Medexes in the Program-more that the total number of Medexes (38) trained in Micronesia in the 1970's by the University of Hawaii. This is remarkable as there have been no new Medexes trained in Micronesia since 1976.

### The Curriculum

The first three years of the Program are spent in academic classroom and in outpatient, outreach, and Community Health clinics and projects. The innovative curriculum and structure are based upon a Problem-Based Learning model and integrates clinical activities early in the training.

During Year 4 and 5 the AMO's rotate through both hospital-based and community-based clinical and Community health activities. In Year 4 the AMO's receive a rigorous intern-like training in inpatient medicine, surgery, pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology. Continuing on to Year 5 the AMO's participate in advanced inpatient training and return to their respective jurisdictions to complete Community Health assignments. Additionally they rotate through Yap State or the Marshall Islands to study their Primary Health Care (PHC) System which seem to be working well within the resources of these two countries.

### Mental Health Training - Guam

A key training activity in 1991 was the clinical psychiatry rotation on Guam through the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. In this program PBMOTP AMO's rotated under the direct supervision of Guam psychiatrists studying many aspects of community mental health and substance abuse problems - problems which are quite serious in Micronesia.

### Training The Trainers

A highlight rotation in 1991 was the Yap State Dispensary Managers Retraining Program in which Year 5 AMO's retrained all the 26 Yapese Dispensary Mangers in pediatrics and antenatal care. This event was of critical importance as it not only gave Yap State Health Services staff an upgrade in PHC training but also provided PBMOTP AMO's the opportunity to develop the training skills necessary to become the PHC Training Officers for their jurisdictions. Early results of this training include a PBMOTP graduate physician becoming the program Training Officer for the 1992 Pohnpei State Dispensary Managers Training program funded by a \$38,000 U.S. federal grant to train the new and needed Health Assistant for the Pohnpei State.

### The Guam Meetings - Into the Pacific Mainstream

In September 1991 the Pan Pacific Surgical Association funded all 16 of the Year 5 class and one member of the Year 4 class to travel to Guam to attend two medical conferences. The U.S. Public Health Service invited the students to attend their National Health Service Corps Health Professionals Conference (NHSC). The NHSC meetings are a continuing education conference for the U.S. Public Health Service physician, dentist, nurse, and pharmacist assignees throughout Micronesia. At the Conference four PBMOTP students presented papers to the Conference on research they have or are conducting in Micronesia. AMO's Kasyan Roby (Chuuk) and Vita Skilling (Kosrae) presented information on "Diabetes Mellitis in Chuuk and Kosrae," Paulino Gallen, AMO (Pohnpei), presented a paper on "Rheumatic Heart Disease in the FSM", and Debbie Ngemaes, AMO (Palau) talked about "Hepatitis C in Belau".

While on Guam the students were also invited by the Family Health Plan (FHP) of Guam to their Annual Medical Symposium. FHP generously waved the expensive Symposium fees for the students and staff.

The Pan Pacific Surgical Association travel grant and the invitations from the U.S. Public Health Service and FHP-Guam are part of an effort to move the prospective graduates into the mainstream of Pacific health professionals.

### The Student Body - Real People, Real Sacrifices

Of the current 63 students in the Program, 33% are women. Regionally, over 90% of the students are Micronesian (FSM 71%, Marshalls 13%, Palau 8% ) and 8% are from American Samoa. In the FSM 25% of the student body are from Chuuk, 17% come from both Pohnpei and Yap, and 11% are from Kosrae. The current average age of the student body is 31 years. Sixty percent of the students are married and 61% of the student body have a total of 129 dependents. These students have made great sacrifices to leave their families, husbands and wives, children, and comfortable jobs and home islands to study to become doctors.

The five year physician training Program has not been easy for students as there is a commitment to academic excellence by the PBMOTP Board of Advisors - the Ministers and Directors of Health of Micronesia and American Samoa - and the University of Hawaii to produce local doctors who are both competent and caring. The current 63 students represent 59% of the total 107 students accepted into the Program since 1987. A few students (8) were given the opportunity to start over in lower classes and generally have done well since.

### And More To Be Done

It has been an exciting five years and there is much yet to be done. Upcoming PBMOTP agenda include a formal relationship with the Fiji School of Medicine to develop post-graduate training programs, a proposal for a three year stand-alone Medex program to replace the retiring Medexes, and plans for needed allied health training programs (x-ray and lab technicians, environmental health officers).

### Pacific Islander Doctors Caring for Pacific People

The PBMOTP is an appropriate example of the commitment of the health and political leadership of Micronesia, American Samoa, and the John A. Burns School of Medicine to resolve the physician manpower shortages in the region. This commitment to train a new generation of regional health leadership is consistent with WHO's description of PBMOTP efforts to train health professionals "specifically suited to the conditions of the Pacific". These graduate physicians, as agents of change and self reliance, will join their health professional colleagues to challenge the complex health care problems of the end of this century and beyond.

## FFA, CFTC & ICOD executed Fisheries Awareness project

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - Deputy Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Andrew Wright in his letter of October to the National Union stated, "FFA, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) and the International Center for Ocean Development (ICOD), has executed a project entitled the Fisheries Awareness Project. The project aims to improve the general awareness of the importance of fisheries to national and regional economies, and to promote a better understanding of conservation (including environmental protection) in fisheries management and development programmes, and to encourage fisheries as a carrier in an attempt to address the problem of manpower shortages of adequately trained and informed staff in government fisheries departments in the region. Three publications - a poster describing the variety of carriers available in the fisheries sector; a non-technical booklet targeting secondary school students describing issues concerned with South Pacific fisheries; a booklet aims at the public sector describing the role of fisheries in the economy have been distributed to government departments and other organizations, and to secondary schools and other educational institutions in the South Pacific region. They are available at the FFA if you require them."



**LOMONGO AS CONSUL IN CHUUK** - President Bailey Olter on November 12 signed a grant of Exequatur for Captain Restituto P. Lomongo to serve in the capacity of Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Philippines in the State of Chuuk, FSM, during the pleasure of the Government of the Philippines. The FSM undertakes to afford to the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of the Philippines in the State of Chuuk every consideration relating to Honorary Consular Officers and Consular Posts headed by such Officers in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, signed at Vienna, April 23, 1963. From left to right: Foreign Service Officer Marstella Jack, Captain Lomongo, Philippine Ambassador to the FSM Purisimo De Peralta, and Deputy Chief, South Pacific Affairs Tadao Sigrav.

## FSM & Maldives established relations

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM and Republic of Maldives, on October 24, formally established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level by signing a Joint Communique by the two

## Congratulations to the FSM

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter received on November 6, a certified copy of House Joint Resolution No. 3-76-12, SDI, commending and congratulating the Federated States of Micronesia on its admission as member to the United Nations. The resolution was adopted by the House of Delegates and concurred to by the Senate of the Third Olbil Era Kelulau in its Twelfth Regular Session, October 1991 respectively.

The resolution stated that the FSM will sit as an equal among the nations of the world, and this great accomplishment is a milestone in Micronesian history.

House of Delegates and Senate of the Third Olbil Era Kelulau recall with fondness the efforts and warm friendship of their colleagues from the Congress of Micronesia, the quest for Micronesian political status and sovereignty has been long and arduous, and the FSM has been able to achieve a measure of sovereignty and international recognition previously unknown, and this measure of sovereignty is sufficient for the FSM to now have a voice in the international forum of nations.

The House of Delegates, Third Olbil Era Kelulau resolved, Senate concurred that all those individuals responsible for this accomplishment, both past and present, are additionally commended.

Many other official congratulation communications were also received from other countries.

## Veteran's Day celebrated in Pohnpei

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - An American Flag Raising Ceremony was held Nov. 11, in front of the U.S. Embassy in Pohnpei, commemorating Veteran's Day.

Because FSM citizens have served and still serve in the U.S. military services, all FSM veterans were invited to ceremony. Memory is the first measure of gratitude, and the U.S. Embassy wished to extend to all FSM citizens, past and present, who have served in the American Armed Forces a special measure of thanks for their sacrifices, according to a letter of invitation from U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal.

The ceremony began with Brazeal welcoming everyone, followed with remarks by



### CAT members saluting

FSM Veteran Captain Frank Semens of Pohnpei. Flag raising was by the U.S. Civic Action Members and national anthem was played, concluding with a remarks by Vice President Jacob Nena. Chief of U.S. Relations Epel Ilon was Master of Ceremony

countries' Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Jesse B. Marchalau of the FSM and the Charge d' Affaires of Maldives Permanent Mission to the UN Ahmed Rasheed in a ceremony at the Commonwealth Building in New York where both countries maintain offices, according to a release from External Affairs.

The Republic of Maldives is a former British protectorate, in a group of 2,000 islands in the Indian Ocean.

A very active member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Maldives worked very hard to have the FSM admitted to AOSIS even before the FSM became a member of the UN. The Republic is also instrumental in putting forth UN resolutions that championed the cause of human rights, and other resolutions that small island nations, like the FSM, would benefit from.

The FSM now has established diplomatic relations with 22 countries.

# 8 FSM LNO offices upgraded to Consulates General

THE NATIONAL UNION, December 1991

WASHINGTON, D.C. (INFORMATION SERVICE) - FSM Ambassador to the United States of America Jesse Marehalau, on December 2nd, issued a memorandum to the FSM Consuls General in Honolulu and Guam saying, "This is to officially inform you that effective on November 27, 1991, the United States Department of State has officially amended its diplomatic records to note the changes of upgrading our offices in Honolulu and Guam from that of Liaison offices to that of Consulates General and communicated such information to our FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Pursuant to the instruction memo from President Olter to the Acting Secretary of our Department of External Affairs this past summer, the Honorable Kasio Mida and Honorable Wilton Mackwelung were approved by the President for their respective posts and referred to the U.S. Department of State for accreditation. The U.S. by a letter dated 27 November 1991 agreed to the FSM Embassy's request and thus you two gentlemen are now full fledged Consuls General in your respective jurisdictions.

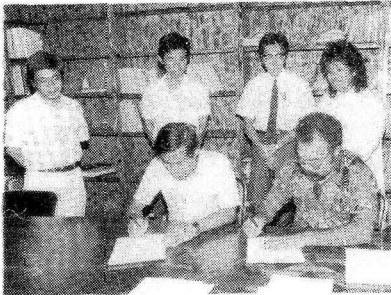
While there are some minor State Department Protocol paper work and forms that still need to be made, the official upgrade of the offices and the names of career consular officials to head the posts were requested by the FSM Government and approved by the United States and therefore as far as the US Government is concerned, the FSM Consulates in Honolulu and Guam are now satellite offices of the FSM Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Consuls report to and obtain their instructions from the FSM Ambassador to the United States who in turn receives his instructions from the President through the Secretary of External Affairs. For our internal FSM operations, we should maintain the system that we now have in place until such time when we all can sit down and review it with our department to see if there is a way to better improve the setup.

It is the responsibility of the U.S. Department of State to inform the state and local authorities in Honolulu and Guam of this diplomatic upgrade and will do so in due time.

Accordingly, you are hereby requested to change your office names, letterheads, envelopes, business cards etc., and other office-related documentation to reflect the appropriate diplomatic and consular designations whenever it is convenient for you to do so.

The credit for this successful undertaking goes to the President of the FSM for his determination and approval to move ahead on the diplomatic upgrade, to the Acting Secretary of the Department of External Affairs for recommending such course of action to the President, to the Chief and staff of our Division of U.S. Relations for their headquarters assistance, the FSM Congress for their continued financial support of our overseas offices and to Kasio Mida and Wilton Mackwelung for their dedicated outstanding service in the Department. This recognition bestowed by the President and the Acting Secretary of our Department is long overdue and well deserved.

I salute you for what you are and Congratulate you for this positive development. Regards."



**JAPAN & FSM SIGNS MINUTES** - Acting Secretary of External Affairs Jesse Raglmar Subolmar and Yuji Nishi of Japan are signing minutes of studies conducted in the states of Yap and Pohnpei on Micronesian Maritime and Fisheries Academy and the construction of fishermen's wharf in Yap and Pohnpei respectively. From left to right, standing: Yoshio Notsu, Yoshihiro Shimotsuma, Futoshi Takahashi, and Maristela Jack. Sitting are Nishi and Subolmar.

## Olter proclaimed UN Day as FSM National Holiday

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE) - President Bailey Olter on October 23, proclaimed United Nations Day as a National Holiday of the FSM. Following is the text of the proclamation:

"On September 17, 1991, the Federated States of Micronesia was recognized by the community of nations, as represented in the General Assembly of the United Nations, as a fully sovereign and independent nation. On that day, our status as full member of the community of nations was proclaimed to the world.

In recognition of the historic importance of our admission in the United Nations, the Congress has, by law established, October 24, United Nations Day, as a National Holiday of the Federated States of Micronesia.

I believe this holiday is a fitting recognition of our new status in the world as a fully sovereign nation.

NOW THEREFORE,

by the authority vested in me pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Federated States and pursuant to the provisions of Public Law No. 7-20, I hereby proclaim the 24th day of October to be a national holiday in the Federated States of Micronesia."

### THE NATIONAL UNION

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