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EUROPA POLITICAL CHRONOLOGIES OF THE WORLD

A CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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5 August 1971: The South Pacific Forum founded at a meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, as the gathering of heads of government of the independent and self-governing states of the South Pacific for informal discussions—held at least annually—on a wide range of common issues and problems. The Forum has no written constitution or international agreement governing its activities, nor any formal rules relating to its purpose, membership or meeting conduct. Decisions always reached by consensus—it never having been found necessary or desirable to vote formally.

17 April 1973: The South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation established—with offices in Suva, Fiji—at the third meeting of the South Pacific Forum, in Apia, Western Samoa (now Samoa). The Bureau (now known as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat) was the Forum's administrative arm.

1977: The Pacific Forum Line established, a joint venture by Pacific countries to provide shipping services meeting the special requirements of the region.

1979: The Forum founded the Association of South Pacific Airlines, based in Nadi, Fiji, as part of its efforts to promote co-operation in regional transport.

The Forum founded the Forum Fisheries Agency, based in Honiara, Solomon Islands, to promote co-operation in fisheries in the region.

December 1986: The South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga)—prohibiting the acquisition, stationing or testing of nuclear weapons in the region—came into effect.

December 1987: The USSR and the People's Republic of China signed protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga, whereby states possessing nuclear weapons agree not to use or threaten to use nuclear explosive devices against any non-nuclear party to the Treaty.

1988: South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation renamed the South Pacific Forum Secretariat.

