

Pacific Nuclear Ban Sought

By Buck Donham
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Several delegates to the Conference for a Nuclear-Free Pacific stopped here yesterday en route back from a meeting they hope will result in the banning of all nuclear weapons from the South Pacific.

Roger Gale, Quaker International Affairs representative from Tokyo, said 90 people from 22 nations attended the six-day conference, which ended Saturday in Suva, Fiji.

He said the conferees adopted in principle a draft treaty that would prohibit any nuclear weapon in the South Pacific area bounded by the Indian Ocean, Antarctica, Latin America and the Trust Territories.

THE TREATY which will go to the United Nations General Assembly, would be similar to those already in effect for Antarctica and Latin America, Gale said.

Similar treaties are being prepared for the Indian Ocean and for Malaysia, Indonesia and New Guinea, he said.

James Douglass, a peace activist and former

religion professor at the University of Hawaii, said the South Pacific is especially important because the United States plans to operate its new Trident submarines, carrying missiles with multiple nuclear warheads, in the South as well as North Pacific.

The treaty, if passed by the UN, would put U.S. military intentions in direct conflict with interna-

tional law, Douglass said.

Among the delegates who arrived in Honolulu yesterday were two who have had first-hand experience with the terrors of nuclear weapons.

They were Ichiro Moritaki, professor emeritus of ethics at Hiroshima University and a victim of the Hiroshima bombing; and Nelson Anjain, mayor of Rongelap Atoll, whose inhabitants were exposed

to the fallout from U.S. H-bomb tests at Bikini Atoll.

Professor Moritaki said he lost the vision of his right eye, which was "roasted" by the atomic explosion in Hiroshima.

Mayor Anjain, whose nephew died of leukemia, said his people suffer not only from radiation-induced illness from the nuclear blast at Bikini, but also from inadequate medical attention.

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