

NIKU IIII

The dates have been set and the deposit has been paid to reserve the ship for TIGHAR's next expedition to Nikumaroro. A twelve-person TIGHAR team will meet *Nai'a*, the Fiji-based 120 foot motor-sailer we've used for the past two expeditions, at Pago Pago, American Samoa on September 3, 2001. From there we'll embark on the three-day voyage to Nikumaroro where we'll have twelve to fourteen days on-site to accomplish the search operations now being planned. These will include:

- a detailed search of the "7 Site" (see the article in this newsletter).
- the inspection of one, and possibly two, suspect graves.
- an underwater search of a ledge off the western edge of the reef.
- an underwater search of the lagoon bottom inside the main passage.

It is our hope that these operations will result in the discovery of human remains and artifacts which can be conclusively identified as being from the Earhart flight. The cost of mounting and conducting the expedition is projected to be \$300,000. That's a lot of money to raise over the next twelve months, but the prospects for finding the proverbial "smoking gun" evidence have never looked better and TIGHAR has never been stronger. We can do it, but as always, it will take all of us pulling together to make it happen. Please use the enclosed card to send in your contribution today.