

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

Rotorua, New Zealand

8 - 9 March 1976

PRESS RELEASE

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt Hon. R. D. Muldoon, an informal meeting of the Forum was held in Rotorua 8 and 9 March. The meeting was attended by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt Hon. Malcolm Fraser; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, Hon. Andrew Peacock, the Premier of the Cook Islands, Sir Albert Henry, the Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Chief Minister of the Gilbert Islands, Hon. Naboua Ratieta, President Hammer DeRoburt of Nauru, the Premier of Niue, Hon. Robert Rex, the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Michael Somare, the Minister of Education of the Solomon Islands, Hon. Benedict Kinika, the Prime Minister of Tonga, H.R.H. Prince Tu'ipelehake, the Chief Minister of Tuvalu, Hon. Toalipi Lauti and the Minister of Finance of Western Samoa, Hon. Aumua Ioane. The Director of SPEC, Hon. Mahe Tupouniua, attended the meeting in his capacity as Head of the Forum Secretariat.

Formal meetings of the Forum are held annually, the next being scheduled for 26-28 July in Nauru. This meeting was the second informal meeting of its kind. The first informal Forum meeting was held in Apia, Western Samoa, in December 1974.

Informal discussions at the meeting contributed to a useful exchange of views on a wide range of subjects of regional interest, including regional shipping, civil aviation, nuclear weapons free zone, regional aid from the European Community, sugar export arrangements to the region, and United Nations regional assistance.