

10/28/80

401170

To: Files

Subject: Ponape

While vacationing in Ponape, I made unofficial calls on the following people:

The Honorable Tosiwo Nakayama
President, Federated States of Micronesia

The Honorable Leo A. Falcam
Governor, State of Ponape

Dr. Elwell Pretrick
Minister of Health (not sure of title)

Dr. Asher Palik
Hospital Administrator

The following are a layman's impressions of the hospital at Ponape.

Professional staff

1. 5 U.S. professionals are beginning 2 year terms
 - Pediatrician
 - Internist
 - Ob-Gyn
 - Dentist
 - Pharmacist
2. There is active recruitment for a U.S. surgeon
3. 2 Canadians are on the professional staff
 - GP/anesthesiologist
 - Pediatrician/neurologist/Director of Education (Dr. Steele)
4. 6 Ponapean health officers
 - 5 GP
 - 1 ENT
5. May recruit a nutritionist, also
6. Nursing staff all Ponapean
 - a. 27 TTPI licensed practical nurses, all graduates of 2 1/2 year training; handle patient care, outpatients, OR
 - b. 24 locally trained assistant nurses

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- c. need 20 more nurses in each category
- 7. 1 Medex who counsels in mental health
- 8. Obtain short-term consultants from Hawaii on request

Orthopedics
 Urology
 ENT
 Cardiology
 Ophthalmology

Facilities

- 1. Building is new.
- 2. Built for 116 beds
 - currently is 88 beds
 - 1 wing used for education and training
- 3. 2 OR's -- did not see, but it was stated that the surgeons who have used them are complimentary. Procedures include appendectomy and GI surgery.
- 4. 2 diagnostic x-ray machines
 - 1 old Picker (unknown KVP)
 - 1 more recent Japanese unit (100 KVP)
 - no radiologist at present
 - was told fluoroscopy is available
- 5. Laboratory
 - Have 1 Ponapean chief lab technologist
 - Looking for a U.S. lab technologist
 - "Do a wide variety of tests"
 - CBC
 - stool
 - urine
 - blood sugar
 - blood chemistry
 - liver function tests
 - blood cross matching
 - bacteriological tests
 - etc.

6. Pharmacy

Only pharmacy in Ponape

Supplies not adequate

Presence of U.S. pharmacist should improve

7. Some dietary needs provided for

Other

1. Training programs with U. of Hawaii and CDC

2. Referrals (about 28/year) go to:

Guam Naval Hospital

Tripples, Honolulu

St. Francis, Honolulu (kidney diseases)

Queens Medical Center, Honolulu (cardiac cases)

Shriners Hospital, Honolulu (orthopedics)

Lettermann, San Francisco

3. People use "traditional" medicine along with modern medicine

Comment -- Think it would be useful for Drs. Cronkite and Rittmaster, and perhaps others, to visit Ponape to determine whether or not the Ponape hospital could be used as a referral center for at least some level of care which might reduce the number of BNL Marshallese referrals to Hawaii, the Mainland, or Guam.

Bruce W. Wachholz, EV-30

- cc: Dr. Burr
- Dr. Thiessen
- Dr. Bond
- Dr. Cronkite
- Dr. Rittmaster
- Mr. Ray

