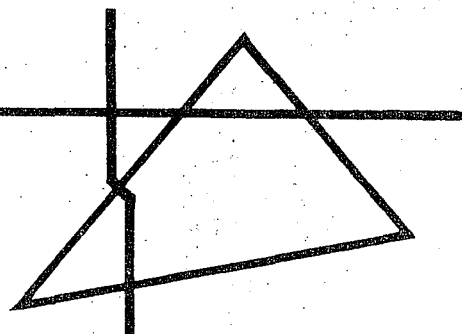


NEWSLETTER



Room 21E Hawaii Hall (8513)

III:7 2 February 1971

WHO'S COMING TO HAWAII

* Dr. Robert R. Robbins, Prof. of Poli. Sci., Tufts University. February 6 from Micronesia.

WHO'S GOING INTO THE PACIFIC**

Dr. Henry A. Bess, Prof. of Entomology. Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand, New South Wales and Queensland, Australia. Three months from 22 March.

*For Hawaii address, contact PIP office, 8513.

**A master file of UH faculty in the Pacific is kept at PIP office, 21E Hawaii Hall.

Extra Library Hours, Hawaiian and Pacific Collection

Paging service between the hours of 6- 9:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings has been announced for the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections. On request, books paged between these hours may be used in Sinclair Library until closing time. Reference service for these collections remains the same: daily to 5:00 o'clock weekdays, and by noon on Saturday. (The extra student assistance is being provided through courtesy of Ethnic Studies.)

The NEWSLETTER is reproducing the following memorandum issued by the School of Social and Economic Development of the University of the South Pacific as it is of interest to many faculty here at U.H.:

VISAS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHERS IN COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

Introductory

1. The matter of Entry Permits or Visas for Social Science researchers planning to work in the region served by the University of the South Pacific (i.e. Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Cook, Niue, Tokelau, Nauru, Gilbert, Ellice, Hebrides, and Solomon Islands) is of course entirely a matter to be negotiated between the individual researcher and the Government concerned. The University receives so many enquiries, however, that the following note has been prepared to set out the present situation as it appears to us, and to point out some areas in which problems have arisen in the past.

2. The general trend appears to be that Pacific islands governments are taking a more cautious attitude to research in general, and particularly to social science research. Research in the physical sciences is generally more readily approved, and difficulties in the social sciences tend to be greatest for topics which have implications in areas of political sensitivity. The trend towards establishing a new kind of relationship with foreign researchers is not unique to the Pacific, but is now widespread in many countries. Discussions about the nature of a new type of relationship, particularly between researchers from high-income countries working in low-income areas, are becoming widespread....

3. The note is concerned mainly with Fiji, as the Fiji government is setting out to develop a clear policy in relation to research. Most of the other governments in the region deal with research applications on a more ad hoc basis, but the comments in relation to Fiji would also apply in many cases.

Fiji

4. Before Independence, persons intending to undertake research in Fiji had a statutory right to be granted an Entry Permit provided they conformed to appropriate conditions. This situation is now changed, and all Entry Permits will be at the discretion of the Minister of Labour (Ratu Edward Cakobau) whose portfolio includes Immigration.

5. All applications should be addressed to the Principal Immigration Officer, Department

of Labour, Suva, Fiji and should contain full details of the nature of the research as well as normal biographical details of the researcher. The normal procedure will be for the Principal Immigration Officer to pass the application to a committee comprising the Minister of Fijian Affairs (Ratu George Cakobau) and the Minister of Education (Hon. Jonate Mavoa) or their nominees. That committee will either make its own recommendation or (and this is expected to be the more usual course) will consult with other institutions (particularly relevant government departments - e.g. Department of Agriculture for botanical research, or the University, the School of Medicine, or other institutions.) After these consultations the committee will make a recommendation to the Principal Immigration Officer who will recommend to the Minister of Labour that the visa be either granted or declined. This procedure will obviously take time and intending researchers are recommended to make visa applications as many months in advance of the intended starting date as possible.

6. The Principal Immigration Officer will be empowered to add conditions, and it is expected that a number of standard conditions will be added to all permits. These include the requirement that the researcher should not engage in political or missionary activity, and will confine himself to the tasks required to carry out his research. There will also be conditions on the provision of multiple copies of research results to the Government of Fiji and to other institutions, and in some cases appropriate co-operation with their government departments or other institutions concerned with the field of research. Researchers may also be required to lodge an "Immigration Security Bond" of \$1000 or more.

7. There will also be a condition that researchers shall be fully financed from outside and that this finance shall be adequate to cover not only their living costs but all other costs which they are likely to meet. Ratu George Cakobau (Minister of Fijian Affairs) has pointed out that the Fijian Affairs Board (which draws its largely elective membership from all over the country, and which includes all Fijian elected members of Parliament) had expressed strong and unanimous concern at the fact of widespread accusations of researchers 'sponging' on the hospitality of Fijian people in particular. This would almost certainly come as a great shock to the many individuals who have undertaken research in Fiji and probably none of whom would be aware that this kind of feeling remained after their departure. Partly this is due to Fijian tenets of courtesy and hospitality which require that they shall treat visitors with the utmost courtesy and generosity and will praise them and their work. It appears that many researchers in fact are inadequately aware of the extent to which the researcher should reciprocate on an appropriate scale in such circumstances. The main Fijian reaction is against research being done in ways which Fijian representatives regard as 'on the cheap' at the expense of Fijian people. Researchers are recommended to give this point full consideration in applying for grants or otherwise making financial arrangement for their visit.

8. Probably the main point made at a recent meeting between the Minister of Labour (Ratu Edward Cakobau) the Minister of Education (Hon. Jonate Mavoa) and the Minister for Fijian Affairs (Ratu George Cakobau) was that it is their view that although researchers generally convey to them the impression that they are here for the benefit of Fiji, in the view of the Ministers the researchers motives were mixed and they were primarily seeking to serve their own ends. They had no objection to this, but wanted to make sure that the relationship was not one way, and that Fiji also benefited from it. Their feeling was that Fiji has been promised much, but benefited relatively little in practice from research in the past. Ways in which this benefit could be achieved were by:

- a. Ample supply of publications or reports emanating from research.
- b. Shortened and vernacular copies of publications.
- c. The training of local personnel.

9. The Fiji government intends to issue research visas for six months in the first instance, and persons proposing to stay longer would be asked to reapply after five months' residence. It is understood that visas would be renewed automatically if all conditions had been met during the previous period.

...

OTHER PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS

11. Intending researchers should apply to the Chief Immigration Officers of the respective countries at the following addresses: Rarotonga, Cook Islands; Tarawa, Gilbert Islands (for Gilbert, Ellice, Ocean and Line Islands); Prime Minister's Department, Republic of Nauru; Vila, New Hebrides; Alofi, Niue; Honiara, British Solomon Islands; Apia, Western Samoa; Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga.

For the Tokelau Islands one should apply to the New Zealand High Commissioner, Apia, Western Samoa. New Guinea and the U.S. Trust Territory have not been included as they are outside the region served by this University, but for New Guinea, valuable information for researchers is contained in the quarterly Man in New Guinea, which is published by the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Papua and New Guinea, Box 1144, Port Moresby, New Guinea. Intending researchers in Guam and the Mariana, Caroline and Marshall

Islands can obtain useful information from the Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam, Box EK, Agana, Guam, 96910.

12. For most of the above countries and territories it seems that in recent years many more applications from social science researchers have been declined (or deferred or discouraged such that the research was not undertaken) than have been approved. Thus it is advisable to make application well in advance, and to provide fairly full information in the first instance to avoid delays while governments write back asking for more details.

13. As the indiscretion of one researcher can lead to greatly increased difficulty for future researchers (and in some cases total embargoes on research for a period), intending researchers are requested to bear this in mind during their work in the Pacific.

(Issued December, 1970)