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PIM

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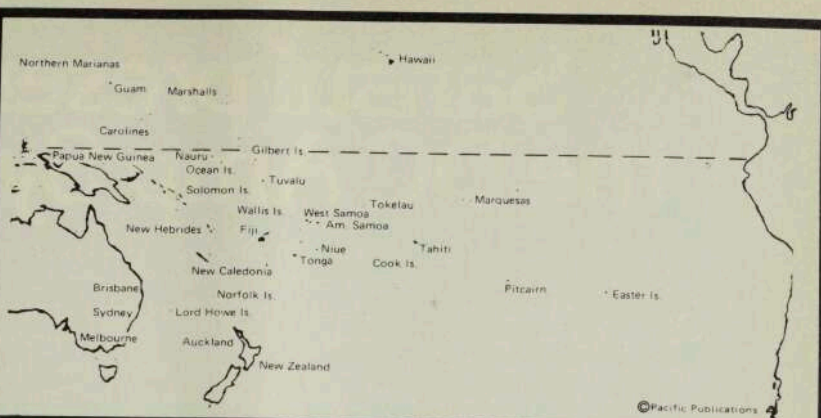
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Lady Henry... a power behind the Cooks' throne?



Albert Wendt... a mature second novel

Cover: Bill Goodwin photographed this Samoan mother and child in Pago Pago last year.

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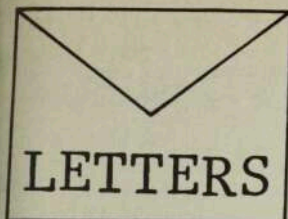
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'THANK-YOU, DON O'BRYAN'

In August 1977 I spent two weeks on the island of Rarotonga. One of the reasons for my visit was to meet Tom Neale, the 'hermit of Suvarrow', with whom I had been corresponding for a number of years. At the time of our meeting, a most memorable one for me, Tom was in hospital undergoing treatment for cancer to which he finally succumbed on November 30, 1977, aged 75.

In September of 1978 I revisited Rarotonga and one of the first things I did was search out the grave of my friend Tom. It is in the Veterans' Cemetery right across the road from the airport. I visited the grave several times and, though rather spartan in appearance, it was obvious that someone who cared was looking after things. That someone is Don O'Bryan, long with the Cook Islands Trading Corporation, who was Tom's staunchest friend. Over the years it was Don who handled all of Tom's business affairs in Rarotonga and saw to it that supplies and mail were put on the yachts and trading schooners that were scheduled to call in at Suvarrow.

I have seen Tom's letters to Don and it is quite obvious that Tom would have had an extremely difficult time without Don's devotion to the welfare of his friend. Don's allegiance did not end with Tom's death. In accordance with Tom's will, Don was appointed trustee of the estate and upon him fell the responsibility of retrieving Tom's personal belongings from Suvarrow along with arranging the details of Tom's burial. At that time, in a letter to me, Don wrote: 'Tom now lies in white sand as he would have wished, and close to the sea.'

The grave when I saw it was without a headstone but a few

days before my departure I learned that Tom's two children, Stella and Arthur, had arrived from New Zealand with a headstone for their father's grave. It was my good fortune to meet these two young people on the eve of my departure. Don assured them that the headstone would be properly set.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Don for his many years of dedication to Tom, and I'm sure that I speak for Tom's many friends around the world when I say 'Thanks, Don O'Bryan.'

BYRON W. HART

Boulder
Colorado USA

NOT ENOUGH SAID

It is of interest to note and compare the two front covers of PIM December 1978 (Colonial Hangover) and January 1979 (Somare, the Great Survivor). Need I say more?

PAUL GARVAN

Kieta,
North Solomons Province,
Papua New Guinea

(We would appreciate it if you
would say more. — Editor)

SICK SIC ... TSK, TSK!

The item in PIM January concerning John Champion is of such meanness and stupidity that it does not even deserve to be dwelt upon. However, since the writer has thrown into question the professional integrity of the director and editor-in-chief of *Nabanga*, neither of us is prepared to ignore it, or the malice surrounding it.

What's it about? Announcing the departure of Mr John Champion, your magazine refers to the farewell interview with the former British Resident Commissioner which we published in our issue of November 7, 1978 (*Nabanga* No. 91). PIM starts by devoting a few lines to Mr Champion's remarks and then rapidly leaves them — as if they were not the substance of the matter! — to offer *Nabanga's* editors a lesson in journalism as gratuitous as it was derisory.

We were guilty, we are told,

of an unfortunate lapse of taste because we retained an expression in bad French used by Mr Champion. To support his case, our brilliant teacher might at least have quoted the incriminating passage: PIM readers would then have been able to judge the matter for what it was. Some knowledge of French and a minimum of intelligence would have sufficed to show that there was absolutely no harmful intent on our part. On the contrary.

If we retained the expression *circular la cervelle*, put it in quotation marks and accompanied it with a *sic*, it was not because the expression was incorrect but because the image thus employed by John Champion had a lively character in French that we ourselves would not have been able to achieve. In doing what we did, we wished only to pay tribute to the manner in which John Champion uses French. If the writer of your item did not understand this he (or she) should go to school.

We wish to point out that the whole of the interview with J. Champion was tape-recorded. The ex-British resident commissioner spoke in French, a language he speaks very well but in which — quite naturally — he makes numerous mistakes, just as when J. M. Lafont or J. Massias speak English they make errors. Where is the man anyway who can express himself as well in a foreign language as in his own? We listened to the recording and, doing our duty as journalists, we went right through it correcting the slight mistakes Mr Champion had made, with the exception — and for the reasons already stated — of the one which aroused the ire of the PIM writer.

We hope that these few remarks will dispel any misunderstanding about the so-called impropriety of which we are said to have been guilty. They would suffice in themselves if the PIM writer had not seen fit to go on and draw the lesson of the story. According to him such a 'lapse of taste' is a perfect illustration of the mentality inherited from the condominium organisation of

the New Hebrides. From this it is only a short step to claiming that we sought to play a 'lousy trick' on Mr Champion.

This imputation of evil motive, expressed in scarcely veiled terms, is not only insulting but degrading to a magazine which has built for itself a reputation throughout the Pacific region for its seriousness of approach. Before giving lessons, one needs to take some oneself. One of the first taught in the field of journalism is the need to separate fact from comment. The PIM writer concerned appears to have forgotten this. He draws conclusions from an unimportant detail and barely mentions the rest.

The truth is that *Nabanga* No. 91 devoted four (not three) of its 20 pages to the departure of Mr Champion, with one photograph covering two-thirds of its front page, and seven other photographs in the body of the interview. Further, our artist spent many hours drawing a black and white portrait of Mr Champion, which was published on page 8. This 'honour' had not previously been accorded to anyone but Mr Djoud [French minister for overseas departments and territories] himself.

The lines with which we introduced the interview expressed quite unequivocally the affection and admiration felt by us for John Champion. Certain phrases could well have been quoted, such as: '... he was able to cope with (circumstances) as they arose without passion, and maintain the notion of a correct balance, even if this attitude sometimes involved personal risks. Possessed of a cool and clear head, his gaze turned firmly towards the future, anxious to contribute to the unity of the country in peace and moderation, John Champion served the New Hebrides well.'

Compared with ours, your presentation of the facts thus appears as incomplete and biased. More serious: it could damage the image of our publication through the charges made against two of its editors. We are convinced that PIM will be true to the mission of information which it has

LETTERS

always espoused by printing the full text of this letter in its next issue.

Please accept, Mr Editor, our brotherly, saddened, greetings.

J. MASSIAS, director,
J. M. LAFFONT, editor-in-chief,
Nabanga.

Vila,
New Hebrides
(Copy to Mr John Champion.)

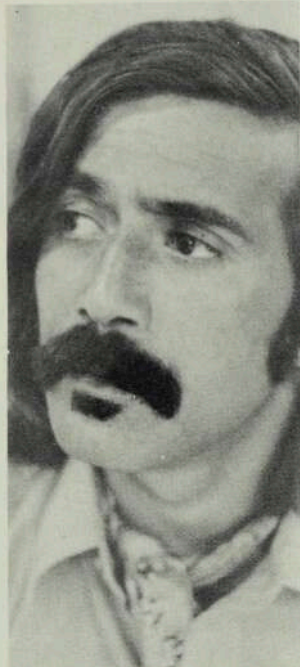
Fulfilling its mission of information, PIM has happily shouldered the task of translating this long letter on a matter that 'does not even deserve to be dwelt upon'. For the rest, we are unrepentant, despite the ingenuity of the explanation offered by Messrs Massias and Laffont. PIM believes that if these gentlemen had been much concerned to bring out the 'liveliness' of Mr Champion's expression (which translates into English roughly as 'It makes the brain circulate', whereas he meant something much closer to the English expression 'It keeps the mind active') they would have taken much more trouble to explain themselves than simply putting quotation marks around the words and adding the word *sic*. They should well understand that in this wicked world this little Latin tag is most often used to convey an impression of ridicule of the words just cited. As a final comment, we would like to express our great satisfaction at the friendly terms in which Mr Massias and his colleague now speak of Mr Champion. Things have certainly changed over the past 15 months or so, for example, since November 1977, a period described by Mr Champion in the Nabanga interview as 'the least agreeable' of his time in the New Hebrides. At that time, among his other activities, Mr Massias rushed out a special edition of Nabanga a week before its due publication date in order, among other things, to maximise Mr Champion's political discomfiture arising from the behaviour of some British police personnel during a civil disturbance in Vila on November 29. (Mr Massias could no doubt tell us whether this particular exercise in over-enthusiastic Gallic twisting of the British lion's tail represented one of those *bavures*, or *botches*, in the recent French re-

cord in the New Hebrides which were criticised by Mr Dijoud during his visit to Vila last August.) But perhaps we should let Mr Champion have the final word on this matter. He told Messrs Massias and Laffont: 'But I don't want to go into this subject of November 1977. It's already old history and I won't go back to it...'

LOYALTY FIGURES

In your article on the Loyalty Islands (PIM January) there are a few errors which I wish to correct.

First, Mr N. Naisseline is not 'the' chief of the island of Mare but one of the seven chiefs — the six others recently wel-



Nidoishe Naisseline ... one of seven

comed with traditional friendliness the French minister for overseas territories.

Second, the latest figures for the population of New Caledonia, based on the census of January 1978, are: total population 137 000; Melanese 58 400; Europeans 51 400; Wallisians 10 100; Tahitians 6400; Vietnamese, Indonesians, others 10 600.

At the last legislative elections, with 68 200 registered voters, pro-independence candidates secured 5367 votes,

about 11% of the 45 193 votes cast.

Noumea
New Caledonia

H. WRIGHT

AUST UNIONS AND FIJI

By sheer chance your April 1978 edition of PIM, a most interesting publication, was handed to me some days ago. The brief article headed 'Fiji: Australian union will talk' drew my attention.

I have followed the activities of Australian trade unions and the results thereof in other countries for some years. It would be much appreciated if I could obtain details of events in which unions were involved during Fiji's 1977 dock strikes.

I would also like to obtain an extract of Mr Tas Bull's justifications on the alleged intervention in Fiji's internal affairs by trade unions which were to 'clear the air'. The fact that the air had to be cleared pointed in the direction of intervention at some stage or other.

Can anyone put me in touch with someone in Fiji who can supply me with factual historical data relating to the events of 1977?

G. P. DANIEL

PO Box 1391
Geraldton, WA
Australia

GERMANY AND THE PACIFIC

I have shown your magazine around here in West Germany and I believe that a number of persons have already subscribed to PIM. The interest in the *real* Pacific here is great and genuine. Time and again I am amazed at rubbish published in our media about the Pacific. They just don't know. K. H. STELMACH

W. PACIFIC ARCHIVES

I was delighted to read of the interest taken by my good friend Sidney Hockey in the records of the Solomons (PIM December 1978). However as archivist of the Western Pacific Archives from 1971 until early last year I feel obliged to point out that the comments on removal of records from the Pa-

cific made by C. Guy Powles (PIM September 1978) are in fact well based.

Less than 40% of the holdings of the Western Pacific Archives have been transferred 'to their countries of origin'. Records of the Western Pacific High Commission, New Hebrides, Tonga British Agent and Consul, and Pitcairn, have been sent to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. The WPHC records include Solomons Secretariat material and make up for much of the administrative documentation of the Solomons and Gilberts lost during World War II.

The 55 cases referred to by Sidney Hockey would contain what remains of the BSIP resident commissioner's records; district records, which apart from those for Malaita are fairly fragmentary; a few departmental oddments; and library material. When planned in 1974 the new archives building in Honiara, which he mentions, was designed to take WPHC records; as the then chief secretary proposed the transfer of the holdings of the WPA from Suva to Honiara.

Also transferred to the FCO in London is the microfilm of WPHC records. The WPA microfilm programme was funded by the participation of Island governments and by Australian aid specifically, intended to assist in the preservation of the administrative and cultural heritage of the Pacific. At no time was the programme supported or encouraged in any way by the FCO.

B. T. BURNE

15 Mills Street
Middle Park
Victoria 3206
Australia

IN SEARCH OF OLD PIM

I have managed to obtain a complete set of PIM from December 1960 to date. I am wondering if any reader knows of a source where I can obtain issues prior to December 1960.

K. A. HOLDOM

68 Tirangi Road,
Rongotai,
Wellington 3,
New Zealand.

Pacific Report

HEAVY GAOL TERMS IN PAPEETE

A Papeete, Tahiti, court in February sentenced two young members of the pro-independence *Toto Topuna* organisation to 20 years imprisonment, and three others to 18, 10 and five years. Well-known independence advocate Charlie Ching was acquitted of charges of murder and bombing, but got 10 years for planning abortive attacks against military targets. The charges arose from incidents in 1977. The defendants strongly affirmed their political motivation, stating that they saw themselves as soldiers in a war for independence and against nuclear pollution. For the defence, eight senior lawyers from France vigorously attacked 'colonial-type justice', and claimed that the accused were denied basic human and legal rights. They served notice that they would appeal against the sentences on these grounds.

WHITLAM FORESEES PACIFIC TURMOIL

The inevitable move to independence of the French possessions in the Pacific would create tension and even turmoil on Australia's doorstep, former Australian prime minister Gough Whitlam told a conference on sea power in Canberra in February. Mr Whitlam said the full implications of the declaration of 200-nautical mile fishing zones was only beginning to be understood. Practically the whole Pacific would soon be subject to control by countries in the region. Tonga, for example, would have a bigger sea domain than Japan — a radical development in maritime politics. Mr Whitlam indicated that the role of the Australian navy in future would increasingly take on the character of coastguard work. It was his view that its traditional role as part of a bigger allied force was gone forever.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE MOVE ON BANABA

As PIM went to press the Banaban council of leaders were planning to fly from their Rabi Island, Fiji, to Nauru and then sail home to Banaba (Ocean Island) to demand that the British Phosphate Commission cease operations. This latest move to keep Banaba for the Banabans came at about the time the Gilbert Islands independence bill was to be debated in the House of Commons. The bill would make Banaba part of the future Kiribati, the Gilberts' chosen post-independence name. A Banaban spokesman said council members would be accompanied on their journey by Fiji Council of Trade Unions leader Apisai Tora and Fiji Government backbencher Fred Caine, and would be met on the island by about 200 Banabans. The council planned to embark upon passive resistance — sitting in front of machinery and across roads — if the BPC did not stop work. Their move has been supported by Jai Ram Reddy, leader of the National Federation Party opposition in Fiji. The spokesman said that if the BPC tried to prevent pressmen landing on Ocean Island the Banabans would invite them ashore 'as their own guests' (PIM Political Currents).

'OIL' RIG FOR FRENCH N-TESTS

After conducting 14 underground tests around the rim of French Polynesia's Mururoa atoll, France's *Centre d'Experimentations du Pacifique* (CEP) will henceforth use the offshore techniques of the oil companies and drill all further bomb pits from a platform built in the centre of the lagoon. This was the main message delivered in Papeete on a recent visit by General Dubost, in charge of the French nuclear test programme.

SOVIET ENVOY AS FENCE-MENDER

Fence-mending seemed to be the order of the day during the third annual routine visit to Fiji made by the Soviet Union's ambassador to Australia, A. V. Basov. Recalling Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's remark (PIM August 1978) that he would be 'pretty scared' to have a Soviet embassy in Suva, Mr Basov said 'nobody should be scared' of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union had never threatened any other country or forced its ideology on others. (What happened in Czechoslovakia in 1968 was apparently something different.) But Mr Basov said

his country hoped to develop trade with Fiji in goods like agricultural equipment, cars, radios, cameras and small power plants. Fiji could find potential markets in the USSR for timber, sugar, copra and coconut oil. Mr Basov said that at no time during his visit had he raised the matter of setting up a Soviet embassy in Suva.

PNG'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY MOVES

Papua New Guinea will establish overseas posts in Manila, Philippines, and Honiara, Solomon Islands, this year. The moves will raise PNG's number of overseas missions to 13. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Ebia Olewale has announced the appointment of an Australian academic to conduct a six-month survey of PNG foreign policy. A key issue in the review, to be made by Dr Ted Wolfers of Macquarie University, Sydney, is likely to be PNG's relationships with China and the USSR.

FIJI: SUGAR POLITICS' VICTIM

The eruption of Fiji's sugar politics (PIM Political Currents) claimed a top-level casualty with the resignation from cabinet of Minister for Communications and Works James Shankhar Singh. Mr Singh, a cane farmer, was reported to have 'reservations' about the controversial new sugar farmers' contract. Warned by Prime Minister Mara that he had to throw his weight behind the government campaign for it, or that 'cabinet changes would be made affecting him', he resigned.

CONGRATULATIONS, DEMOS, FOR HEBRIDES

The new government of national unity of the New Hebrides (PIM February) has received goodwill messages from the governments of Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand. At the same time supporters of the 'moderate' parties have staged demonstrations in various places claiming that 'too much power' in the new government has gone to members of the Vanuaaku Party. In fact, the moderate parties and the VP each have five places in the government, with moderate Gerard Leymang as chief minister, having a casting vote.

NEW CURBS ON FIJI'S PRESS?

The Fiji Government is planning legislation for a press council. Information Minister Ratu William Toganivalu said the government was looking at relevant legislation from Singapore, Sri Lanka and India. Ratu William said the Sri Lankan and Indian ordinances seemed to be 'a bit on the rough side' for Fiji, but there was no harm in picking out what was wanted from them.

MARA ON POLITICS AND THE GAMES

The future of the South Pacific Games could be affected if politics were brought into them, said Fiji's Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. He was commenting on plans by an anti-colonial and anti-nuclear group to stage demonstrations at the August-September games in Suva (PIM January). Asked if the government would stop such a demonstration Ratu Mara said it could only go by the law and either issue or not issue a permit for one. But if people spontaneously showed flags, as they had done elsewhere, there was not very much the government could do about it.

MICRONESIA'S CONGRESS MEETS

A 30-day session of the interim congress of the Federated States of Micronesia got under way on January 30 in Kolonia, Ponape. The meeting was held in newly renovated chambers at the former Ponape hospital.

AIR NIUGINI MAN LASHES AIRPORT DECISION

Upgrading of Port Moresby's Jacksons Airport to accommodate Qantas Boeing 747 aircraft was 'disgraceful', when Air Niugini could not get airfield improvements for domestic travellers, according to Air Niugini's general manager, Bryan Grey. Mr Grey, who had announced his resignation from the airline's top

job about a week before (PIM Tradewinds), said he agreed with government spokesmen that 'what is good for Air Niugini is not necessarily good for PNG', adding: 'I would also like the planners and fund providers to realise that what is good for Qantas is likely to be a sight less good for Papua New Guinea.'

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE CLOSES DOORS

Operation of the Pacific Women's Resource Centre in Suva has been suspended until 1981, according to a decision of the second Pacific women's conference. Organiser Makereta Waqavonovono said the suspension was due to the greater involvement of women in their own countries and the lack of secure and continuous funding for the activities of the centre. Links would be maintained through the Peacesat satellite at the USP's extension services and through quarterly newsletters.

MORE LEPERS IN TRUK

A total of 89 active leprosy cases have been identified on several islands in the Truk Lagoon, Micronesia, after a survey held late last year. Sixty-nine had been previously registered, and 20 more were discovered during the survey.

NEW SEA LIMITS FOR SOLOMONS

The Solomon Islands parliament has given the government power to declare new sea limits in addition to the 200-mile fishing zone introduced in January. The new powers will not be used immediately, but as it thinks fit the government may increase the territorial sea limit from three to 12 miles, as well as introduce a 200-mile economic zone.

ASIAN POLICE FOR PNG?

Recruitment of police officers from Asian countries including Malaysia and Japan is under discussion in Papua New Guinea police circles. The idea is to train a crack squad of PNG police for top level security duties, including acting as security officers for top government officials and visiting dignitaries and providing security at airports.

AUSTRALIAN AID FOR PNG

Papua New Guinea would receive \$A223 million in Australian aid in 1979-80 and \$232 million in 1980-81, according to an announcement by Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrew Peacock. Under arrangements which began on July 1, 1976, and which extend over five years, PNG receives a minimum of \$180 million in budgetary support aid from Australia each year. Under the provision for annual supplements, the supplement will be \$43 million in 1979-80 and \$52 million in 1980-81.

BULK DRUG BUYING BY 15 COUNTRIES

A list of essential drugs for combined bulk purchasing has been adopted by 15 South Pacific countries at a meeting in Suva. The meeting, sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, brought together representatives of the 15 countries concerned — American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Gilbert Islands, Guam, Nauru, New Hebrides, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Tuvalu.

'MOONISTS' LAND IN TONGA

The 'Moonist' religious cult, of Korean origin, has quietly implanted itself in Tonga, according to a report in the *Tonga Chronicle*. The newspaper says that so far five Tongans, four teen-age boys and a young woman, have forsaken their homes to live permanently at the cult's missionary centre at Peseti Latu's housing complex at Pahu, Nukualofa.

FIJI'S FIRST LOSS IN LEBANON

In Lebanon two Fiji soldiers were killed and four were wounded in a rocket and machine-gun attack by Arab guerrillas on February 3. Dead are Corporal Vidya Sagar, 32, of Nasea, Labasa, and Private Alifereti Qaranivalu Leitubadei, 18, of Vunaqoro, Ruwailevu, Nadroga. Wounded were Private Lote Tuidravu, 30, of Wailevu, Labasa, Private Navitalai Nabobo, 20, of Suweni, Wairiki, Taveuni, Private Epeli Sivua, 32, of Nacula, Labasa, and Private Indar Sharma Deo, 25, of Labasa.

NORFOLK REJECTS ISLAND BILL

Norfolk Island Council on February 7 unanimously rejected the

Norfolk Island Bill 1978 as unacceptable to the people of the island. The rejection comes in the wake of a build-up of sentiment spearheaded by the Society of Descendants of the Pitcairn Settlers. However, the council has invited Australian Minister for Home Affairs Bob Ellicott to resume negotiations for a bill which will give the islanders an acceptable degree of self government. The council also decided to seek Norfolk membership of the South Pacific Commission.

FIJI LOOKS BACK TO OLD VILLAGE SYSTEM

Fiji is considering reintroduction of a traditional local government system which was scrapped 30 years ago. Under the system, Fijians run their local affairs as administrative units called *tikinas*, possibly led by an official known as the *buli*. Revival of the system, it is hoped, would check a decline in respect for law and order in the villages, coupled with unwillingness to fulfil communal duties.

MULTI-MILLION 'POLITICAL' FIRE IN PNG

Sympathisers of Irian Jaya freedom fighters have claimed responsibility for burning government offices in Port Moresby in January. The fire destroyed the finance department offices and caused damage estimated at several million dollars.

ARCADIA FOR BREAKER'S YARD

Well known in island ports throughout the South Pacific, the P&O cruise ship *Arcadia* was withdrawn from service in January, and prepared for the breaker's yard in Taiwan. *Arcadia* will be replaced by the more modern *Sea Princess*, described by her owners as 'ideally suited to cruising in South Pacific waters'.

ENJEBI FOLK MAY GO BACK

Natives of Enjebi Island in Enewetak Atoll may be allowed to return to their nuclear-bombed homeland within the next few years. The director of the US Defence Nuclear Agency, Vice-Admiral Robert Monroe, said the \$US100 million Enewetak clean-up had been so successful that the island, previously thought to be a nuclear desert, might be resettled.

TUVALU GETS THE MILLIONS

An agreement has been signed in Suva between Britain and Tuvalu providing for \$A4.65 million to be made available to Tuvalu by the British Government on grant terms. A special development fund providing for a further grant of about \$A4.5 million was agreed at the constitutional conference in London last year, and a technical co-operation agreement is expected to be signed shortly. Forty-one projects have so far been agreed for Tuvalu including provision for a seaplane service between Funafuti and outer islands, completion of the electrification of Funafuti, and various construction, agricultural and marine projects.

MARSHALLS' FISHING FUTURE BRIGHT

The Japan Marine Fishery Resources Centre has completed gathering data for research on the fish and fish bait resources of the Marshall Islands. Indications are that Marshalls waters had an average yield of 51 buckets of bait per day, which compares favourably with areas already engaged in large-scale commercial fishing like Fiji, where the average was claimed to be 35-40 buckets per day, and Ponape 30 buckets per day.

AUSTRALIAN PILOTS 'BLACK' PNG AIRLINE

The Australian Federation of Air Pilots has threatened to blacklist pilots joining or working for an internal Papua New Guinea airline, Douglas Airways. The threat follows the airline's sacking in December of 17 striking pilots. The AFAP has threatened that pilots will be unable to get work with Australian airlines if they work for Douglas.

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER'S PROFIT JUMP

Directors of Bougainville Copper have lifted final dividend from 5¢ to 12.6¢ a share following a sharp improvement in operating profit in the second half of 1978. Earnings before tax and exchange movements jumped from \$A26.8 million in the first half to \$35.7 million in the second half.

DIARRHOEA MICRONESIA'S TOP KILLER

Diarrhoeal disease was the main cause of death in the US Trust Territory in 1977, health services officials said. Most deaths occurred in the Marshalls and Truk districts.

THE AWKWARD OCEANIAN

Trying to help or is it conscience money?

Staff writer Malcolm Salmon reports on a PIM investigation into the hearings and report by the Australian Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on the subject, Australia and the South Pacific.

There was no lack of paper on the streets of central Sydney on that hot January day: a strike by city council garbage collectors had left the town littered with bits of old newspapers and other rubbish.

PIM picked its way through the mess in search of still more paper: the 1473-page transcript of evidence given to the hearings on *Australia and the South Pacific* held in 1977 by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.

But disappointment lurked ahead: at the Pitt Street offices of the Australian Government Publishing Service the counter attendant, languid despite the air conditioning, leant casually on a filing cabinet flicking through a card index. 'We don't get all of the transcripts of those inquiries,' he said. Then: 'No, we haven't got that one. We've never had it.'

He motioned with a limp arm to a shelf: 'Have a look over there,' he told PIM. 'That's all we've got in that line. I've got to go to lunch.'

PIM did indeed examine the contents of the shelf: sure enough, there were volumes containing the evidence given to the Senate committee at earlier inquiries into the 'Soviet threat' in the Indian Ocean, and the problems posed by Vietnamese refugees. But despite the fact that they had been published many months before, there was not a sign of the volumes of evidence given to the committee's inquiry into the problems of relations between Australia and the South Pacific.

It was an inauspicious beginning to PIM's efforts to analyse the impact of the committee's work. In April 1978 PIM had

carried a highly perceptive preview of the committee's report, which, when the report actually appeared shortly afterwards, did not seem to require further elaboration by us. In November 1978 PIM reported what seems to be the main practical consequence to have flowed so far from the committee's work: the Australian Government's offer, made at the September meeting of the South Pacific Forum on Niue, to fund for five years a trade commission in Australia to promote Island exports in the country. For the rest, the committee's activities seemed to have been very much a lead balloon.

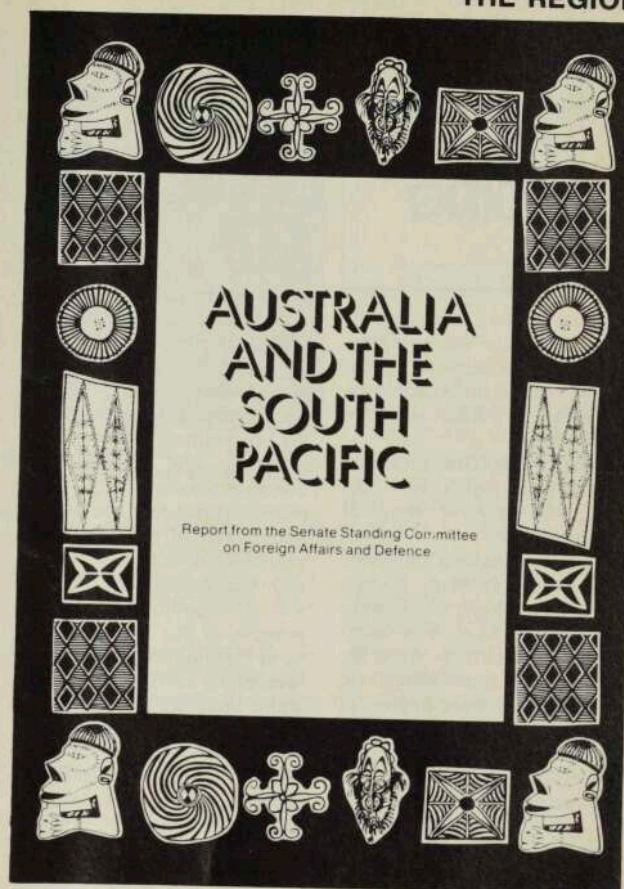
Such an idea was certainly confirmed by the fact that the office of the AGPS in Sydney, Australia's largest city, set on the shores of the Pacific, where interest in the region is probably higher than in most other Australian cities and whose business houses certainly profit relatively more from Australia-Pacific trade than firms based in other centres, had not even seen fit to stock the committee's transcript of evidence.

PIM quickly took corrective action: a phone call to Canberra, and the assistance of the staff of committee member Senator John Knight, ensured that the two volumes of the transcript were soon in our hands.

Interest in the report flared briefly in the Senate last August when it was finally the subject of debate.

Three main points emerged from the Senate discussion:

- Complaints about the long delay in debating the report.
- Criticism of the fact that



the committee in its work was unable to visit the South Pacific, parliamentary regulations restricting its travel rights to journeys within Australia. (Three of the committee's six members had actually visited some Island countries in the recent past, but not in their capacity as committeemen.) One committee member, Senator McIntosh (Labor, Western Australia), said: 'I believe that on one occasion a committee member, talking about the committee's report, was held up as a laughing stock when he was asked whether the committee had visited the Pacific Islands. He could only say no.'

• A related criticism which suggested that the committee's report was the result of a lot of white men talking to each other since, throughout its deliberations, it had received evidence from only two indigenous Island people. Both happened to be temporarily attached to Australian universities at the time of the committee's sit-

tings. (They were Sione Tupouniua, of Tonga, a lecturer at the University of the South Pacific, who was doing post-graduate work at the Australian National University, and Tupeni Baba of Fiji, also a USP lecturer, who was similarly occupied at Macquarie University, Sydney. Mr Baba's evidence to the committee was prominently featured in PIM February 1978.)

The transcript of evidence was not PIM's only resource for an analysis of the committee's work. In preparation for the project, as long ago as last November, PIM wrote to the 80 or so people who gave evidence to the committee, seeking their opinions on its report. The letter has so far drawn 25 replies, a better than 25 per cent response, which can't be counted too bad in view of the intervention of the Christmas-New Year holiday period.

Of the 25, 15 — well over half — declined to make any comment at all on the report. All nine Commonwealth public

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servants among the respondents were in this category, which also included an executive of one of the major Australian trading firms active in the Pacific.

Two respondents promised later replies which have not come to hand at time of writing.

Eight respondents did comment, several of them at some length. Of these, four were prepared to have their comments attributed to them by name, and four were not, although they were happy for their remarks to be published.

But first, in fairness to the committee, and in order to help understanding of respondents' comments on its work, its 10 principal policy recommendations, appearing on pp 3-4 of its report, are here reproduced in full:

- It is recommended that Australia's initiatives should convey the message that close and friendly relations are desired equally with all South Pacific countries and that no one country should predominate in Australia's diplomacy. While Australia has responsibilities towards Papua New Guinea this does not relegate other countries to a secondary position in our considerations.
- The committee believes that it is important for Australia to encourage and welcome further diplomatic representation from the region in Australia and recommends that assistance should be given to the establishment of this representation where possible. The committee notes that Australia has recently increased its diplomatic missions and extended its representation in the region and recommends that this high level of representation be maintained and kept under review.
- The committee understands

that some problems may be developing within the Development Assistance Bureau and the Department of Foreign Affairs with respect to staff resources handling relations with the South Pacific area. While heavy emphasis continued to be placed on Papua New Guinea, quite properly, limited resources appear to be available to deal with development assistance or other policy matters relating to the South Pacific. In the context of its overall inquiry and the recommendations made, the committee believes this matter is one of great significance. Accordingly it is recommended that a review be undertaken of staff resources available in both the bureau and the department to deal with the South Pacific. The purpose of this review should be to examine whether staff resources are currently adequate and if there are problems then action should be taken as a matter of some urgency to ensure that adequate staff and other facilities are available to implement Australia's policies, recent important initiatives and future developments, including those recommended in this report, in Australia's relations with the South Pacific.

- As well as the present economic relations and development assistance programme which Australia has with South Pacific countries, it is recommended that Australia should increase its efforts to broaden and develop its relations to take into account political, diplomatic, social, cultural and sporting considerations. Australia, in partnership with South Pacific countries, must work to promote more widespread and frequent exchanges between people at all levels.
- At this stage the introduction of a 'guest worker' scheme in Australia for people from South Pacific countries appears to be impractical. However it is recommended that the proposal should not be dismissed and when economic circumstances in Australia change, the scheme should be reassessed, if requested by Pacific Island governments.
- There is a need to correct the impression that Australia's im-

migration policy is discriminatory. The policy should be fully and widely explained and it is recommended that particular attention be given to this task. In particular, efforts should be made to ensure that the administration of the policy be handled with sensitivity and discretion in view of the importance of our relations with the people of the South Pacific.

- To improve accessibility to the Australian market for South Pacific products it is strongly recommended that an examination be conducted into quarantine restrictions applying to Island fruits and vegetables. Doubts have been expressed on whether all these



W. D. Bill Forsyth, circa 1948, on his appointment as the SPC's first secretary-general ... 'We should stop trying to lead the Islanders up a garden path'

restrictions are justified and the results of this examination should be circulated widely in Australia and throughout the South Pacific.

- It is recommended that the existing Australian system of tariff preferences and marketing advice facilities (particularly the service provided by the Market Advisory Section, Department of Trade and Resources) be kept under periodic review and a comprehensive promotion of how South Pacific countries can derive the most benefit from these services be a feature of Australia's official trade relations in the region.
- While Australia's commercial image in the South Pacific region is improving, it is recommended that close liaison between the Australian Government and Australian

firms operating or intending to establish businesses in the South Pacific be promoted. Intending firms should be made aware of the host government's guidelines to ensure that an acceptable code of business conduct is maintained.

- To help overcome the relatively short term experience and lack of representation of many South Pacific countries in international trade meetings and marketing promotion, it is recommended that Australia, if the Island governments request, consider: (a) presenting Island views at international trade meetings and/or inviting Island representatives to accompany Australian missions and delegations as observers; (b) attaching Island trainees or officers to Australian trade commissioner offices overseas for training and promoting their countries' products in countries where they are not represented; (c) assisting where appropriate with the marketing of Island goods but taking into account the interests of Australian producers.

Two quite radical, and quite different, appraisals of the report came from respondents representing the younger and older generations of Australian students of Pacific Island affairs.

One was from Ian Macdonald, 29, who, when he gave evidence to the committee, was research assistant to Senator George Georges (Labor, Queensland), and who is now a professional research officer with the attorney-general of New South Wales. The other was from W. D. Forsyth, who celebrated his seventieth birthday this year and who, among a long list of other diplomatic posts, served as the first secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission, from 1948-51.

In deference to his years and experience, PIM presents Mr Forsyth's comments first. He wrote:

'Among my opinions on the Senate report are the following:

'We should stop trying to lead the Islanders up a garden path we know from our own experience, or ought to know

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is a blind alley, that is, the path of multiplication of material consumption.

'Our approach should be along the lines of promoting a world of interdependent cultural units, not of ingratiating ourselves for purposes of some futile strategic formula which most likely is already outdated in the nuclear age.

'The best thing any country could do for the Pacific Islanders would be to help them sit out the phasing-out period of the present form of Euro-American "civilisation" — so to speak, help to tide them over the decline of the present Western style of acquisitive, would-be affluent, society. They have kept enough of their own cultures both above ground and under to be able to reconstruct a good form of their own way of life, which was well adjusted to their own special environment, and could again in future afford their race a satisfying way of life. Sharing rather than greed was its keynote.

'Australia cannot in my opinion do much to help them in this because its own values are unformed and it really has little influence compared with that of Europe and America.

'We can however contribute in two ways if we want to: (a)

by helping the Islands to preserve their culture and their environment, and (b) by facilitating Island interchange, which would strengthen their chances of surviving Western material "values" by fostering the Pacific Way.

'Both can best be promoted through the established regional organs in which the various Island peoples can thrash out what they want to do and where we can learn what will and what will not be helpful.

'I support the committee recommendations which work in those directions. My disappointment was that some of them don't.

'I was disappointed also because the opportunity to work out a comprehensive and coherent policy was passed up in favour of the usual materialistic concatenation of pragmatic "solutions" to insufficiently analysed "problems".

'Even on purposes the report gave no clear answer. Why do we want to give aid to Pacific Islands? Is it conscience money, danegeld, bribery, "national interest", profit, or altruism?

'But without clear purpose, aid is waste of money and men.

'The committee produced



Ian Macdonald ... the report 'provides no real sense of direction'

some nice sentiments and interesting suggestions but almost nothing of what is most needed at this stage, hard thought.'

Mr Macdonald wrote in different but equally critical vein: 'My overall view of the Senate committee's report is that it is lacking in imagination and creativity. It glosses over some of the major problems with our relationship with South Pacific countries, and provides no real sense of direction for Australia's future role in the region. The report provides a good travelogue of political institutions and social details of countries in the South Pacific, but contains little else. Unfortunately, the report is essentially a litany and "song of praise" to Australia's "benevolent" attitude towards the South Pacific.

'If my comments seem rather harsh it is because of the expectations for something more imaginative to have evolved out of the committee's deliberations. In the committee's defence it can be said that they did not have the resources to travel to the South Pacific in order to get at first hand some of the views of Australia's image in the region and that this lack of contact shows through in the committee's report. However, it must be remembered that the report does indeed survey the Australian Government's position (for this perhaps read the position of the Department of Foreign Affairs) and as a consequence must be analysed as it is and more importantly

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within the terms of what it could have been.

'The report proposes little change in Australia's role with South Pacific countries. Only minor changes to current programmes are proposed such as the appointment of trade attachés to Australian diplomatic posts in the region, a step which is ostensibly to assist South Pacific countries export to Australia. This lack of proposals is definitely most unfortunate given the wealth of ideas that were presented to the committee in evidence from a large number of well qualified individuals and organisations.

'To explain more fully this point take the example of Australia's development assistance programme to the South Pacific. We are all very aware of the dramatic increase in overall government expenditure in the South Pacific. Whilst this has been generally welcomed there remains a number of structural changes that should have been dealt with by the committee in its report. The need for a critical self-examination of Australia's development assistance programme in the South Pacific is required precisely because a large number of South Pacific Islanders regard Australia's role and intentions with a large measure of scepticism.

'For instance on April 18, 1977, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, of Fiji, said: "I think Australia is helping us because it is a rich country and not because it has respect for us." It is this feeling which appears to be rather widespread in the South Pacific and demands to be tackled both critically and with a degree of imagination on Australia's behalf. Yet the Senate standing committee on foreign affairs and defence proposes little in the way of change to the development assistance pro-

'GUEST WORKER' CAUSE

The Senate committee in its report ruled that a 'guest worker' scheme for Pacific Islanders in Australia was 'impractical at this stage'.

But the idea of launching such a scheme was given support by PIM's publisher, Stuart Inder, at a hearing of the committee in Sydney in July 1977. He said: 'About two years ago I stopped off at Tuvalu the very day Tuvalu came into existence on October 1, 1975. In fact the whole cabinet was there at the airport ...

'At the time there had been newspaper talk of the possibility that phosphate mines would be opened up in Queensland.

'I spoke to all these fellows and the questions from all of them were: "Why can't we come into Australia? We need the money. We are pretty good at phosphate work. We have been working up at Nauru and Ocean Island for all these years. We can do that specialised work. Is there any reason in the world why we cannot come into this country for six months at a time? We are pretty good and we can send the money home and we can go back later."

'I have heard this story so often over so many years that there is no doubt in my mind that it is building up a resentment and the truth is that I cannot, in view of their attitude, which has existed and persisted for so long, despite our problems, despite the problems we might have with the unions or anything else, honestly believe that we can go on keeping these fellows out. They are fully entitled in my view to come here just the same as I can go to various countries.'

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gramme, and more particularly proposes no improvements in the assistance delivery system that would enable South Pacific Islanders themselves to more actively participate in the decision-making process. This is the core of the committee's failure in relation to the South Pacific. No sense of partnership is proposed for the development assistance programme. Australia continues to pull the strings.

'It is a report full of complacency on the issue of development assistance and indeed towards several other areas of Australia's role in the South Pacific.

'The neo-colonialist relationship of Australia to the South Pacific is ignored. There are no proposals contained in the report dealing with the problems created by Australian investment in the region. We cannot escape the fact that Australian investment in the New Hebrides, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea is large and has major

effects on these countries, especially on local economic programmes, resources utilisation and on the lifestyles of the indigenous peoples. Yet the committee in its report chose to ignore proposals designed to regulate Australian business activity such as the implementation of a "code of ethics" for companies operating in the region.

'Further, the report does not point out that Australian companies such as W. R. Carpenter, Burns Philp, Steamships Trading Company, Qantas and the National Bank tend to dominate the economic lives of South Pacific Islands through diversified subsidiary holdings and takeovers of local companies. The net effect of this business activity in the South Pacific has led to what I described in my submission to the committee as a "block-out effect". The spread of Australian-owned companies within the indigenous economies has tended to block out local initiative and industry formation. In the face of these problems the committee chose to ignore or avoid proposing changes which could limit Australia's economically dominant role in the economies of the South Pacific. South Pacific local ownership and control, with some overseas economic investment and assistance, should have been the direction aimed at by Australia. Yet the



Tonga's Slone Tupouniua ... one of only two Islanders to give evidence

report fails to point towards this concept decisively and clearly.

'These are my basic criticisms of the report. I feel that the committee has treated the topic with a large degree of complacency and little creativity. The report will serve as a guide for higher school certificate students but will tell us nothing of how Australia's relations with the developing Pacific Island countries will or should proceed. It proposes little change as we enter the 1980s. Australia the paternalist is the spirit of the report, rather than, dare we suggest, Australia as a full partner.'

Australia's heavy economic clout in the South Pacific was also evoked by another respondent, who wrote: 'I am not so sure that Australia realises the extent to which it has influence through businesses in the South Pacific. Nor am I sure that Australia is likely to give away much, for example, in the civil aviation sphere if for no other reason than that it must deal bilaterally with the emergent Island states and they themselves are overly suspicious of each other.

'To do something for one would possibly cause problems with the others, at the same time weakening the Australian airline's position.

'To do nothing much at all is the easy line. To concentrate on helping with communications will also facilitate the activities of Australian businesses as much as Island ones - probably more so until

Australia makes it easier for Island imports into Australia in competition with locally produced items.

'I think the committee was honest enough to admit that there is considerable self-interest in the aid given, and that it is not exactly what the Islanders themselves want. But to get that want defined exactly is a very difficult process.'

Improvements in Australia's economic performance, with special emphasis on the importance of the concept of partnership raised by Mr Macdonald, were the main concern of an executive of an Australian manufacturing firm active in the Islands. He wrote: 'Given the wide scope of the investigation, which embraced the major part of the South Pacific region, I felt the committee's report was a creditable one. My main concern is that the inquiry was, in fact, too ambitious, resulting in many of its elements lacking depth.

'The conclusions and recommendations reached by the committee are heavily directed towards social issues and inter-governmental relations, at the expense, I felt, of any real attempt to analyse the economic potential of the region and the help Australia might contribute towards commercial development. The original Senate resolution of September 23, 1976, referred to "the need for an increased Australian commitment towards development in the South Pacific". This commitment was examined by the committee more in terms of diplomatic relations, aid, environment, education, health, welfare, etc, than in terms of basic economic realities.

'In the evidence presented on behalf of my own company, I endeavoured to bring out the value of the partnership approach to commercial ventures in developing countries... We have applied this philosophy... and have found it of immense value to have a significant local equity which is active in the business. If, combined with this, there is a meaningful relationship between dividends paid out and funds ploughed back into the business, then a basis exists for

PIM — PRO AND CON

PIM came in for its share of comment both in the correspondence arising from its questionnaire and in evidence before the Senate inquiry.

W. D. Forsyth wrote, in the course of his reply to PIM's questionnaire:

'PIM has been in one aspect a good influence in the region as a factor towards the "interchange" between the Islanders themselves upon which in my opinion their future happiness depends more than on anything else. As you may guess I have less complimentary feelings about its association with some of the materialist factors that have played a not negligible role in the damaging effects of the impact of the West, especially through Australian agencies.'

Ed Howard, Norfolk Island publicist, told the Senate inquiry:

'The islands of the South Pacific are well aware of one another. Newspapers crisscross among the islands; we visit one another and talk. There are periodic conferences and informal sessions long into the night afterwards. We correspond and read one another's official reports. Our different problems and aspirations are discussed with great intelligence in one of the world's outstanding magazines, Pacific Islands Monthly...'

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A MAORI SPEAKS

From an article by Maori Manuka Mita Puku, in Development News Digest December 1978:

In many respects it would be a good thing from a Maori and Aborigine point view for the economies of Australia and New Zealand to collapse because it would be a wonderful test of the sincerity and commitment on the part of the European immigrants. Those who are committed will stay, those who are here for their own ends will go back to Europe just as the Europeans left India, China, the Belgian Congo, Angola and Mozambique. Just as the white Rhodesians are now leaving Zimbabwe.

'This trend is apparent now in New Zealand. As our economy has become very shaky, we have the spectacle of more people leaving New Zealand than coming in. Where are they heading? To the other white enclaves, Australia first, perhaps Canada, but many are returning 'home' to Europe.

'In the meantime the Maori will continue to wait patiently for the Pakeha to sort out his and her identity crisis, to seek reconciliation of their historical guilt complex and to transform their latent colonial attitudes, and finally to integrate with the indigenous peoples of our part of the world.

'It is important for all of us that the Pakeha solve their problems, because the Pakeha dreams of building new societies in Australia and New Zealand are becoming Maori and Aborigine nightmares.'

a constructive contribution by an outside corporation to local economic development. The committee might perhaps have addressed itself to some of these matters with a view to providing some support and impetus for the larger Australian companies to look more closely at regional economic development.

'As a general overview of the South Pacific, the report is adequate and well prepared. However, in terms of developmental help by Australian industry, the report dealt only with the status quo and did not provide any useful leads for the future.'

Ed Howard, editor of the *Norfolk Island News*, wrote at length, voicing his 'serious concern and disapproval' at the report. He said: 'My testimony, briefly, was that Australia's relations with South Pacific Islands are importantly affected by Australia's observable attitudes toward its one remaining South Pacific Island territory, Norfolk Island. I suggested that these observable attitudes spoke louder than words, and that Australia in its own interest ought to take a more enlightened, less colonial, stance toward Norfolk ...

'The committee's report re-

sponded to my testimony in a quite extraordinary way: Norfolk Island has simply been eliminated. It doesn't exist, except for my name in the list of those who gave evidence, and the island's location on the map inside the back cover ... Whatever the reason for the omission, it was made, as can be seen from the list of all South Pacific countries and territories on page 7. After Niue comes Papua New Guinea. Norfolk Island doesn't exist ... The trouble is that Norfolk Island has not vanished ...

'If you wish to weigh the genuineness of the report's brotherly sentiments toward the Islands and peoples of the South Pacific, you may like to ask the committee whether it proposes to apply the principles it espouses in the case of the one South Pacific island where it can put them into practice if it in fact believes them.

'What will Australia actually do, in the event? A parliamentary bill has been introduced to bestow on Norfolk the right to administer its roads, drains and noxious weeds on Australia's behalf, and to reaffirm Australia's colonial control over all meaningful governmental matters. This proposed new form of administration would draw

its authority not from the free will of those governed, but by Australian fiat.

'Throughout the South Pacific and elsewhere, thoughtful individuals who are concerned to know what Australia's real policies toward the Islands are will be able to observe a remarkable moment in history. A simple question — can the peoples of the Islands safely rely on Australia's word? — is about to be answered, definitely, on Norfolk Island.'

Finally, two respondents took up with vigour problems raised in the August Senate debate: the lack of opportunity for the committee as such to visit South Pacific countries, and the consequent lack of evidence from Islanders.

An academic wrote: 'One basic deficiency of the report, I feel, was that the committee was unable to talk directly with Pacific Islanders in any number and therefore the committee's comments do seem to accept that there is relatively little criticism of Australia's activities in the Pacific from within the Pacific.

'It seems to me that this is the public official view of many Pacific governments. But if one speaks to people off the record, when they feel that their comments will not adversely affect their aid grants, etc, then one hears deeply-felt criticisms. These do not necessarily surface on the cocktail circuit, but anyone who spends any length of time in close contact with Pa-

AUSTRALIA AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC

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cific Islanders soon uncovers many resentments against Australia's past and present role in the region.'

A representative of a voluntary aid body active in the South Pacific made a similar point: 'Perhaps if the committee had had the advantage of more input from the Islanders themselves it would have proved of greater value in our understanding of the present situation of our relationship with the area.

'Although I ploughed through the transcript recorded in a Hansard publication, and found this to be most educational and enlightening, I did not consider that the report itself reflected to any great degree the concerns expressed in evidence by many of the witnesses at Australia's attitude towards the South Pacific region. In fact, I found most of the criticism of business houses, government, and Australian tourists was not emphasised, and I would venture to say that our relationship with the region will not be enhanced by the majority of the findings.

'In regard to my own evidence, enough said. I was surprised at much of the aggressive questioning by some of the Senators (not all), when one was only present in the hope of assisting. Also I found the general knowledge among the committee of the economies and cultures of the diverse peoples in the region to be of a very poor standard.

Mr P. C. Best, group general manager of Burns Philp & Co Ltd, while finding the Senate inquiry 'timely', lashed out at the failure by the Australian Government to take the slightest follow-up action on its findings. His seven-point reply said:

'1. It was timely for the Aus-



Burns Philp's Philip Best ... the Australian Government will lose much in goodwill

THE REGION

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tralian Government to assess its position in respect of its relations with the countries of the Pacific region. We say "timely" because with the recent independence of Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Ellice Islands (Tuvalu), and the approaching independence of the New Hebrides and the Gilbert Islands, the reference point for an exchange of views has been progressively changed from absentee governments to those of the people. In a short 10 years almost all of the islands of the South Pacific are now self-governed, with independent thought and purpose.

'2. Australia plays a dominant role in these areas because of its proximity, its economic dominance through Australian-owned commercial enterprises, and as a supplier of

the major portion of food and allied products.

'3. The report and most submissions to the committee emphasised this fact but did not, in reality, confirm whether it was good or bad and whether Australia and the people of the region might expect the position to remain the same.

'4. We are disappointed that the committee did not see fit to make directives for the attention of the ministries of foreign affairs, trade, transport, industrial relations and immigration to investigate those areas of criticism covering those ministries.

'5. We are disappointed that we, as one of the major Australian-based companies in the region, have not been invited by the Australian Government to amplify some of the views expressed and suggestions made in our submission.

'6. There is no evidence to suggest that the Australian Government, through its ministries, has made any effort to utilise the information contained in the report, or to seek, by invitation, the views of the Island governments and people on the constructive aspects of the report.

A FIJI CHRISTIAN VIEW

From an interview by Mark Raper with Lorini Tevi, general secretary of the Pacific Council of Churches, in Development News Digest December 1978:

'In the Pacific there seems to be an ambiguous attitude towards Australia and New Zealand. Perhaps a sense of fear and a desire to keep these larger countries out?

'It is not a total fear, but there is a real fear of the great damage they would do. We know now what Australia has done to the Pacific, for example in Fiji. Australia has the greater portion of profits and investments here; they are not really helping us to sustain ourselves to be self-supporting. If there is a power that dominates economic life, then we cannot play our role in partnership together. This moment in the Pacific is like our adolescent period where we are trying to find our identity. It is better to get the parents out sometimes. Once we really gain our identity and solidarity, then we can realise our interdependencies. We want to come to a more mature and solid basis of exchange where we can discuss things openly and honestly without that feeling of inferiority that you are the father and that you have everything and that you are just giving it out to us. That is the struggle.'

'7. Although the major shareholding of the Burns Philp companies is domiciled in Australia, we see our operations in the South Pacific working for the benefit of the economic development of those countries in which we trade and to align our businesses in the direction of the individual government's wishes. The Australian Government, as distinct from

Australian companies, will lose much in goodwill and the ability to keep itself informed if it remains aloof from this additional source of input.'

Mr Best adds: 'We said in the beginning that the need for this committee was timely, but what happens next? Is any benefit to accrue from this effort by members of the Senate? We think not and more is the pity.'

PIM SAYS

The outcome of the Australian Senate inquiry into 'Australia and the South Pacific' was fairly predictable. In fact, so predictable, that, according to one Foreign Affairs officer, 'by the time the report came out we had all its recommendations in hand anyway'. A smug, self-congratulatory statement, we think, though true in most respects. This kind of statement only helps to confirm the suspicion that Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs has no more imagination than the Senators who came up with such a bland report.

Whether Australia likes it or not, and despite its exceptional financial generosity to the Islands in comparison with the offerings of other ex-colonials, its stocks are not high in the South Pacific. If they had been, would Fiji have gone out of its way to humiliate Australia at last October's South Pacific Conference in Noumea?

The Australian Government should accept this report for what it is — a 'first'. And, like every 'first', it has obvious flaws, many of which are pointed out in the accompanying article. Equally obvious, such a serious subject will have to be tackled again — sooner rather than later.

Some lessons for the next time round are already apparent:

- The absurd regulation which prevented the committee from doing any work on the spot in the Pacific Islands must not prevail.
- The number of Islander witnesses must be dramatically increased. The excuse used by the committee at one point in its

report that Islanders written to did not reply to its letters is just not good enough.

- The philosophy of the inquiry must be much more clearly thought out. That is, its political and moral terms of reference must be made much clearer than they were this time. (The committee's original terms were 'The need for an increased Australian commitment toward development in the South Pacific'. But the Senate later backed off even this mildly affirmative formulation and opted for the completely neutral 'Australia and the South Pacific'.)

Perhaps the central moral dilemma is spelt out by the committee itself when it says:

'There has been a considerable amount of criticism that Australians in general have tended to be paternalistic in their dealings with Islanders. The committee recognises these sentiments but throughout our hearings this inquiry has had stressed to it that Australians have now generally learnt to guard against appearing paternalistic and, more importantly, that their actions are in no way intended to be paternalistic. Only the sincerity of Australia's present and future dealings in the region can allay these sentiments.' (Our emphasis.)

Some progress has probably been made by the Australians concerned in the first respect — guarding against appearing paternalistic. But anyone who believes that much progress has been made with the second is simply not looking straight at the problem — tough, complex, historically developed problem that it is. Too much of Australia's performance is paternalistic.

Only the glib and the irresponsible would pretend that this problem can be easily or quickly solved.

TOO MANY HENRYS SPOIL THE COOKS BROTH

Cook Islands Politics: The Inside Story – published by Polynesian Press, Auckland, in association with the South Pacific Social Sciences Association of Suva, from a study co-ordinated by Professor Ron Crocombe of the Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific – is a timely, no-punches-pulled account of political life in the Cook Islands since self-government. PIM's editorial adviser, John Carter, has made a selection of extracts.

Sir Albert had already called the snap election in January last year when Professor Crocombe, in the Cooks for Christmas holidays, sought contributors for the book which Cook Islanders had asked him to compile. He contacted all political camps but Cook Islands Party (CIP) supporters fought shy of the invitation. Many could see the writing on the wall. Rumour was rife at the time and it wasn't always a lying jade. Consequently, of the book's 22 writers, only a handful, including Sir Albert's son Hugh and daughter Louise, were supporters of the CIP. Their offerings are factual and contain little argument in favour of the CIP or Sir Albert.

Sir Albert himself agreed to write a chapter but, not surprisingly, it was never written. Throughout the historic last months of the House of Henry he maintained his dash and panache but, in the closing stages, it was a pose. Some of his thoughts he conveyed to a PIM contributor, Sheree Lipton, in Hawaii in June. He 'looked tired and sad' she wrote in PIM last August, adding later in a letter that he seemed to have little hope of a successful outcome to the affair.

Little in the book was written with hindsight, only the rough corners being rounded off, and a chapter, 'The saga of tension' added by Ron Crocombe and his Cook Islander wife Marjorie after the House of Henry had crumbled around Sir Albert's head.

Several writers were prominent in the inner circles of the CIP so their testimony should carry great weight with Cook Islanders who honestly believed in 'Papa Premier' and his party. Such a one is Mana Strickland, member of a prominent Island family, one of Sir Albert's early supporters and first minister for education in the CIP Government. He resigned in 1968, he says in his article, in protest against mismanagement by the CIP.

He points out that the party manifesto framed before self-government made seven promises. They were:

1. To ensure the election to government of those men and women dedicated to the cause of greater prosperity and increased social welfare of the Cook Islands.
2. To extend to all outer islands of the Cook Group, opportunities for greater economic development.
3. To maintain ties which exist between New Zealand and the Cook Islands.
4. To re-establish some of our traditional ways of life, culture, and to restore recognition to the holders of traditional titles.
5. To plan facilities for the encouragement of our young

people to remain in the Islands.

6. To strengthen our economic resources by good planning.

7. To ensure the establishment of good laws for all people in the Cook Islands.

And the result of CIP government, in Strickland's words:

1. Democratic elections did take place, and a group of persons were elected who promised to be dedicated to the cause of the ordinary people of the Cook Islands. But the Cook Islands Party now so controls the media, promotions, appointments and services for its own political gain that the



Sir Albert Henry . . . the 'greatest' says Ted Libby. Photo: Johnsons Photographic Studios

democratic vote becomes a farce.

2. Economic development has been ignored.

3. The best tie with New Zealand would have been mutual respect. I would have welcomed a policy of self-help, hard-work and determination to rely more on our efforts rather than more and more on New Zealand's increased charity. We have been beggars unnecessarily and have lost our self-respect and our self-reliance. This third promise to our people has been broken and our relations with New Zealand are at the lowest level they have ever been.

4. Traditional ways of life: little appreciable progress has been made and our traditional leaders have been ignored.

5. Encouragement for the young people to remain in the islands. Negative so far: the main emphasis has been on polarising our young people into a Junior Cook Islands Party which breeds hate and division, subsidised heavily from government staff and resources. The majority of young men and women emigrate as soon as they can.

6. Economic resources: Negative. Dependency in all its forms is acute and worsening.
7. Good laws: Little progress has been made, but crime statistics continue to increase.

I fear that your verdict will find us guilty on all counts. But I personally confessed my guilt and resigned in 1968. Since

COOK ISLANDS

then, I am sorry to say, our small country has seen only continuing deterioration.

Sir Albert has one admirer in the book – Ted Libby, an American journalist who became full-time public relations specialist in the premier's office and who moved out when Sir Albert's canoe began to sink. He got his dates wrong, recording one incident which 'illustrates another reason why Sir Albert Henry is recognised throughout the Pacific as one of the more important leaders'. That was Sir Albert's appearance in Suva as the Cook Islands' representative at the 'first South Pacific Forum conference in Suva, Fiji, in 1950'. He was only 22 years out, the conference actually being in September 1972.

He sums up Sir Albert's career this way:

'History will show that the Cook Islands has been extremely fortunate in having a man of such rare ability on hand to lead them from their birth as a self-governing nation. The combination of his unusual personal talents with his wide experience in politics and business has resulted in a brilliant leader. The things he has gained for the Cook Islands and its people will go down in the annals of Pacific islands history as outstanding achievements, gained under often adverse conditions. It is sad but true that too often we recognise our greatest men only after they are long gone.'

Almost as a planned denial of this praise comes the next chapter by Professor Crocombe, 29 pages of condemnation, chapter and verse of Sir Albert's alleged nepotism which was the subject of an article in PIM in September 1976. He uncovers a great deal and alleges that Lady Henry had a finger deep in the pie. Here are a few paragraphs from his case against Sir Albert and his wife:

'Returning to the Cook Islands after 17 years abroad, Albert Henry formed the Cook Islands Party and swept into power with a clear majority. He has been premier ever since. The 1965 election was fairly conducted and he won it honestly on the basis of his own talents and popularity. The same was true of 1968 election,

COOK ISLANDS



Dr Tom Davis . . . took only a few days to see complaints were justified

a little less true of the 1972 election, significantly less true of the 1974 election and quite untrue of the 1978 election.

'He was popularly referred to as Papa Premier. This was often used as the term of address to him in speeches, and he often referred to himself as "Papa Premier speaking" when he gave an address on the radio.

'His wife, Lady Elizabeth Henry, had significantly be-

come referred to as Mama Premier. This was no nominal title, it was a recognition of the very significant power she wielded. According to many leading Cook Islanders close to the family, she is the person Sir Albert fears most. In her presence he is not allowed to drink alcohol (though his aides know his tastes and add gin or vodka to his orange juice). His behaviour when away from Rarotonga without her is so remarkably different from when he is with her, that the difference is openly discussed in every Pacific capital. At home, her influence on cabinet decisions, public service appointments and ministerial actions of the head of government, form the basis for many a story: some of them hilarious, some startling, some distressing. Some are no doubt apocryphal, but the evidence for others is irrefutable.

'Since 1974 Sir Albert undertook much of his work at home. He did not attend Cabinet unless there were matters of major importance, and con-

ducted much of the business of state from his lounge, where Lady Henry is not only often present, but frequently a vigorous and influential participant. She was a significant political force . . .

'Of the seven Cook Islands students who passed the New Zealand University Entrance examination in 1977, five were from Demo families and two from CIP. The two CIP students received lower marks but both received university scholarships. None of the five Demo students received scholarships to university.

'The two northern group islands which support the Cook Islands Party — Pukapuka and Manihiki, have been supplied with electric power. Aitutaki, the island whose three members are all staunch supporters of the Cook Islands Party, has more power generation capacity than it can possibly use. The island of Mauke, the constituency of Sir Albert's son, has about four times more generating capacity operating than it uses. Some was for a

very unsuccessful beef cattle project sponsored by the Hon Tupui Henry which is heavily in debt.

'The island of Atiu has two Democratic members, but their lead over the Cook Islands Party is not great. A determined effort has been made to "win" Atiu and late in 1977, as the election preparations got under way, special aircraft were chartered and staff set aside and sent to Atiu. Every effort was made to get electricity installed before the election. They succeeded in getting the churches and village meeting houses lit up just in time. But after that, as a result of a political squabble, the power supply was taken out. The island of Mangaia, which votes overwhelmingly for the Democratic Party, has no electric power. CIP ministers told them firmly that they could not expect to get it while they did not support "the government". The adjacent island of Mauke, with less than one third of Mangaia's population, is supplied with power at a loss of

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COOK ISLANDS

\$12,000 per year and the Hon Tupui Henry has demanded that "his" island be given a 24 hour power supply which will cost the government \$48,000 per year in subsidy...

In 1976, Mr Cameron Henry, a cousin of Sir Albert, was charged with killing his own daughter. He was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years imprisonment. A probation report recommended that he not be imprisoned or fined. The chief justice, in sentencing, strongly condemned the probation report for its extreme bias and inaccuracy. Mr Henry was sentenced to imprisonment but spent much of his time outside. He was permitted the use of a motor car, and frequently went shopping, visiting friends, to social occasions and other activities, and he received government pay, all during his "imprisonment". The Hon Tupui Henry was minister in charge of prisons...

It is noticeable that no members of Sir Albert's family are

employed outside government or quasi-government occupations, and that almost all are in advantageous positions.

Why then, if the public accepts that the family has been privileged, have they tolerated the situation? Clearly, many have for years opposed it, and extreme political favouritism was one of the reasons given by both Dr Manea Tamarua for his resignation from the deputy premiership in 1967, and by Hon Mana Strickland for his resignation from the post of minister of education in 1968. Likewise, when Dr Joseph Williams resigned as minister of health and education and Mr William Estall from being minister of agriculture and Mr Raui Pokoati from the ruling party just before the 1978 elections, all gave nepotism as significant reasons for their dissatisfaction. Other very senior members of the party also privately express strong disapproval of the nepotism, though they value Sir Albert



Lady Henry ... Mama Premier. Photo: Bob Wallace

highly and are prepared to put up with it in order to retain his leadership. More crudely, some believe that he has the political skills to retain the premiership whether they like it or not, and that this is a price they have to pay. They may be right. But many Cook Islanders accept what Sir Albert so often tells them, that he has a "very clever family". He is indeed a most persuasive speaker...

Most of the more serious cases of nepotism involve relatives of Lady Henry as well, rather than of Sir Albert alone (and most of the glaring examples are those of their children and their grandchildren and their spouses). This tends to support the view held by many people in Rarotonga, that the nepotism was in part a concession by Sir Albert to pressure from his wife,

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COOK ISLANDS

whose frustrated ambitions seem to have been vicariously satisfied with having her offspring in the key manipulative roles. Their two sons, once they returned, seem to have applied extra pressure for family favours until within 10 years, the web of nepotism developed extreme proportions. It is not associated with efficiency, justice, or any other quality that could justify its existence, but its negative effects will probably take the Cook Islands many years to overcome...

'Another of Sir Albert's frequent claims is that he and his party represent "the small man". He emphasises his own "smallness": he claims to have little money, that his home in Aitutaki is modest, that in New Zealand he was associated with workers' unions, that he is a "simple man", a "man of the people". How far does this image accord with reality?

'As the man who consciously widened the gap between rich and poor much wider than it was even in colonial days, he succeeded in convincing the poor that he was their representative. In 1977 Sir Albert was on a salary of \$18,000, but the top \$4,000 of it was tax free, so his real take-home pay was the equivalent of a taxable income of about \$21,000. He is the only head of government in the Pacific so far as I know who allowed himself a tax-free salary component which is not available to the public. In addition he has what seems to be a larger range of perquisites than most of his neighbour heads of government. The unskilled worker in the Cook Islands at that time received 51 cents an hour or \$1,060 per year, and the permanent head of a government ministry received \$7,900. In other words he took a pay rate more than 20 times larger than that of ordinary government workers in his country. He accepted large increases for himself and his Cabinet during a period when the real income of the average Cook Islander was falling significantly (it fell 13 per cent between 1970 and 1976). The gap between Sir Albert and the "small man" was probably the largest in the whole Pacific, even though the Cooks

is so small that one would expect the gap to be among the smallest.

'But what caused this talented man, who had displayed much more concern for principle at some other stages of his career, to deteriorate so far? He seems to have been driven by ambition for both power and glory. He fed on public adulation. And his record shows that he was never strong on ethics. But history may show that he was destroyed even more by the ambitions of some arrogant but mediocre members of his family, and that in trying to meet pressures from them, he sacrificed the unity and welfare of the Cook Islands people.

'Sir Albert is intelligent, innovative and energetic. He is a visionary rather than an idealist (he is strong on visions but weaker in adhering to ideals). Highly skilled in speaking and in politics, he has many strengths and the potential for greatness. His main weakness seems always to have been in ethics. This is not to suggest that he is without principles or ethical standards, but his record does show rather consistently that he is prepared to "re-interpret", water down or totally abandon these rather readily to satisfy his ambition for power. If he had the ethical strengths of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara of Fiji, or Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea, or Peter Kenilorea of the Solomons, or Robert Rex of Niue, or Toalipi Lauti of Tuvalu or various other Pacific leaders, he would undoubtedly have led the Cook Islands to great achievements and himself to a position of honour today and in the future, within the Cook Islands and far beyond. His actual record has tarnished the image not only of his own people, but of Pacific people as a whole...

(Next month: Dr Davis describes what he found in the Cooks on his return from the United States in 1971; Dr Joe Williams tells why he got out of the Henry Government; and Marjorie Crocombe describes how the CIP sabotaged Democratic Party broadcast time and how Sir Albert made political capital out of a cyclone.)

SPEC

MAHE SEES LIGHT AT END OF THE COLONIAL TUNNEL

When Pacific governments are satisfied that the end of the colonial period is in sight they will want to bring regional organisations together into one organisation which will establish the Pacific as a region of the world 'important in its own right,' says Mahe Tupouniua.

When Mahe Tupouniua attended last year's South Pacific Forum in Niue's capital, Alofi, he had already written what he regarded as his last South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) 'Director's Annual Report' — for 1977-78. He was expecting to make way for a successor after five years in the hot seat as founding director of the Forum's executive arm.

As a consequence, he deemed the time right to add, for the first and last time, a new section to his report — to give 'a perspective of the first five years of SPEC and the Forum'. In it, he 'attempts a brief personal, but I hope objective, review of SPEC's achievements and failures, progress and lack of progress over its first five years'.

Possibly his most pointed



Mahe Tupouniua ... 'a modest but effective programme'

comment in this new section is that 'the distinction between the membership of SPEC and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) is becoming progressively less obvious although certain anomalies seem unlikely to be resolved for many years'.

Mahe comments: 'Nevertheless, the time is not far off when the majority of countries and peoples of the region can meet as equals in the regional bodies to discuss at all levels — political, economic and social — developments affecting the peoples of the South Pacific region.'

'When governments in the region are satisfied that the end of the colonial period in the Pacific is in sight they will presumably want to bring together the regional organisations in a way which lends maximum strength to each of them, which allows for full political control by the leaders of governments in the region, and which is capable of delivering to the peoples of the Pacific the kind of assistance that is relevant to and needed by them. Such an organisation will help give a community interest and unity of purpose to the region which marks the Pacific as a region of the world, important in its own right'.

Mahe does not venture a time scale for his dream of a unified non-colonial Pacific. When he talks of 'the majority' does he tacitly indicate that not even half of the ultimate potential membership of the Forum yet enjoy independent status?

He sees the smallness of SPEC's staff as an inhibiting factor in its performance. 'With a staff of this size it is possible to maintain a modest but effective programme of research, to organise inter-governmental consultations and to co-

ordinate activities by other organisations,' he says, but 'the mounting of field programmes or the undertaking of large-scale operational activities would require a different and much larger kind of organisation, activities to which I do not think SPEC should aspire'.

Mahe says SPEC's 'strength and authority' come from its relationship with the Forum, and comments: 'Experience shows that regional projects do not move quickly. Important national interests are usually involved, and national decision-making processes have to be followed through. SPEC has been able to assist by organising preliminary studies, finding facts for feasibility studies, co-ordinating and guiding these studies, organising international meetings at technical level, and, when the groundwork has been properly carried out, presenting ministerial meetings and the Forum with recommendations for decision.'

'In these respects I believe that SPEC has played a useful role at a critical time in the development of the region. It served and continues to serve a need. However, as the region changes, so does the need and, consequently, ability of the machinery to adapt to serve it.'

In the future, Mahe sees the need for SPEC, as the Forum's executive arm, to further develop its capability as a political secretariat, 'able to exercise a co-ordinating role at a policy level over the full range of economic and social regional activities' and 'in this capacity it may be desirable for it to shed some of its operational activities to agencies...'

Mahe's comments on specific Forum projects through SPEC:

Pacific Forum Line (PFL): 'The PFL will continue to need the full support and backing of governments in the early critical years. Given that support it should, in a few years, be able to play an important role in regional shipping and in turn protect national carriers from undue competition from outsiders.'

Trade: 'It has been possible to

make limited progress in areas such as the Regional Sugar Agreement and the Taro Agreement. SPEC's marketing activities have brought together many potential producers and buyers. We cannot calculate the value of the outcome but we hope it has been worth the effort.'

Bulk purchasing: 'Many areas where bulk purchasing might not be profitable have been identified. Of the commodities which might be purchased cheaper through collective buying, only pharmaceuticals show promise...'

Marketing and trade promotion: '...not easily susceptible to cost benefit analysis... It may be that SPEC should not try to build up a capability on trade promotion but rather to establish links with organisations in the major markets of island countries with a view to giving businessmen direct access to marketing services in countries of interest.'

Trade relations: '...perhaps a more important area for inter-governmental action. It is an area of SPEC's work in which little progress has been possible. The SPEC Agreement called for an investigation of a free trade area in the South Pacific. Accordingly SPEC instigated and has been associ-

ated with a number of studies on trade-related questions including a free trade area. Up to this point, however, the political will among all who need to be involved to make real and substantial progress on this question has not been evident.

'The lack of experienced trade negotiations in Island countries has been an inhibiting factor, as has been the absence in many countries of statistical data on trade flows. There is nevertheless a growing interest in the region in developing trade links across the region and with new friends in Europe, Asia and North America. Intra-regionally, Australia and New Zealand have demonstrated their willingness to discuss trade problems on a selective basis. However, the system of trade relations within which these countries have traditionally operated are sophisticated and complex from the point of view of Island members of SPEC. The absence of any coherent system of inter-governmental trade agreements in the region has bedevilled consideration of the question. The desire remains... to create a new system of trade relations... without damaging, to an intolerable level, domestic indus-

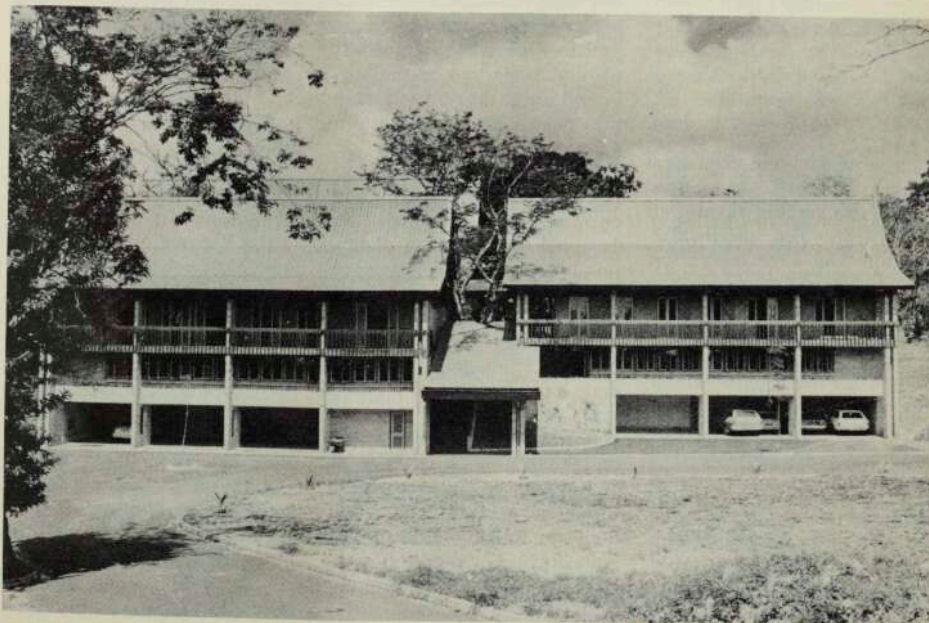
tries in Australia and New Zealand...'

Regional airline: 'The force and validity of the case for a regional airline has not been seriously challenged, but the formula for bringing countries together on this question remains elusive. The trend has been toward the creation of more national airlines. Nevertheless, there are hopeful developments... the Regional Aviation Council... a decision to bring airlines in the region together in a regional airlines association...'

Tourism: '...there is an urgent need for countries in the Pacific to identify a single body to concentrate solely on the promotion and marketing of tourism...'

As it turned out, Mahe is still with SPEC, the two nominees put forward at the Niue Forum for the director's job, Felix Wendt of Western Samoa, and Sir Maori Kiki of Papua New Guinea, having been withdrawn by their respective leaders, apparently to keep the pace.

Tonga, to which Mahe ultimately seems destined to return to resume his duties as a minister with the government, agreed to the Forum's request for a one-year extension of duty for the founding director.



SPEC headquarters, Suva... home for bigger things to come

AMERICAN SAMOA



American Samoa's first elected leader, Governor Peter Tali Coleman (right), with his deputy, Lieutenant-Governor Tufele F. Liamatua (left), and his predecessor, H. Rex Lee

HOW ALMIGHTY UNCLE SAM'S DOLLAR?

Canadian historian and university lecturer Dr Jim Boutlier was less than flattering in his description of Guam in last April's *PIM*. But there are two sides to the American presence in the Pacific, says Bill Goodwin, a Washington DC lawyer, who spent two months last year in American Samoa.

Dr Jim Boutlier's impressions of Agana and the American Dream suggest that the American experience in Oceania and Pacific East Asia is one of polyglot populations and crass commercialism. But having recently spent two months in American Samoa, I find America's presence there to be a coin with two sides, tarnished on one side but shiny on the other.

The tarnished side resembles his description of Agana, one that can be applied equally to Pago Pago. The spectacular harbour — once the reason for America's presence in Samoa — is now ringed with quick-food takeaways, a plethora of shops selling cheap Korean, Taiwanese and Japanese goods, and a selection of honky-tonk bars dispensing Schlitz and Olympia beer imported directly from California.

The winding coastal road around the bay is crowded with motor vehicles and littered with beer cans, cardboard boxes and paper wrappings, the evidence of modern civilisation. And the eastern side of the harbour still

supports the stench of tuna being processed at two American canneries.

Given this shoddy development and the proclivity of the moist trade winds to drop 6 350mm of rain on Pago Pago Bay each year, it is not difficult to appreciate the first impressions drawn by travellers who take one look at the harbour through the rain and catch the next plane to Western Samoa.

The tarnish runs deeper than first impressions, however, and one must get to know the Samoans in order to understand the American experience there — and to appreciate the more elusive shiny side.

One thing soon becomes obvious. The Samoans, in general, have adopted a lifestyle that is dependent on the American dollar, especially the dollar that flows directly from Washington to support a territorial government that now employs roughly 40% of the work-force. The money is easy, and the wages are relatively high.

Gone from the main island is any semblance of a viable

agriculture. Young people are not interested in tending a taro or banana plantation when they can get government jobs that pay in a day what it takes their cousins a week or more to earn in Western Samoa. The territory imports bananas, although banana trees grow wild all over Tutuila Island.

Another lure away from the family land is free access to Hawaii and the US mainland, where two-thirds of all American Samoans now live. Salanoa S. P. Aumoeualogo, the president of the American Samoa Senate, has 14 children, 10 of whom live in the States.

"To tell you the truth," an American official confided cynically, "these islands are little more than a baby factory for Hawaii and California."

In the absence of so many young American Samoans, the islands have been invaded by Western Samoans and Tongans searching for jobs and relatively high wages. The top American Samoan musical groups now perform in Honolulu and San Diego, while the bands at the Rainmaker Hotel and Soli's Restaurant are likely to be from Tonga and Apia, respectively.

"I work here because I can make much more money," said a young Western Samoan. "But I can hardly wait until I become a *matai* and go home. It's so peaceful and quiet over there."

The influx of other islanders competing for jobs has caused the government to enforce immigration restrictions which allow non-American Samoans only six months at a time in American Samoa. I found these restrictions particularly grating to the Western Samoans, who are closely related in many respects to the Samoans on American soil.

"If they want to improve relations with our government, they must remove those crazy permits," an elderly Western Samoan told me one morning on the ferry between Upulu and Savai'i. "It's stupid to tell us we can't go and live with our brothers and sisters."

Such a restriction also may gall some Americans who see "Old Glory" flying over the airport terminal to remind them that they are on American terri-

tory. After all, it's constitutionally questionable under American law whether any government, acting under authority of the United States, can exclude an American from an American territory.

Jake King, the editor of the colourful *Samoa News*, fought a long legal battle to avoid being evicted from the islands. The territorial government eventually dropped the case, apparently fearing an adverse US court ruling would throw the regulation off the books insofar as it applies to American citizens.

Those regulations are in effect because of the American Samoa Government's policy — which has Washington's approval — of maintaining "Samoa for the Samoans".

Not only are Americans ostensibly prohibited from remaining in American Samoa beyond six months without contracts to work for the Government or marriages to Samoan citizens, they are not allowed to own land or to carry on a business without Samoan partners.

Ownership of all but a minuscule fraction of the islands has been preserved in the Samoan families since the treaty ceding the territory to the United States was signed in 1900.

"If the land was open to sale to American citizens, then the Rockefellers and the Fords could come in and buy it up. It would be gone, and we would be just another Hawaii," says Senator Salanoa, who opposes any form of statehood for American Samoa. "In Hawaii, the political power rests with the Japanese, the money with the Chinese, and the land with the Americans. The poor Hawaiians have nothing."

If one takes time to rummage around the modern legislative building, where Senator Salanoa's office commands a view of the Pago Pago waterfront, or to walk up to the governor's mansion overlooking the harbour, he will find most day-to-day decisions being made by Samoans — not Americans.

Governor Peter Tali Coleman, the son of a *palagi* father and Samoan mother,

was raised in the islands, educated in Washington, and served in the late 1950s as appointed governor. He was elected to office in November 1977 after the American Samoans agreed, having disapproved the proposition four times previously, to elect their own governor.

In keeping with Samoan custom, members of the upper house of the legislature are chosen by the *matais*, while the lower house members are chosen by popular election. This blending of Samoan and American ways represents the outlook of many Samoan leaders, who persistently emphasise their intention to "adopt the best of the new while keeping the best of the old".

The best of the new, at least in terms of material comfort, can be found on Coconut Point, a narrow peninsula of palm-fringed coral that looks down Tutuila's south coast toward Rainmaker Mountain and the entrance to Pago Pago harbour.

Coconut Point is lined with the homes of American Samoa's newly-affluent, westernised middle class. Governor Coleman's family home, to which he often expressed a desire to return rather than run for governor, sits on the end of the point.

Next door to Coconut Point is the village of Nu'u'uli, Tutuila's largest, where I lived in a "hurricane house" — one of the buildings that replaced homes ravaged by the hurricane of 1966. Unlike the unkempt area around Pago Pago, Nu'u'uli is spotlessly maintained. Painted boulders lie along its sealed main street, which is bordered by immaculately groomed yards.

I had lived in Nu'u'uli less than a week when the village chief came by to implore me to cut my overgrown grass. It was an eyesore, he said.

Nu'u'uli has a lovely swimming beach, but the wearing of shorts and bikinis there — in deference to Samoan customs of dress — is strictly forbidden. Unlike on Tahiti, where European women tourists are likely to run around topless at the drop of a halter top, no such



The Governor's Mansion in Pago Pago — 'Old Glory' aloft is galling to some Americans.

behaviour is tolerated in American Samoa.

Also in keeping with Samoan custom, Sundays are sacrosanct. The son of K. William O'Connor, the Chief Justice of American Samoa, was told in no uncertain terms that surfing was not permitted on Sundays. Samoans have been known to stone Sunday violators, and a paramount chief once punched the foreman of a road-construction crew who insisted on working on a Sunday after a prolonged rainy period.

The roads along Tutuila's south coast are used extensively by the automobiles that the Samoans' new affluence has enabled them to purchase, but the motor car is by no means king on the island. The most widely-used form of transport is the gaily-painted *aiga* buses —

those often rickety, wooden bodies built on the beds of pickup trucks. They are fast, convenient, and relatively cheap, and most Samoan extended families keep at least one on the road during weekdays, using it on Sundays to transport family members to church.

Not far down the road from Nu'u'uli is a small shopping centre, American Samoa's first outright concession to modern suburbia. A large supermarket is owned by three Samoan brothers, each of whom married *palagi* women while they were attending school in America.

Most American Samoans, regardless of age, have at least visited the States for extended periods. From that exposure, especially among the young,

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are emerging the new leaders of American Samoa — both in business and in politics.

Governor Coleman, 59 years old, is seen by many Samoan politicians as an interim governor, a man whose experience with the federal bureaucracy can keep the funds flowing from Washington. Young leaders formed the backbone of his successful election campaign last year, especially those who saw in him a continuation of western influence.

After Governor Coleman's term in office expires, many of his young supporters see him being succeeded by younger men of full Samoan blood. The leading prospects mentioned by many of them were Tufele Lea, the former police chief, who now is Lieutenant-Governor, and Senator Fofu Sunia, a high chief on Manua Island who, in 1977, ran unsuccessfully for Lieutenant-Governor on a ticket with A. P. Lutali, the territory's delegate-at-large to Washington. Both Tufele and Fofu were educated in America.

Meantime, Governor Coleman's primary problems will involve reorganising and modernising the territorial government, which has been infused with so much money over so short a time that it has had trouble keeping track of how it was all spent.

He will have assistance from a new breed of American-appointed official — and there still will be a few of them around Pago Pago — who are more attuned to the attitudes and wishes of the Samoan people than were most of the political appointees sent from Washington in the past.

With the exception of H. Rex Lee, whose accomplishments as governor from 1961 to 1967 have made him a legend in American Samoa, the past saw a parade of men who were sent to Pago Pago from Washington as a reward for political support in the last US presidential election.

If the new American appointees are like Chief Justice O'Connor, things will be considerably different. When the Head of State of Western Samoa, Chief Malietoa Tanumafili II, paid his first

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official visit to Pago Pago in 1977, he was pleasantly surprised when Mr O'Connor welcomed him in the Samoan language.

Governor Lee told me that when he returned as governor in 1977 to oversee the transition to "home rule"—as we Americans call it—he found many of the Americans working in the government were either well-intentioned dogooders unqualified for the jobs they held, or that they had come to Pago Pago because they did not "fit" elsewhere.

The question of selecting good people for his administration aside, Governor Coleman must still cope with the cause of American Samoa's growing pains—money. To understand why money is such a cause of the territory's social problems, one must look back in time a bit.

From the time that the Samoan chiefs ceded their islands to the United States in 1900 until 1951, American authority in Samoa rested with the US Navy, which maintained a station at Pago Pago. The local chiefs went about their business and were left alone for much of that half-century to conduct their own affairs in their own fashion.

The *matai* system of chiefs was left intact, all but a small fraction of land was left in communal hands, and justice was carried out at the village level.

The harbour at Pago Pago lost its strategic value when the nuclear age dawned after World War II, and control of the islands was transferred to the US Department of the Interior in 1951. Unlike Guam, American Samoa now has little military value to the United States, although some officials admit that they would not want the excellent harbour and the jet airstrip at Tafuna to fall into hostile hands.

The Interior Department did little to change things in Samoa until *Reader's Digest* magazine ran a well-publicised story about "America's Shame in the South Seas" a few years later.

That article described the lack of roads, adequate schools or medical care in terms that

could accurately describe conditions today on the Western Samoan island of Savai'i. In other words, *Reader's Digest* found a virtually-untouched Polynesian society, complete with thatch huts and subsistence farming, smiling faces and few motor vehicles. And that, by contemporary American standards, was a "disgrace".

The American Government reacted as it often does when it attempts to solve a perceived social problem—by throwing money at it.

Along with that money came H. Rex Lee to bring about the overhaul. Unlike his predecessors, Governor Lee had been a career bureaucrat with years of experience in the Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

He used federal financial aid to augment a massive effort by the Samoans themselves. "I had one great untapped resource," he recalls, "and that was the desire of the Samoan people to help themselves. All they needed was someone to show them the way."

He gave the islands sealed roads, improved water and electrical systems, the modern Rainmaker Hotel and a convention centre, and his pride and joy, a revamped school system complete with educational television. Along with television came the famous cable car across Pago Pago harbour, built to construct and service the transmitter atop Mount Alava.

Reader's Digest sent its reporter back to the islands late in Lee's term and pronounced the territory to be "America's show-place in the South Seas".

Then came the "Great Society" domestic programmes enacted during the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson. Those social programmes were created to eliminate poverty in America, and they were made applicable to the territories and possessions as well as in the States themselves.

Other programmes followed during the Nixon administration, and Mr Nixon's appointed governor, John M. Haydon, turned on the money tap at Pago Pago. Since American Samoa easily qualified as a poverty area under criteria ap-

plicable to the States, it had almost immediate access to an array of assistance programmes, such as aid to education, health programmes, and law-enforcement assistance.

Over the course of five years, the territorial government's budget grew from \$US18 millions to \$45 millions—



Straw mat maker in Pago Pago ... a lifestyle dependent on the dollar

twice the present expenditure by the Government of Western Samoa, which has five times as many people. In Governor Lee's first year, the budget was a mere US\$2 million.

And every time a new programme was added, a new bureaucracy was established to administer that programme. The government payroll grew and grew.

As more and more Samoans took jobs with the government—often after returning home from America—they became more and more dissatisfied with the *fa'a Samoa* custom of turning their earnings over to the head of their families. They had learned to adopt western ways, including the possession of their own paychecks.

So money and exposure to American ways has created a new class of young Samoans who are somewhat leery of old Samoan customs and definitely interested in getting ahead economically. They run the gamut from professionals down to the teenagers who can be found on the streets of Pago Pago at all hours, wearing west-

ern jeans and comporting themselves as they have seen their relatives living in America.

Nevertheless, technical skills among the young are sadly lacking, partly because a skilled Samoan can make three or four times as much pay in America as he can at home. That lack of local skill showed up last year when Governor Lee found, upon his return, that "our fiscal and accounting systems and records are in poor condition".

Governor Lee went on to say that the government had "tried to do too much too quickly without proper supervision or technical assistance".

Money, in other words, represents both the tarnished and shiny sides of the American Samoan coin. It has brought about an almost overnight acceptance of American ways among large segments of the population, but it has resulted in a dependence on federal largesse and a breakdown in Samoan customs. Money has enabled Governor Lee's prized television station to beam American programmes into every home in the islands, complete with commercial advertisements for products either not available locally or far beyond the means of most Samoans.

On the other side of the coin, money has given the American Samoans better schools, better transport, and better health care facilities. And it has given them the unique advantage in the American system of being able to determine their own destinies.

The American Government has made it very clear to the American Samoans that they can become independent, but they obviously have become so economically dependent on Washington that few voices can be heard speaking of political independence.

The choice is theirs, not America's. Whether the coin becomes shiny on both sides is a decision to be made in Pago Pago, not in Washington. Given enough time and enlightened young leaders, I have no doubt but that the American Samoans will indeed "adopt the best of the new while keeping the best of the old".

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The new government of national unity announced on December 21 1978 in the New Hebrides (PIM February) was not only the finest Christmas present its people could have hoped for, but with an average age of around 40, its 10 members must form one of the youngest cabinets in the world. They are: **Father Gerard Leymang**, 41, Chief Minister, representing the Tan-Union, Malekula. After studies abroad was ordained deacon in 1962. In 1972 was attached to the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Vila. Former minister of social services.

Father Walter Lini, 36, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Social Services. President of the Vanuaaku Party, from North Pentecost. Educated for the Anglican priesthood in Solomon Islands and New Zealand. Ordained deacon 1968, priest 1970.

Guy Prevot, 43, Finance Minister, Tan-Union, Vila. Held the same post in the Kalsakau government. Born Tanna, educated locally, and until taking up politics fulltime was in insurance.

Donald Kalpokas, 35, Education Minister, Vanuaaku Party, from Lelepa. Educated locally, Solomons and Ardmore Training College, New Zealand. Diploma in Education, University of the South Pacific.

Maxime Carlot, Internal Affairs Minister. Until recently Speaker of the Representative Assembly. Has worked in French Residency, and has frequently represented the New Hebrides overseas.

John Naupa, 39, Health Minister, Vanuaaku Party, from Erromanga. Joined British National Service in the New Hebrides, 1965. Attended senior administrative supervisors' course at USP.

Aime Malere, 36, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, MANH Party, Santo. From Malekula, previously with



High chief Vaitagaloa Maaku Nua, director of tourism, pays tribute to Miss American Samoa-Tourism 1979, Vicki Aoelua. At right is the retiring 1978 title-holder Ateliana So'oto

Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez. Retains ministry he held in former government.

George Kalkoa, 41, Minister of Public Administration, Vanuaaku Party, from Mele. Efate. Trained as teacher in Fiji. Joined British National Service Education Department in 1957, Diploma in public and social administration, UK. Former assistant secretary for social services, British Residency.

Luke Dini, 38, Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications, Independent, Banks Islands. Retains this ministry from previous government. With the British National Service as a medical assistant, 1971-77, with further training in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Thomas Reuben, 42, Minister of Natural Resources, representing Vanuaaku Party/Natuitano. From Hog Harbour, Santo. Was with British National Service 1963-76.

A senior student at Samoana High School, **Vicki Aoelua** representing Polynesian Airlines, has won the title Miss American Samoa-Tourism. At the judging were Miss New Zealand, **Jean Simmonds**, and

Miss Tahiti, **Moeata Schmouker**. The Pago-published official *New Bulletin* reports that the audience 'reacted enthusiastically during the "talent" section of the contest'. It said: 'A number of contestants presented the Samoan *siva* which drew loud applause from the traditionally-minded members of the audience ... Miss **Natalia Steffany** gave a performance in her dramatic reading that would have won respect in any college in the US. Miss **June Atutasi** displayed her many talents by singing, playing the organ and the clarinet. The most unusual display was presented by Miss **Elizabeth White**, who showed her talent in flower arranging ...'

Kolone Nelu has been appointed a member of the Tuvalu Public Service Commission. Mr Nelu, manager of Vaitupu Kioa Holdings, succeeds Dr **Tamaika Kofe** who has taken up a temporary appointment with the Nauru Phosphate Commission.

Two senior Islands public servants were due to visit Australia last month as guests of the Australian Government.

They are the Fiji Permanent Secretary for Labour, Industrial Relations and Immigration **Satyanand**, and Secretary of the Papua New Guinea Education Department **Alkan Tololo**.

Father **Harry Tevi** of North Pentecost in the New Hebrides was last month consecrated assistant bishop of the Anglican Churches in the New Hebrides at Lolowai on Aoba island. Father Tevi previously served at Kohimarama in Solomon Islands.

A man who served as a subaltern with the Fiji Forces in Malaya from 1954 to 1956 has been appointed successor to the Commander of the Royal Fiji Military Forces, Colonel **Paul Manuelli**. He is Colonel **Robert Thorpe**, 49, of the New Zealand Army. Colonel Thorpe was selected because, at the moment, there is no other suitably-qualified Fiji soldier to take on the position.

Twenty years ago, French-born painter **Nicolai Michou-touchkine** opened an art gallery in Noumea, the first in the French Pacific. For a week after he opened the gallery

PEOPLE

doors — as he told PIM a few years ago — 'I used to see a little dark man passing the door frequently and running away. After I spoke to him, and found from his broken French that his name was Pilioko, he became a regular visitor. A few months later, he asked for pen and paper and started drawing'. That was the start of a successful career as a painter for Wallis Islander **Aloisio Pilioko** and the start of a partnership which has taken Michoutouchkine and his protegee all over the world. They now have their studio in Vila and are busy packing up for a trip to France where 70 of their paintings and tapestries are on exhibition. In Australia in 1964 with Pilioko for exhibitions in Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra, Michoutouchkine was invited to plan the decor for Vila's new Hotel Vate. He and Pilioko fell in love with the New Hebrides he describes as the best place for 'genuine inspiration'. So they settled down there and, when they're not showing the rest of the world their art, they welcome visitors to their gallery which doubles as a museum with relics, antiques and artifacts. They were in Sweden for four months last year and could be in Russia within a few months as Michoutouchkine has been approached by the Russian Academy of Science to stage a display. Pilioko has made great strides and from pen and paper has graduated, via an art school

in France, to painting, drawing and embroidering. PIM commissioned a picture of one of his tapestries exhibited in the Kabuki Gallery in Sydney's Paddington in 1976. It appeared as our cover in July 1976.

A fisherman, born in Fiji but living and working out of Port Lincoln, South Australia, is selling up his home and crayfishing boat, and moving to Suva to work in the local skipjack tuna industry. He is **Grahame Southwick** who has bought the 20 metre steel cutter *Duyfken*, which was based at Portland, Victoria, and converted it. According to the *Professional Fisherman*, a new newspaper describing itself as 'the voice of the Australian fishing industry' and published at Armadale, Victoria, Mr Southwick gave, as one of his reasons for leaving South Australia, the 'restrictive regulations applied by the South Australian Fisheries Department'. Mr Southwick, for several years president of the West Coast Cray Fishermen's Association in South Australia, was reported as saying that fishermen had lost many fishing days because of confrontations and meetings with the department.

A Papua New Guinea nursing sister, **Ada Inabi**, is due to return to Port Moresby this month after undertaking an eight-month course in inten-

sive care nursing at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Sister Inabi is one of nine sisters who have been taught the use of sophisticated cardiac and other equipment used in the treatment of patients in intensive care. In Australia under the sponsorship of the Development Assistance Bureau, Sister Inabi did her secondary education at Daru High School in PNG's Western Province.

Three Fijian soldiers with the United Nations (UN) peace-keeping force in Lebanon were wounded when caught in a skirmish between Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) men and French members of the UN force. The Fijians, Captain **Matereti Sarasau**, 27, Lieutenant **Metuisela Mua**, 36, and Warrant Officer **Ravuso Wainiqolo**, 30, on duty in Tyre were captured and were being taken as hostages to the PLO camp when an exchange of fire occurred at a French checkpoint. The French overpowered the PLO men and the Fijians were freed and taken to hospital. Captain Sarasau was wounded in the left shoulder, Lieutenant Mua in the right buttock and Warrant Officer Wainiqolo in the right shoulder.

A young New Zealand scientist won the British Soil Science Society's silver jubilee award last year for work carried out under the sponsorship of the government of Papua New Guinea. **Dr R. L. Parfitt**, of New Zealand's department of scientific and industrial research, won a medal and a cash prize for four papers on the mechanism of sorption of anions on hydrous oxides. The practical aim of Dr Parfitt's work is to discover ways by which high production can be maintained with lower levels of phosphate application.

Delma Boden is the first woman to be elected to the Papua New Guinea Public Service Association executive. Ms Boden, 36, was the only woman to contest the recent election. A former school teacher, she has taught in her home province of East New Britain, and in Morobe, Eastern Highlands



Delma Boden ... a second first

and Central Provinces. Another first for Ms Boden came in 1970 when she became the first married woman to undergo a second year re-training course at a time when married women were denied the opportunity to re-train after marriage. At present Ms Boden, now 36, is a government liaison officer with the Office of Information.

Forty-one years of government service in the Cook Islands came to an end last month when **Tuti Taringa**, secretary of internal affairs, retired. Before starting retirement leave in December, Mr Taringa was honoured by Minister of Internal Affairs **Tangaroa Tangaroa** and departmental staff who put on an *umukai* (feast) for him.

Dr Edwin Young, president of the University of Wisconsin System, has been appointed to the board of governors of the East-West Center, Honolulu. The appointment was made by US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for a three-year term. Dr Young succeeds **John K. Melver** of Milwaukee, whose term expired.

Fiji's first woman ambassador, **Mrs Soonu Koochar**, India's high commissioner to Fiji, arrived in Suva late last year to take up her duties. Accompanied by her husband and son, Mrs Koochar has been in India's foreign service since 1955 and has served in Paris, where she met her husband who was also serving at the Indian embassy, and London. Mrs Koochar is also accredited to Western Samoa, Nauru and Tonga.



Sister Ada Inabi with an Australian nurse, Sister Janet Clarke, working with a cardiac monitoring device at the Royal Melbourne Hospital — AIS photograph



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MARA ROCKS PAPEETE BOAT

When French Polynesia was granted a new statute in July 1977, giving wider powers to the islanders, the more or less avowed aim of the French Government was to halt, or at least to delay, all further movements towards independence, write Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson from Papeete. The main reason independence was and still is a completely unacceptable alternative to France is of course the imperative need to continue the testing of nuclear weapons at Mururoa for many years to come.

For a while, this belated concession to the Polynesian majority parties *Pupu here aia* and *Te ea api* seemed to pay off, for the two party leaders, John Teariki and Francis Sanford, who became masters of the territorial assembly and the government council, had their hands full with all the social and economic problems brought about by the imposition of a huge 'nuclear strike force' and the arrival of 20 000 French metropolitan settlers. The despatch of a new, soft-spoken, suave high commissioner, Paul Cousseran, also greatly helped to foster the image of a perfect *entente cordiale*. Then, suddenly, in December 1978, the taboo word 'independence' was once more on everybody's lips.

The most disturbing thing from the French point of view was that those who raised the supposedly dead issue were not young hotheads with limited following, but the very key men in the new government structure — Teariki and Sanford. The occasion was the opening of the budgetary session of the territorial assembly on November 30. Teariki's approach was quite philosophical. He talked simply of independence as an

irresistible historical movement, adding, however: 'In whatever way we look at it, independence should be achieved in a concerted, intelligent manner, after careful preparations. I hope that each and every one of you is aware of the fact that disorder and chaos are not unavoidable.'

As usual, Sanford was more blunt. He declared, with gusto, that 'to ask for independence is not a crime, or even an offence. It is simply a right we have, a right guaranteed by the French constitution.' It soon appeared, however, that he was not proposing an action programme to be put into effect immediately, but rather warning the French Government that independence is not an unthinkable alternative if the present statute does not give satisfaction. There is no secret that on many points — for instance the exploitation of ocean wealth and the control of air traffic — the French Government has hitherto interpreted the often ambiguously-worded 1977 statute in a much more restrictive manner than the Polynesian leaders. To which it should be added, the boss of all local public services is still the French high commissioner and not Sanford, which, of course, makes the whole 'self-government' scheme highly illusory.

Teariki's and Sanford's reaffirmation of the Polynesian

people's right to take their destiny into their own hands was particularly well received by the leaders and members of the local socialist party, *Ia mana te nunaa*, who held their annual convention two days later. In the general elections of March 1978, they had taken a strong anti-colonial stand. Nobody was therefore much surprised when the convention delegates unanimously came out for independence and followed up with another resolution asking for the immediate cessation of all nuclear tests.

The direction taken by events seemed so alarming to the French Government that Prime Minister Raymond Barre decided to intervene personally. His admonition took the unprecedented form of an 'answer' from the tribune of the French national assembly in Paris to a question that he had permitted Gaston Flosse, the Gaullist deputy for French Polynesia, to ask right in the middle of a national debate.

What Flosse sought to discover, in a remarkably insidious formulation, was 'if the government was determined to maintain the existing bonds between France and Polynesia, as defined by the 1977 statute, or if it was ready to let the territory gradually slide towards independence, although everybody knows this will mean economic ruin?' Barre, of course, thought independence totally unwarranted and ex-

pressed his firm belief that the territory would remain French forever.

This was a clear signal for the local Gaullists and the French-controlled mass media in Tahiti to launch a vigorous campaign against independence, describing it as the surest path to 'economic suicide'. One councillor went so far as to promise to prevent, by all means, such a tragic outcome for the innocent Polynesian people. This was too much for Francis Sanford, who asked publicly, without receiving any clear answer, whether this meant even recourse to violence.

As often before, Fiji was specifically mentioned by Sanford's adversaries as definite proof that independence equals abject poverty and racial strife. The reason for this great animosity towards Fiji (extending also since 1975 to Papua New Guinea) is, of course, the Fiji Government's frequent protests against French nuclear tests and its unflagging support of all UN resolutions in favour of complete decolonisation. In both instances, the stand of the Fiji government is condemned as intolerable meddling in internal French affairs. Very conveniently this time, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, had just offered an excellent pretext for a new attack by reaffirming in a parliamentary debate on December 6 his government's policies.

Barely a week later, the prime minister of Fiji happened to stop over for a few hours in Tahiti on his way to a meeting in Brussels. He was effusively greeted at the airport by Teariki and Sanford, carrying flower leis, and by a crowd of inquisitive reporters, armed with notebooks and tape-recorders. Since the French high commissioner is still the official head of state, even after the 1977 statutory reform, and was therefore required by protocol to do so, he, too, showed up at the airport and acted as Ratu Mara's host during his stay.

In these circumstances, everybody expected a polite 'No comment' in reply to the many nasty questions prepared



Ratu Mara with Messrs Sanford (centre) and Teariki at Papeete ... into the lion's den

POLITICAL CURRENTS

by the newspapermen. But it turned out that Ratu Mara was perfectly willing to repeat his most recent statements. He even had the gall to add that Fiji and Papua New Guinea were fine examples of successful decolonisation, thanks to the positive attitude and generous assistance of their former colonial masters.

It took the French Government several days to find something even remotely resembling a repartee. It took the form of a long telegram from the honorary French Chargé d'Affairs in Fiji Bernard Malandain, and was distributed to all local mass media. In this dispatch, Mr Malandain blamed the *Fiji Sun* for having printed a wrong version of Ratu Mara's speech in the Fiji parliament on December 6. Sure enough, the 'correct' version, supplied by the enterprising Mr Malandain, is worded quite differently. But the message is the same, so it is difficult to understand why so much money was spent on this long telegram.

In another bulletin, issued five days after the Fijian PM's short stopover in Tahiti, the French high commissioner tried a similar trick. He suddenly revealed that Ratu Mara, behind closed doors, 'had confirmed that the statements attributed to him had been completely distorted. He assured me that when he had declared that Fiji was for the independence of all peoples, he had not mentioned French Polynesia by name'.

The ruckus had now reached such proportions that Minister for French Overseas Territories Paul Dijoud flew in from New Caledonia. In a succession of meetings with local politicians and government officials he told everybody to go back to square one and henceforth play the game strictly in accordance with the rules laid down by the French Government in 1977.

To make French intentions crystal clear, a commando of gendarmes prevented a group of demonstrators led by Front de Liberation de la Polynésie (FLP) party president Oscar Temaru, from displaying a

banner at the airport when Mr Dijoud stepped off the plane. The text on the confiscated banner read: 'Indépendance — Front de Liberation de la Polynésie'. A week later, the French high commissioner wound up the great 1978 independence debate by pointing out how terribly all other peoples in the Pacific have suffered since they got independence. He said: 'In all these scattered Pacific islands, as a rule, only a few privileged individuals profit from [their] independence which is more apparent than real, as they completely lack economic resources, whereas French Polynesia alone is flourishing.'

FIJI: SUGAR POLITICS AGAIN

Sugar industry politics erupted in Fiji in December-January as opposing factions of the Indian-dominated National Federation Party clashed over the acceptance or rejection of a new 10-year harvest contract between nearly 18 000 mainly Indian growers and the government-controlled milling company, the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC).

Robert Keith-Reid reports from Suva that by the end of January 70% of the growers had signed their acceptance of the contract. Victory was being claimed by the ruling Alliance Party and the NFP's new leader, lawyer Jai Ram Reddy, over the contract's chief opponent, former opposition leader Siddiq Koya.

But then Mr Koya moved

the battle from the heat of the cane-fields into the courtroom by filing a writ asking the Fiji Supreme Court to say that the contract was invalid and not binding on growers who would not accept it. The legal battle could last for months, even years, if it gets up to Privy Council level.

The real fight is for the loyalty of the cane-growers, who traditionally form the core of political support for the National Federation Party. In essence it is one in which Mr Koya, a Muslim lawyer and son of a cane farmer, and one of Fiji's most adept politicians, is making a last-ditch stand in his struggle to recover the power he lost when ousted from the party leadership and from his parliamentary seat by Reddy in the December 1977 general election.

The outcome of the fight is vital for Fiji. Despite great efforts to diversify the economy, sugar, earning around \$F100 million a year, still yields about 65 to 70% of all export income. Thus any instability in the sugar industry disrupting production can quickly become a major national disaster.

Agreement on a contract between growers and the milling company covering terms for the growing, harvesting and purchase of sugar is regarded as the most important factor in preserving stability. In 1959 a dispute over a new contract between the growers and the then Australian-owned milling company caused such bitterness that the army had to be sent to the cane areas to maintain order. That row gave birth to the NFP opposition party. In 1969 another dispute ended in the withdrawal from Fiji of CSR Limited, the Australian milling company, which sold its assets to the Fiji Government. A contract awarded then by an arbitrating British judge, Lord Denning, expires at the end of March 1980.

Negotiations for a new one were conducted amicably through 1978 by the Sugar Advisory Council, representing growers, millers and the government, and presided over by Ian Thomson, a former Fiji colonial civil servant, as the

widely respected and trusted independent chairman of the industry.

The council announced last December that it had agreed on terms, including a formula under which the growers would be paid a slightly bigger share of total sugar earnings in years when output exceeded 325 000 tonnes. In years when output falls below this level they will continue to get 70% and the FSC 30%.

But then Mr Koya's two supporters on the council, one his brother, Abbu Bakar Koya, suddenly changed their minds, saying they had not understood the meaning of the terms first endorsed by them.

Fiji sugar industry laws say that a new contract applies to all growers when two-thirds have signed acceptance of it.

Mr Koya mounted a heated campaign against acceptance, opposed by Mr Reddy's supporters and the Alliance. Mr Koya appeared to have been crushed in late January when Mr Thomson announced that the contract had been accepted by the necessary two-thirds minimum only eight days after it had become available for signing. Charges and counter-charges began to fly as Mr Koya stoked up the fight and moved it to the courtroom arena. He told a public meeting in Suva that the growers would tear the contract up after a year's experience of it. 'This is my prophecy. There will be trouble,' he said.

Alliance Party spokesman Jonati Mavoa, who on February 1 became minister of agriculture, retorted: 'He is obviously and solely interested in his own political survival and clearly sees the sugar cane contract issue as a last gasp attempt to gain support for his credibility.'

GILBERTS: AN INSIDE STORY

The Gilbert Islands is to become independent in July 1979 as Kiribati (PIM February) following the conclusion of the Gilbert Islands constitutional conference in December 1978, writes Dr David Murray, who took part in the conference as a constitutional adviser.



Siddiq Koya ... last ditch stand?

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In closing the two-and-half-week conference, the British Minister of State Lord Goronwy-Roberts spoke of it as potentially the most difficult of the constitutional conferences over which he had had to preside, but that the basis for the Gilberts' independence had been agreed.

The difficulties arose primarily from the question of whether Banaba Island should remain part of the Gilberts, but there was also a problem in how to treat the novel financial circumstances of the Gilberts. There was a less explicit problem, but one that was perceived as important, of how to prevent other aspects of the negotiations and discussions from detracting from the overriding aim of ensuring the establishment of constitutional government in the independent state of Kiribati.

With Banaban representatives taking full part along with delegations from the Gilberts and the United Kingdom, the future of Banaba Island was taken as the first issue in the conference. This was considered in plenary session, in committee and informal meetings for a full week. The Gilberts Government restated its existing policy that Banaba Island formed part of the Gilberts and, though it was willing to introduce or maintain special safeguards for Banabans, the island was to remain within the Gilberts. The Banaban delegation similarly restated its demand that Banaba Island be taken out of the Gilbert Islands. The British Government sought to promote an agreed compromise, but when one failed to emerge at the end of a week's discussions, Lord Goronwy-Roberts formulated and stated the British Government's decision on the matter: that Banaba Island should remain part of the Gilberts, but that there would be special safeguards for the Banabans designed to ensure that the rights guaranteed them when they were settled on Rabi Island, Fiji, in 1947 would be preserved.

As an observer of these discussions it seemed clear to me that the outcome was affected

by the relative effectiveness of Gilberts' Chief Minister, Ieremia Tabai and of Sir Bernard Braine, a British MP acting as spokesman for the Banabans. The British minister went into the conference uncommitted. Previously stated policy and the obvious precedents were against the removal of Banaba Island, but the minister was undecided on the right course. He started with an open mind, sought to hear reasoned arguments, and was evidently concerned to find out whether there was room for an agreed outcome. Ieremia Tabai approached the discussions in a spirit of quiet reasonableness. He displayed an understanding of the Banabans' worries and a concern to reassure them that was convincingly encouraging of trust; he refused to rise to Bernard Braine's provocations and showed a continuing willingness to explore any alternatives short of excluding Banaba Island.

Sir Bernard on the other hand started by organising the Banaban delegation to march out of the meeting room when the chairman declined to take a point presented as either of order or of clarification before he had convened the conference. Thenceforward his hectoring, provocative and repetitive speeches, and what appeared as his moves to discourage the Banaban representatives from proceeding to a more detailed investigation of issues and alternatives, progressively tried the patience of the United Kingdom delegation, alienated it, and aroused it. By the time K. C. Ramrakha, as legal adviser to the Banabans, made a cogently reasoned and forceful presentation of the Banaban case after a week of discussion, this was too late to affect the outcome since it seemed clear that the United Kingdom Government had earlier in the same day reviewed the position and decided on its stand.

The second particular difficulty in the conference concerned the Gilberts' financial situation. Historically the costs of government in the Gilberts have been met from local tax-

ation and royalty income on phosphates (such royalties being taken in place of company taxation) and the colony has not received grants from the United Kingdom Exchequer in respect of recurrent expenditure. Moreover, by placing part of its royalty income in a reserve fund, the government has built up a reserve of \$A67 million. Royalty income from phosphates will, however, cease at the end of 1979, and the Gilberts Government had made the unusual request that the United Kingdom Government should introduce financial assistance in support of recurrent expenditure at independence (as well as con-



Banaban adviser Ramrakha... cogent argument came too late.

tinue development aid), and to do this at a level that enabled the value of the reserve fund to be maintained in real terms.

The UK Government accepted the Gilberts' case and agreed to provide, up to 1982, special financial assistance to meet agreed budgetary deficits, and in 1982 to hold further consultations to establish levels of financial assistance that may then be needed.

Beyond these two matters there was the central issue of the independence constitution for the Gilberts. The Gilberts Government brought forward proposals for a constitution that derived from the work of the constitutional convention in 1977. These provided for a combination of presidential and parliamentary forms of government, with a cabinet having supreme executive

authority, but with the chairman of cabinet — the prime minister in parliamentary executive constitutions — being also the head of state and termed 'president' in the English translation of the Gilbertese (an arrangement used in Nauru).

There was the novel proposal, however, that the president would be nationally elected, with the electors choosing between three or four candidates who had to be members of the *Maneaba ni Maungatabu*, as the House of Assembly is to be known, and selected by the members of the *Maneaba*. This arrangement had already been tried, and its feasibility established, at the March 1978 election of the present chief minister. Otherwise there was a series of proposals, novel to the strictly British tradition, which were designed to strengthen the electors' opportunity for influencing and checking government and for restricting executive authority. Thus, there were proposals for the constitution to be in Gilbertese as well as English and thus be more widely intelligible; for members of the *Maneaba* to be subject to recall; for the passage of legislation ordinarily to be deferred while it was considered in the wider community; and for the president to be able to serve only for a specified maximum term.

Unlike what was provided in Solomon Islands, for instance, there was no proposal for increased centralised checks on government such as through the introduction of the office of ombudsman, the desire being to keep the cost of government to a minimum and encourage decentralised control rather than a further centralisation in government.

As part of the discussion of the constitution, the attention given to the future of Banaba and the Banabans meant that the question of including particular safeguards to reassure Banabans was considered. Following the withdrawal of the Banabans from the conference, the Gilbertese and British delegations had to do this without the benefit of being able to discuss matters with the



KOOL
Filter Kings

Come up to kool
The cool refreshing taste of menthol.

POLITICAL CURRENTS

Banabans themselves. In the event, the safeguards decided upon were as outlined in PIM in February.

It was recognised as unfortunate that the way time had been spent appeared to relegate discussion of the constitution in the scale of priorities, and it was appropriate that in his final address the British minister began by emphasising the importance of the constitution and the decisions of the conference on it.

DIJLOUD WINS OUT IN NOUMEA

France's State Secretary for Overseas Territories Paul Dijoud arrived in Noumea on December 18 to face some opposition, writes Andre Chaville. From early December the press had been publishing letters from local politicians, mainly Europeans worried about statements by ethnologist Jean Guiart, who had been suggesting, among other things, that the white population of New Caledonia should be ready to pack up and leave. Mr Guiart had been regarded, in Noumea, as an adviser to Mr Dijoud.

There had also been a marked fall-out from French politics. With Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist party in France, threatening President Giscard d'Estaing with withdrawal of support, it seemed only natural for Jacques Lafleur, leader of the local Gaullist group, to do the same to Mr Dijoud, President Giscard's spokesman on overseas territories.

To add to the apparent opposition, Jean-Gabriel Eriau, after five years of service as high commissioner, left the territory 24 hours before Mr Dijoud's arrival. Although it was rumoured that Mr Eriau had asked to be withdrawn because of his disapproval of Mr Dijoud's plans, the high commissioner never revealed such feelings in public. But it was significant that for the first time in the history of New Caledonia, the departing high commissioner and his successor, Claude Charbonniaud, held a private meeting at La Tontouta airport.

Millionaire-parliamentarian Jacques Lafleur also dropped a bombshell early in the month by announcing that he thought New Caledonia would eventually and inevitably become a department of France. His argument was that the territory could no longer support the cost of its inflated public service, nor could it offer complete social security to its inhabitants.

But many New Caledonians, white and black, are not keen on such an idea. Although willing to remain within the French sphere of influence, they are determined to see the island maintain and improve its present advantages of autonomy and tax-free incomes. This attitude has not been favourable to the Lafleur group as it has given Lionel Cherrier, New Caledonia's representative in the French Senate, the opportunity to take a firm stand in favour of the Dijoud plan. He is supported by the moderate parties even though he took up his post on the death of Mr Lafleur's father. Also the teenage Gaullist movement has split, some of its members following the senator.

To add to the general atmosphere of unpleasantness accompanying Mr Dijoud's arrival, the evening of his first day was marked by dramatic events in Orly Square. Pro-independence leaders, including Yann Céline Uregei, attempted to organise an impromptu demonstration against Mr Dijoud's visit. Though they received little support, the violence of police shocked many bystanders. The meeting was broken up by a truncheon charge at 5pm and witnessed by many shoppers on their pre-Christmas buying spree.

The demonstration was too late. Mr Dijoud had already practically won the battle that morning in his speech to the territorial assembly. He told councillors he did not believe that the Melanesian pro-independence movement was important. But, on the other hand, he considered that there was an urgent need to improve the Melanesians' standing within the community. He was

critical of the belligerent attitude of the die-hard 'Caldoches' and said that any attempts to provoke armed racial feuds would be severely restrained by the high commissioner under his authority.

Mr Dijoud considered most people were not in favour of extremists of either group. He also criticised political squabbling in the assembly among the numerous parties. He announced that he would suggest a change in the system of election to both the assembly and the government council so that the territory would be governed by a large majority, chosen by the electors. But he also praised the attitudes of some politicians, such as Jean-Pierre Aifa, and hoped that the 'moderate' parties would unite. These parties, in fact, are supporting Giscard in France and, consequently, the Dijoud policy for New Caledonia.

Mr Dijoud said Mr Guiart was not his adviser, nor was he. Dijoud, supporting *Union Caledonienne*. His attitude was to listen to all opinions and suggestions before coming to his own conclusions. Surprisingly enough, Mr Dijoud has the full support of the moderate parties, encouragement from the *Union Caledonienne*, and the approval of the socialists. Only the pro-independence Fulk and Palika are openly hostile, while Mr Lafleur is forced to give reserved and grudging approval.

Finally, Mr Dijoud submitted a 23-point plan to the assembly, saying he hoped that both the assembly and the government council would adopt his proposals. If not, he said he might ask the population itself for an opinion. It appeared to be a veiled threat to organise a referendum.

Mr Dijoud's plan is not a calculated programme. It is more like a philosopher's declaration of rights, using vague terms such as the development of mutual respect for each community's culture, the promotion of tourism, and the development of agriculture and light industry. It is a proposal for a long-term contract, a plan which would maintain the territorial status of New

Caledonia with France, in turn, guaranteeing the cultural, social and professional welfare of all inhabitants, whatever their origin.



Walter Lini . . . refugees could cause 'disunity'.

HEBRIDES 'NO' TO REFUGEES

The council of chiefs of the New Hebrides island of Maewo has spoken out strongly against an offer by Na Grialme's president Jimmy Moli Stephens to resettle 2300 Vietnamese refugees on the island, according to a report in *New Hebrides News*, published by the British residency in Vila.

In making the offer to a Catholic lay organisation in Brisbane, Australia, Mr Stephens claimed to be the paramount chief of Maewo. He said that in this capacity he would be prepared to resettle all 2300 refugees stranded aboard the freighter *Tung Han* in Manila Bay, Philippines.

The council of chiefs of Maewo denied that Mr Stephens was the paramount chief of Maewo, said he was not from that island, had no relatives there, and claimed that the island was not a member of Na Grialme and contained only two villages that supported Stephens' party.

New Hebrides' Chief Minister Gerard Leymang said, in a broadcast statement, that the New Hebrides Government was not aware of Mr Stephens' offer. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Social Services Father Walter Lini said: 'Such an offer made by a member of the public could cause disunity among the people of the New Hebrides and might disrupt future relations with overseas countries.'

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VICTA
TURNS GRASS INTO LAWN



From the ISLANDS PRESS

From a letter in The Norfolk Islander

Would that I could enlighten and inspire with the spoken word that which, of necessity, must be conveyed with the cold and factual analysis of the written word. The time is short, the danger is acute. You were saved on the very brink of destruction by the elimination of the Whitlam government. You passed through the horror and aftermath of the Nimmo Report to be beguiled and blindly led to the brink of the Norfolk Island Bill where you now stand on the very edge of disaster — that is, if you who are Norfolk, think as I do. In the divisive past it was different but today you have your rallying points in the struggle for freedom. Let me, in cold analysis, without emotional overtones and as a critical lawyer, examine the bill as concisely and as non-technically as possible . . . Graeme Skinner.

News Drum, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Soon after parliament resumed last Friday, the Speaker, Mr Maepeza Gina, suspended proceedings for five minutes. This came after a personal clash between the Minister of Finance, Mr Kinika, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ulufa'alu. Mr Kinika later apologised to the House for the inconvenience caused.

The Fiji Times

Fiji followers of teenage Guru Maharaj-Ji are reportedly using a secret eye technique which medical opinion says can blind them. The technique involves pressing the eyeballs from the sides with the fingers until flashes of light and stars appear. A man who said he had been initiated into the sect but had left after an eye specialist warned it was dangerous, demonstrated the method to Fiji Times reporters.

Caption in PNG Post-Courier

Burns Philp (Mt Hagen) has given up! The main street of Mt Hagen is a sea of plywood sheets replacing broken glass. BPs has decided to use more permanent cladding and cover all its glass.

The Coconut Telegraph, Savusavu, Fiji

We like the story of Peter Togaibai, of Natakea, Savusavu. During Cyclone Fay, the iron roof of his house wanted to go on a joyride, but Peter was determined to prevent it, so he tied a length of rope onto a rafter and hung on to it. With every gust of wind, the roof rose four feet, and Peter rose with it, hanging on grimly. He reckons he had just enough weight to keep that roof anchored, but if Cyclone Fay had lasted more than two hours he wouldn't have had a hope.

Letter in Cook Island News

It is with concern I write regarding the present political situation now developing in our country. It reminds me of the situation the Shah is now having in Iran. Although we haven't reached the stage (pray God we don't) of mass assembly, bloodshed and violence, the build up now visible and invisible may very well take us there . . . The way I look at it signs ain't good . . . Speaking for myself I'm seriously considering going overseas for a few years until things settle down here . . . Yours sincerely, Shaky.

From a letter in the PNG Post-Courier

Mr Kwan is quite right when he asks, 'Who would copy the NBC (National Broadcasting Commission)?' I would add: 'Who in his

right mind would copyright the NBC?' . . . Carolus Ketsimur, Program Director, NBC.

The Norfolk Island News

Page 1 headline: 'Australia's Plan to Keep Norfolk a Colony'.
Page 5 headline: 'New Deal for Abos'.

The Fiji Times

Customs men at Nadi International Airport yesterday seized bottles of holy water from the River Jordan and bibles containing soil from the Holy Land in a crackdown on Fiji soldiers back from Lebanon. The items were confiscated when Customs officers made a thorough man-by-man search of the baggage of the 140 soldiers of the First Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment who arrived home yesterday morning.

The Tonga Chronicle

An 18-year-old Tonga Defence Services private has survived from an alleged bullet shot into his head at Motutapu Island early on Tuesday morning.

Savali, Apia, Western Samoa

Last year the police did not catch anybody with their pants down, or their lavalavas absent, the annual report of the police department says . . . in 1977 nobody was arrested for adultery. In 1976 two people were arrested.

Tohi Tala Niue

A 'petrol scare' late last week caused chaos at Niue's one and only petrol station. Niue Island United Enterprises became the island's most sought after spot last week as cars and motorbikes of all descriptions formed almost one-mile long queues at both entrances to the station.

PNG Post-Courier

We're left without a leg to stand on. An observant North Solomons reader has pointed out that the picture we published on page 4 of Tuesday's issue of warriors at the Eastern Highlands Show was a 'little suspect' because all the blokes in the front row are left-handed. Sure enough they are carrying their spears in the left hand, but we must put matters right. Somehow we reversed the picture during the block-making process . . .

From a letter to News Drum, Solomon Islands

Please let us try and prevent and minimise the rate of manslaughter with hard law as death penalty. Do not rely on 'Love one another as thyself' and find your throat cut open in your bedroom by your best friend.

PNG Post-Courier

No doubt Finance Minister Barry Holloway will be interested in the latest definition of inflation. It's this: 'Inflation is easily recognisable as that time when necessities and luxuries are selling for about the same price.'

Tohi Tala Niue

For ten years up to 1974, we asked ourselves what future we wanted and discussed who should make the decisions on the future — a Niue Cabinet or New Zealand Government officials. The lengthy and serious discussions led to the biggest decision yet made by us the people of Niue — the vote for self-government. In 1979 we will be asked to contribute our views on the type of Niue we want in the 1980s and on how we can work towards it . . .

From a letter to the PNG Post-Courier

Not three cheers but three million cheers for good Michael Somare! Somare, you have come a long way. It will be disastrous to pause (let alone stop). Keep going until we, the people, say: 'Nick off, Mick!' And we haven't said it yet . . . — Max Pandurai, Korobosea.

YESTERDAY GUADALCANAL FORGETTING? NO FORGIVING? YES

American and Japanese veterans are frequently seen nowadays retracing their wartime steps on Solomon Islands' Guadalcanal. Australian journalist Alan Gill recalls a meeting he had a couple of years back with a bunch of US Pacific War veterans.

Thirty-seven years ago on May 3, 1942 a Japanese naval force steamed unopposed into the deserted harbour at Tulagi, and transferred some weeks later (many sources give the date as July 1) to the north coast of Guadalcanal.

On August 7, an American task force counter-attacked. It was the prelude to one of the bloodiest campaigns of the Pacific war, in which 1500 Americans and between 20 000 and 30 000 Japanese lost their lives.

Thirty-five years on, during 1977, the US defenders of Guadalcanal — older, wiser, and, in most cases, fatter, proved themselves still a lively bunch. A group which came via

Australia on their way to the Solomons elected one of their number to scale the flagpole of the American consulate in Melbourne, as a result of which a certain diplomat is still wondering what became of his star-spangled banner.

The pilgrims landed in the Solomons — by courtesy this time of Air Pacific — at the same Henderson airfield which they had valiantly defended so many years earlier.

A renovated artillery piece still guards the arrivals and departures lounge — a simple building with a sheet of paper headed "What's On in Honiara" tacked to a wall, and a cordoned-off area reserved for VIPs.

Otherwise, the surrounding grassland and distant bush give no hint of the bloody battles that went on before.

The US defenders of Guadalcanal had a reputation for generosity. In peace and war they have lived up to it, as witness their gift of brass band instruments to the Solomons police band.

The original letter requesting the instruments was signed by Solomons war hero, Sergeant-Major Jacob Vouza.

Nowadays, Vouza's home, and a chat with its famous occupant, is a popular halt on the tours of Guadalcanal offered by travel agents. Vouza himself, chest bedecked with medals, is a familiar figure at Henderson airfield welcoming famous, and occasionally not-so-famous, visitors to the island.

During the 1977 royal tour of the Pacific he greeted the Queen. In an impromptu gesture he delved into an inner pocket and produced a battered photo of himself holding a severed Japanese head. Her Majesty grimaced, said "How

nice" or words to that effect, and moved on.

The returning Americans to whom I spoke during their visit to the Solomons displayed marked tolerance towards their former foes.

Art, a former Machinist Mate 1st Class (MMI) with the 6th Seabee Battalion, US Navy, made light of Japanese atrocities. He said: "A few dirty things were done on both sides," and told me of an incident in which Japanese prisoners-of-war were allegedly shot in their compound.

Both Art, now fire chief in his home town, and John Weiss, a former sergeant with the 25th (Infantry) Battalion, US Army, told me they would readily "take a beer" with their former enemy. On a previous visit, Art escorted a group of Japanese ex-servicemen to a spot where their countrymen were buried.

The American "pilgrims" included a former two-star admiral — who fell off the boat during a tourist cruise — and men of all ranks and from all services. (to page 36.)

LETTER FROM A WAR HERO

Solomon Islands best-known war hero is Sergeant-major Jacob Charles Vouza, GM, MBE, now nearly 80 years old. During independence celebrations the spotlight fell on the sergeant-major, with Pacific War veterans, returning from all over, eager to shake his hand.

With the celebrations over, Sergeant-major Vouza penned a letter to his old friend, one Al Bonney, from his home in California Village, West Tasilsoko District on Guadalcanal. We reproduce the hero's letter:

*Dear my friend Al Bonney
This is a great pleasure for me now in having this wonderful opportunity in writing to you now. Well, in writing now, I just like to say thank you very much for coming over and attending our greatest day in the history of our peaceful nation, that is the independence day.*

Well, mostly I would like to

say thank you as well for taking me over to the American warships to attend the party in them and I wish to say that I really enjoyed the visit to the warships and I really enjoyed seeing and talking with you. I was really pleased in meeting you as well.

Well I hope you'd be very glad to know what's going on here in our country after this independence. Well nothing unusual happened and everything is running on smoothly and I wish if only our country could continue in the same manner always but keep on growing and improving. My health is still going on well. During the celebrations an American who was a Los Angeles Times staff writer came over to my home here and interviewed me.

I told him my story and I also claimed to him that if the Solomons is in trouble after independence, I'd like to have



Sgt-major Vouza ... letter to an old friend

help from the United States of America. for now. Goodbye. God bless you.

Well that's all I could say

Sgt-Major Jacob Vouza

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I was educated in the ways and customs of the Seabees by Art, and by Jim Trainer, from Cuba, Missouri, a former chief ship fitter with the 6th Seabee Battalion; his companion, Edward Anderson, a former Machinist Mate 2nd Class, from Omaha, Nebraska — ribbed by his friends for his resemblance to an actor in the TV series "My Favourite Martian"; and Elmer Sommer, from Stone Lake, Wisconsin, formerly a gunner 1st class in the 26th Seabee Battalion.

Seabees were, certainly in the early stages, an all-volunteer force of, in the main, older men whose technical skills were in great demand. The term Seabee is derived from the initials CB — Construction Battalion, US Navy. Its members had another term — "Confused bastards" — to match the initials.

However, my contacts with the Seabees were as nothing to the friendship and cheer I received from John Weiss,

from Indianapolis, whose story was among the strangest of all.

One day in September, 1942, John and other members of his platoon were led to a cave where they had been told Japanese troops were in hiding.

There was a flash — which is all John remembers. He woke up several days later, minus a leg, in a military hospital in Wellington, New Zealand.

John told me: "I suppose the older we get the more sentimental we become. I have wanted for years to come back and find the spot where it happened."

He came well-armed with ordnance survey and other maps to assist him in his search. As luck would have it he found a former scout who knew the cave. The same man had led one of eight Japanese survivors of the incident to the same spot a year earlier.

After it was all over I had a drink with John Weiss in

Honiara's Hotel Mendana. "Last night I lay awake for hours wondering 'when the time comes would you really know the spot if you saw it?'"

He would now like to meet the eight Japanese survivors. "There's no point in bitterness. Us peasants are called in to do the dirty work fixed by governments. How you feel about it doesn't change the outcome."

John now works full-time for a disabled ex-servicemen's association which helps veterans with compensation and other benefit claims, and assists in the welfare and education of their children.

In front of the Hotel Mendana stands a tree used by Japanese snipers as a vantage point. Within a few metres of the hotel are roadside notices, generally inserted discreetly among flowerbeds, proclaiming various landmarks and dates in the savage fighting in this now tranquil setting.

Many of the returning Americans were surprised at

the motor traffic and other "advances" on the island. John Weiss told me in mock horror "Why, it took me 10 minutes just to cross the road."

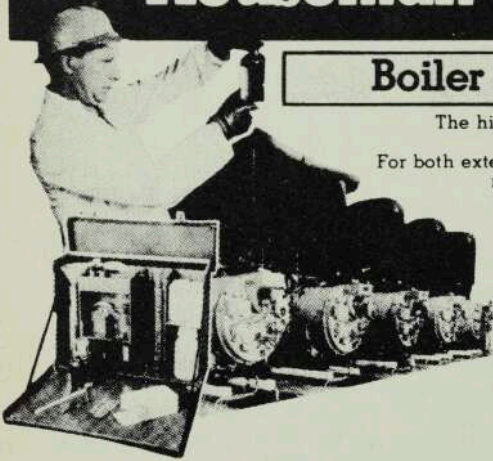
Today the war is remembered not only in travel agents' outings to Sergeant-Major Vouza and the "war museums" which have sprouted in residents' gardens, but in the survival of certain songs — there is a pidgin number called "Japuni ha! ha!" — and a fondness for American chewing gum.

At Honiara's Point Cruz cinema I saw an advertisement which stated: PK tru lang altogeta tais (PK's taste lasts longer).

The Japanese, also, have their pilgrimages and memorials. A simple monument on Mount Austin, Guadalcanal, is inscribed in Japanese and English. The latter version states in a creditable effort at English: "This is a memorial of all country's unknown soldiers died on these fields during the war."

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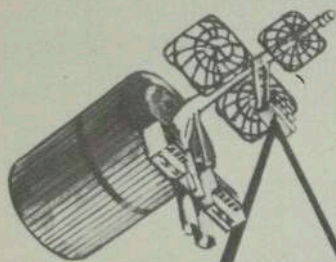
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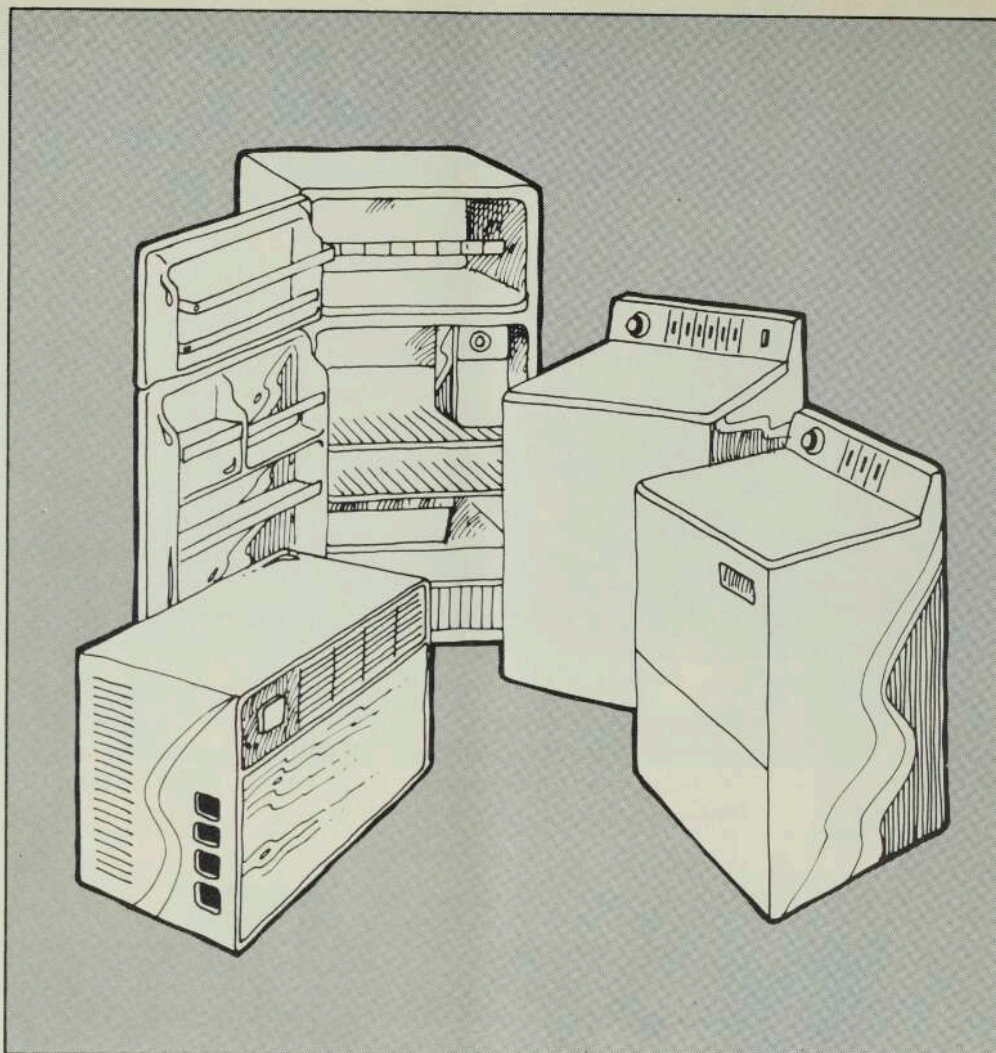


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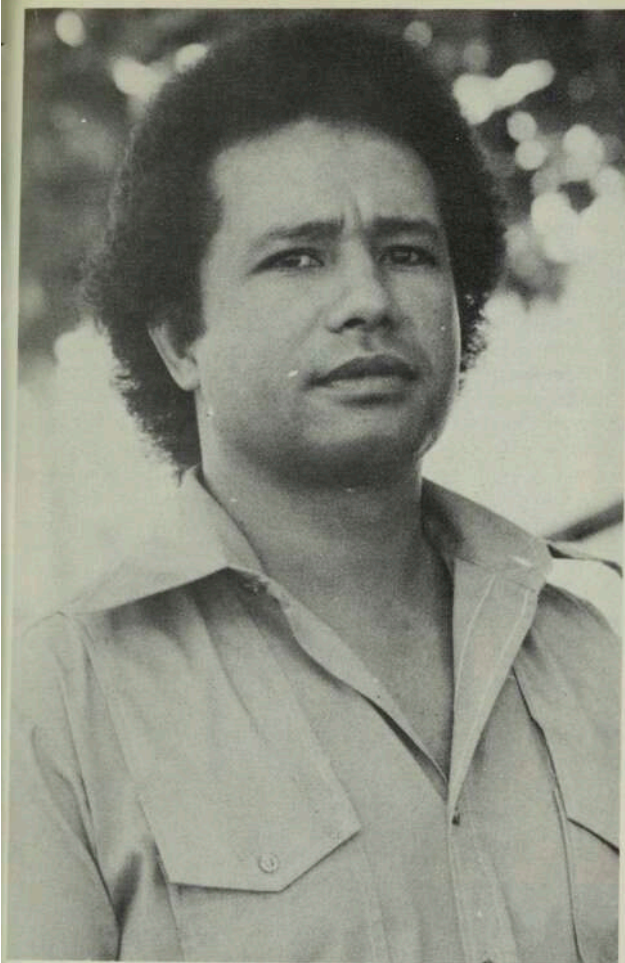
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Albert Wendt ... a story as true as it is original

Wendt lives up to his promise

Albert Wendt's second published novel of Samoa represents, in its maturity and judgment, a ratification of the bright promise of his early works. It demonstrates this maturity in several ways, notably in the cost it takes in counting the course, presenting the account for that freedom with which Wendt's soul seems largely concerned as he sculpts for us the aspirations, elsewhere seldom or more awkwardly expressed, of most of his contemporaries.

Even his title, *Pouliuli*, stipulates the darkness the developing day leaves behind it, only to return to a darker night. Wendt gives us a Samoa that occasionally struggles in the lax coils of

a serpent tradition, but not too forcefully, for tradition provides comfort within its restrictions, a comfort and security valid, that is, mainly for conditions that have vanished, even though the tradition has apparently adjusted to a degree of modernity.

He demonstrates the rule by presenting the exception, and to tell the truth I've never been more impressed by any island story of whatever origin. His introduction sets the scene:

Early on a drizzly Saturday morning Faleasa Osovae — the 76-year-old titled head of the Aiga Faleasa, faithful husband of a devoted Felefele, stern but generous father of seven sons and five obedient daughters, and the

most respected ali'i in the village of Malaelua — woke with a strange bitter taste in his mouth to find, as he looked out to the rain and his village, and then at his wife snoring softly beside him in the mosquito net, and the rest of his aiga (about 60 bodies wrapped in sleeping sheets) who filled the spacious fale, that everything and everybody that he was used to and had enjoyed, and that till then had given meaning to his existence, now filled him with an almost unbearable feeling of revulsion ... It would be madness to deny his position, the respect he commanded for quite significant achievements; it would be madness at his age to adopt other standards; it would be madness to challenge the might of traditions — so Faleasa feigned madness ...

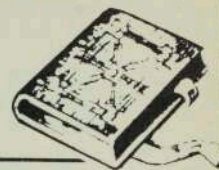
From this really wonderful beginning in the classic mould, Wendt develops a story ringing as true as it is original. What power it lays at his hands! Here he has reason to bring the strength of legend into his plot, and the exaggerations of childhood memories, and the hidden shames and flaunted glories of a limelighted life; here the assumption of madness can justify changed allegiances. Here the broken loyalties can show the strength of the Samoan norm.

Sheer enjoyment, perhaps, is Wendt's main offering. Like the greatest of writers he underlines his tragedy with comedy uproarious, masks the proud flesh of his sorrows with callosities, arms his placid innocents with diabolical cunning. But apart from the entertainment of truth he has given us what must surely be the best introduction ever devised to ancient Polynesia and its still vibrant sinews.

Wendt is mentioned several times in *South Pacific Images*, though, strangely enough, a reference to this particular novel does not give its title, either in the text or in the notes, so I can only imagine it to have been read, and judged, in an early manuscript form. That is only one of the peculiarities of *Images*.

In May 1977 the University of Queensland's Department of English hosted a conference of the South Pacific Association for Commonwealth Literature

BOOKS



and Language Studies. Papers read by 18 of the delegates now appear in a collection edited and introduced by Chris Tiffin, a teacher at the University who edits the periodical *Span*. Though the delegates came from a limited number of universities to discuss a common subject I would be fair, I think, in describing the result as heterogeneous. Some offerings, indeed, are a long way off what most of us would accept as 'South Pacific' literature, though much could be squeezed in on the ground that Australia is part of the area.

For example, it's difficult for me to accept that David Tacey's review of Patrick White's *A Fringe of Leaves* comes close in any way to the area most of us envisage with the words 'South Pacific'. Tacey is writing a PhD thesis on White at the University of Adelaide — or he was at the time — and I assume there's a close relationship between the two writings; also that the critic has thoroughly informed himself.

Something similar could be said of Bruce Bennett writing on Hal Porter and Randolph Stow, Norman Talbot on John Shaw Neilson and Gwen Harwood, Shirley Walker on Judith Wright's poetry and several more. Most of them present excellent observations based on intensive studies and can hardly be judged makeweights, but they don't help the serious reader who wishes to develop his interest in the strange, won-

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derful and exciting back-grounds and developments in the Islands.

Colonialism, of course, gets a sound rub-a-dub-dub, without much clearance of the slung mud that exaggerates its (certainly plentiful) internal grime. It was pleasing to note Satendra Nandan, a lecturer from Fiji's University of the South Pacific, examining the healing function of a local and largely indigenous literature in terms of the colonised.

Colonialism has been around a very long time and it hasn't changed very much as, from the middle distance, Caedmon Cadwallader could testify. We are all of us inheritors of the assets of colonialism as well as its unsettled debits, and colonialism could well be a very happy influence in our history. For creative writing in itself is a form of revolt, and a revolutionary has to have something to oppose. Out of revolution comes the consciousness of entity, a fact which, for example, the Constitution of the United States recognises – and the literature of that country has responded vigorously to this. So it is good to see colonialism as a target for some such capable marksman as Nandan.

In the newer countries a confusion has emerged between anti-colonialism and the generation gap, which is an antagonism to tradition. Someone should ask, perhaps, whether English literature would ever have risen to its admitted height without England's many experiences of being colonised; and one can argue at least that its American branch dominated

and still dominates the whole vigorous tree because of the fierce resistance colonialism engendered there.

Trinidad is also a long way from the South Pacific, but the inheritance of Nandan in Fiji, and of his subject, that great writer V.S. Naipaul in the Caribbean, have similarities, though each is qualified by a very different transplant experience. — *Olaf Ruhen.*

POULIULI. By Albert Wendt. Published by Longman Paul. Hardcover \$A6.95, paper \$A4.95. **SOUTH PACIFIC IMAGES.** Ed. Chris Tiffin. Published by the South Pacific Association for Literature and Language Studies. \$A7.50.

Of minor money matters

Ray Parkinson was a public servant in Fiji for 23 years. After his death in 1969 a memorial fund was established to finance a recurrent series of lectures to 'improve public and official understanding of basic economic principles and their relevance to public policy decisions'. This book comprises the 1977 lectures plus several other papers which deal with monetary policy in small developing countries. It is edited by the professor of economics at the University of the South Pacific.

The book starts with two articles by David Maynard. The first a perfectly standard account of monetary policies (policies influencing the volume, cost and direction of credit) in developed economies. The second, dealing with small developing countries, brings out several important

points. Some monetary policy measures are weak in developing countries: for example, the lending policy of the central bank may be of little influence if commercial banks do not borrow from it. On the other hand, direct controls may be very powerful in terms of restraining credit because the small size of the economy means that alternative sources of credit do not exist. As the size and sophistication of the financial system grows, this advantage will disappear. In general, Maynard concludes, meaningful monetary policy in a small developing country is very difficult to achieve.

The next two papers on Fiji's Central Monetary Authority are fairly unexciting but a summary of the authority's credit policy 1976-77 indicates the difficulties of trying to stimulate activity via monetary policy while following a liberal foreign exchange control policy which imposes no limits on current payments.

The manager of Barclays Bank in Suva outlines some of the operational problems of profit-seeking organisations in an environment where development projects often are long term and of an uncertain risk. He evaluates four approaches to increasing public control over private banks – nationalisation, increased local participation in existing banks, setting up a local bank in competition and through central bank monetary policy. Not surprisingly, the writer pushes for a monetary policy allowing plenty of scope for market forces to operate.

The final narrative paper is

by Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Savenaca Siwatibau and deals with the fiscal measures (control of taxation and government expenditure) available to meet government objectives. This paper is more incisive than its companions for the simple reason that fiscal policy itself is much more effective. There is an interesting discussion of the elasticity of Fiji's tax system (the ability of tax revenue to change more than in proportion to changes in gross domestic product, thus reducing the impact of both recession and boom).

The editor notes that he believes this book is the first dealing with monetary policy in small developing countries. The reason for this, of course, is the limited effectiveness on monetary policy in this context and, as several contributors note, its greater influence as a restraining device rather than as an encouragement. Without the last paper linking monetary policy with fiscal policy, the positive contribution of the book would have been fairly small. Whilst it could plausibly be argued that the book has met its objectives, I feel that mention should have been made of policy objectives other than stabilisation and the scope for wages, prices and incomes policy and for exchange rate variations, especially in economies so vulnerable to international influences. — *G. T. Harris, Agricultural Economics Research Unit, Lincoln College, New Zealand.*

S. Schavio-Campo (ed) **MONETARY POLICY IN A SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY.** The Ray Parkinson memorial lectures, 1977, University of the South Pacific, Suva, 1978, \$F4.50.

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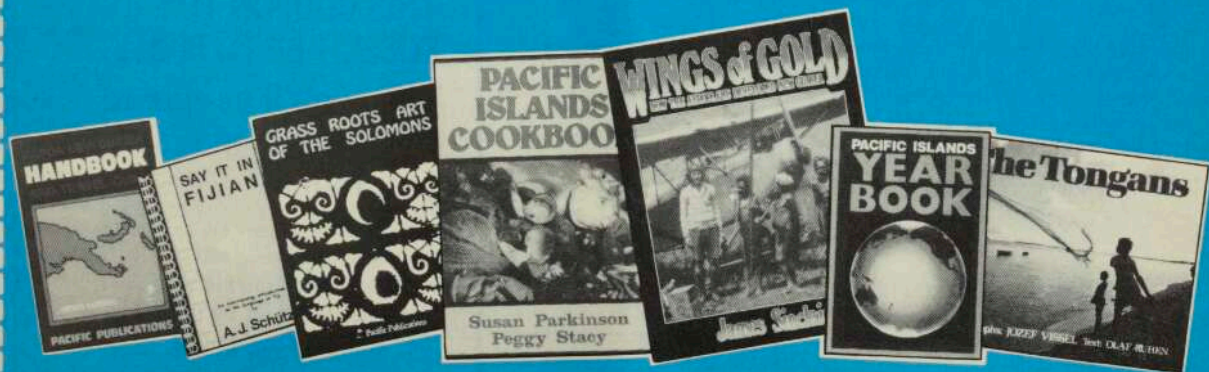
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WHAT ROLE FOR RELIGION IN MELANESIA TODAY?

AFTERTHOUGHTS with Percy Chatterton in Port Moresby.

By and large Christian missions in Papua New Guinea have done a good job. They have contributed extensively to the development of the country and have been appreciated by its people. 'Papua New Guinea is a Christian country' is a phrase frequently heard from the lips of our leaders and of people generally throughout the country. This is probably because in the earlier years of the colonial period missionaries who came here were sent by the major historic churches of mainstream Christianity.

On the whole, relations between the various missions were good, with a minimum of overlapping and rivalry. There was — it would be foolish to deny it — a good deal of animosity between Protestant and Roman Catholic missionaries, an animosity which it took Vatican II to cure us of.

Relations between the missions and the colonial governments were also reasonably good, especially in Papua, though the missionaries did not hesitate to criticise and oppose governmental actions which they thought were wrong.

Missions are frequently criticised nowadays for 'collaboration' with colonialism. These critics should pause to consider what the alternative to colonialism would have been. Had the European colonial powers not come into the Pacific during the nineteenth century, the alternative would have been a free go for all the riff-raff of Europe, with the gun-power to terrorise the islands people and to murder, rape and blackbird at will. Pioneer missionaries encouraged and supported the colonial administrations because they knew that the alternative to colonial rule was something much worse.

The early years of the twentieth century saw the arrival of some additional missions, notably the Seventh Day Adventists who, while creating a few problems on the religious front, have made a contribution to Papua New Guinean education worthy of the highest praise. Such, in broad terms, was the situation at the outbreak of the Pacific War in 1942.

After the war, the picture changed in several ways. In the first place, self-governing churches emerged from the work of the older-established missions. The extent of the autonomy so established varied according to the ecclesiastical structure of the 'parent' church. In the case of the United Church of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, with its Methodist/Congregationalist background, independence is complete, though the church looks to overseas mission boards to help it in securing such expatriate staff as it still needs, and for some financial assistance.

In the second place, a number of small missions, in some cases of American origin, began work in Papua New Guinea, particularly in the Highlands. Theologically these missions were of the kind usually described as 'evangelical', and scripturally most of them would claim to be fundamentalist. A few have, over the years, effected the vital transition from 'mission' to 'church'. Others have not.

The confusion caused by this increase in the number of missions and churches operating in Papua New Guinea has been somewhat relieved by the formation of two ecumenical bodies, the Melanesian Council of Churches and the Evangelical Alliance. The former comprises seven of PNG's larger and older religious bodies, including the Roman Catholic Church. The latter knits together a large number of smaller bodies carrying on religious

work of varying kinds. Relations between these two bodies are cordial and there is some co-operation between them.

Recently, however, something of a furore has been created by the irruption into Papua New Guinea of further new religious groups which differ in important respects both from the major missions of the early colonial period and from the newer missions of the post-war period.

In the main they have been established by expatriates who have secured entry into Papua New Guinea as workers in secular occupations and who carry on their religious work in their spare time. Their appeal is generally a highly emotional one of the kind variously described as 'charismatic' or 'pentecostal'.

Now while there is an emotional element in religion, as there is in nationalism, dire results can in either case ensue to individuals, communities and nations when the emotions get out of hand.

When I hear of teenage high school girls weeping all night over their sins, I find myself wondering whether they are really all that wicked, and, if they are, whether in between their lachrymatory exercises they are trying as hard as they might to abandon their wickedness and amend their lives.

I do not doubt that some of the phenomena that occur at the meetings of these groups are expressions of genuine religious experience. But some of them have an uncomfortable resemblance to the kind of hysteria evoked in their fans by pop singers.

What to do about it? A seminar was recently held at the University of Papua New Guinea on these issues and some quite horrifying suggestions were made.

An administrative secretary wanted the government to 'stop churches from manipulating the people'. Fair enough if we also stop politicians, and for that matter administrative secretaries too, from being allowed to manipulate the people. In passing it may be explained that administrative secretaries are the successors to the district commissioners who, in their heyday, were champion people-manipulators.

The same administrative secretary wanted the government 'to set guidelines for the churches so that they will work in line with policies of the government'.

It has, of course, been the aim of dictators throughout the ages, from the pre-Christian divine emperors down to Hitler and his 'German Christians' to make religion subservient to the state. But in a Christian democracy, which Papua New Guinea claims to be, the church should be the conscience of the nation, not the lackey of its government.

But the issue, perhaps, goes deeper. Is religion the expression of the religious life of the community, or is it a matter of the relationship between an individual and his or her god?

Traditionally in Melanesia, as in ancient Israel, religion was an activity of the community, and non-conformists got short shrift. The people of Papua New Guinea have tended to carry over into their Christianity the idea of religion as a community activity, and the historic missions, and the churches which have grown out of them, seem to have, tacitly if not explicitly, gone along with this idea. So we now have a (national) Lutheran bishop complaining of 'harassment by minority religious sects of villagers in Lutheran-dominated areas', and that freedom of religion as established under the constitution 'served as a passport for new religious groups into areas already covered by other churches'. Clearly he is thinking of religion as a community activity rather than as an individual faith.

This view of religion is of course hotly contested not only by the charismatics and the pentecostals but also by the evangelicals who constantly exhort people to 'accept Christ as their personal saviour'.

The present crisis, if it may be called so, in Papua New Guinean Christianity may well be one aspect of the confrontation between communalism and individualism in present-day Melanesian society.



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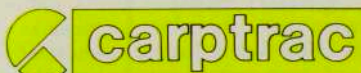


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TROPICALITIES

Baha'i churches, both of which are represented in PNG. He said that under the United Nations Charter which applied to PNG before independence, complete freedom of entry was granted to all groups describing themselves as 'Christian missions'. This had allowed the establishment of many small, radical and unorthodox sects. One had consisted of only a man and his daughter who had set up operations in a stockade-like structure which they built in the Highlands. The council wanted to restrict the type of missionary development which did little except divide the people and create community problems.

Cultural centre for W. Samoa

The Western Samoan parliament has passed a bill to set up a National Cultural Centre Trust, which aims to establish and maintain a building complex housing a museum, archives, a library, a theatre and craft workshops. Under the provisions of the Bill, Treasury will make available \$35 000 towards the establishment of the centre. The minister of culture will be the chairman of the trust, and the members will include the director of education, the secretary of youth, sports and cultural affairs, a centre director, and three other members to be appointed.

WHO's vigilance on smallpox

The World Health Organisation is not resting on its laurels now that smallpox has been officially declared eradicated throughout the world. Its smallpox eradication unit is still on the job, searching everywhere for any sign of the dreaded disease.

As part of its continuing campaign to encourage public vigilance, WHO is now distributing a poster worldwide announcing a reward of \$US1000 for the first person who reports a confirmed case.

Designed by Swiss artist Rene Gauch, the striking poster is executed in blue, red and gold.

Early birds will get Noumea rooms

If you are planning to visit New Caledonia in 1979, make your bookings well ahead, writes Andre Chaville from Moumea. The old Hotel Lantana has closed down and will become the headquarters of the numerous associations which exist to promote the tourist industry and who have begun their combined operations by withdrawing rooms from the visitors they seek to attract.

Whether the Office of Tourism will join the move remains to be seen. But as Bruno Tabuteau, the director, is under heavy fire from his opponents at present, the decision may not be in his hands.

The Hotel Mocambo will soon be offering serviced flats. But the most important move will be the Club Mediteranee's bid to take over the Chateau Royal and the Isle of Pines. According to rumours, the deal is practically through and the Chateau, Noumea's largest hotel, could close down in January. The staff will be sacked at the same time, thus putting an end to the strife that has been going on there over the past couple of years.

Sandy McDonald, the new manager of New Caledonia's tourist agency in Sydney, will have a hard job on his hands — selling holidays to a territory sadly lacking in hotel space.

Meanwhile the French Government is offering financial incentives to assist the

building of new hotels, or increase the capacities of existing installations. Perhaps this will encourage some of the dormant capital of New Caledonia to take a bet on the future of tourism at a time when the territory needs visitors badly.

Suva to upstage Edmonton

'A remarkable fact of the 1979 South Pacific Games in August-September is that there will be more competitors taking part in the 18 events than the total number of sportsmen who competed at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada last year,' says the Games committee newsletter. It adds: 'It is pretty clear that people in the South Pacific are beginning to realise just how big an international sports fiesta it is going to be. From the number of inquiries we are getting we can expect not just the largest contingent of competitors but also a fair old number of spectators from this part of the world.'

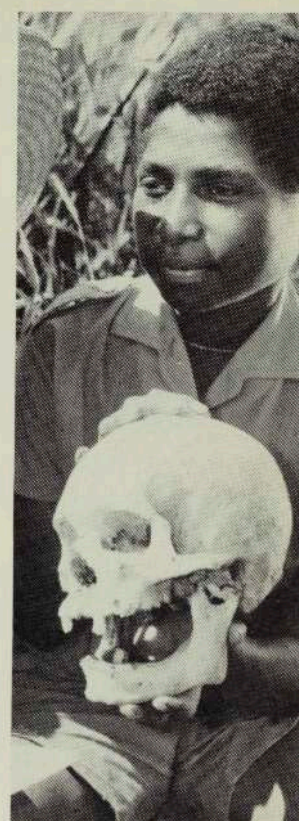
More than 2400 competitors are expected to take part. At Edmonton there were 2148.

The newsletter advises that hotel reservations for the Games period can be made through Mr Gordon Burke, c/o PO Box 2348, Suva. Mr Burke is officially in charge of accommodation and ticket sales.

In the dark about Tuvalu

News from West Germany is that a top national newspaper there has had a letter from wandering film maker, Karl-Heinz Stellmach, suggesting that, because it made so many mistakes in its reporting of Tuvalu's accession to independence, it should subscribe to PIM.

Karl writes: 'This prestigious daily paper ... said that the islands of Tuvalu are peopled by Melanesians and that the Tuvaluans generally would be much darker in skin colour than the neighbouring Gilbertese. My wife, Aborina, born on the Tarawa atoll in the Gilberts, quipped: "It's fortunate the Tuvaluans cannot read German when you consider



Myles Nalous of Yeye village in PNG's Southern Highlands ... telling his people's story

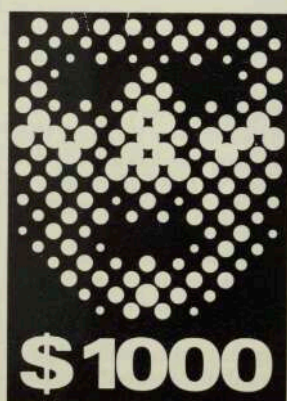
their pride in their light skins".

Mr von Stellmach has recently been making a second film in Papua New Guinea's South Highlands Province as a follow-up to his successful ... and then came DAWN which won a top award at an Italian film festival some years ago.

Longrange plans for arts festival

The South Pacific Arts Festival planned for Papua New Guinea in July next year may seem a long time away but planning has been going on since last October.

Among early developments has been the adoption of a festival emblem, an all-traditional design produced by the PNG National Arts School, combining a canoe prow, sea and sun. The prow is from the Sepik; the sea is worked into a design from the Massim area of Milne Bay Province; and the symbol



Poster issued by the World Health Organisation's smallpox eradication unit.

TROPICALITIES

of the sun involves a Tami Island (Morobe Province) design with a frog's leg and dog's tooth surround, symbols common to many areas of Papua New Guinea.

Anticipated cost of the festival is more than K1 million, the money coming from the PNG Government and regional and international agencies.

The organisers, led by chairman Mali Voi, plan to diversify festival happenings. In this way they hope to enable the 1000 or so participants from more than 20 Pacific nations to see more of PNG than just the national capital, Port Moresby, at the same time making it possible for the people from the provinces of PNG to join in the festivities.

Mike Joyce in Port Moresby reports that in addition to the traditional and modern live performances of dance, mime and drama, a number of static exhibitions are planned. He says: 'Probably the most spectacular will be an exhibition of traditional canoes from throughout the islands... Exhibitions of stamps, coins, artifacts and traditional crafts are also planned.'

The new 'Bounty', and riotous crew

The infamous British naval vessel the *Bounty* sails again, writes William Gasson from Wellington. The steel-hulled replica, launched at the northern New Zealand port of Whangarei, will be used to record the fate of the ship and the crew almost 200 years ago.

British film director David Lean of *Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Dr Zhivago* and *Lawrence of Arabia* fame, plans two films on the 1789 mutiny which will be called *The Law Breakers* and *The Long Arm*. The films will trace the story of the ship from when it was commissioned in England in 1787 through to the trial of some of the mutineers. But there are no plans to recreate the burning of the *Bounty*. The mutineers did this at Bounty Bay, Pitcairn Island, on January 23, 1789.

The new *Bounty* was built by Whangarei Engineering and Construction Ltd (WECO).

While the first 200-ton *Bounty* was built for less than £1000 the latest version cost \$NZ2.5 million. Even two reproduced longboats, built by a second Whangarei firm, cost \$12 000.

WECO's instructions were to build an exact external replica of the *Bounty* and 70-year-old Lean asked a senior surveyor for Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Joe 'Mac' McGuire, if this could be done. 'I can even reproduce the smell if you want it,' Mac replied.

He was seconded to WECO as the representative of the

conditioning and a sprinkler system, and under the water are twin propellers. The ship has modern anchors and winch and two 400-hp diesel engines. Even the longboat will make use of an outboard motor for heading to sea in far-off shots.

But for all the innovations, riding at anchor in Whangarei harbour the *Bounty* looks like a ghost from the past.

It is perhaps incongruous that the Mark II version of the hell ship of the past, to avoid a host of maritime restrictions,

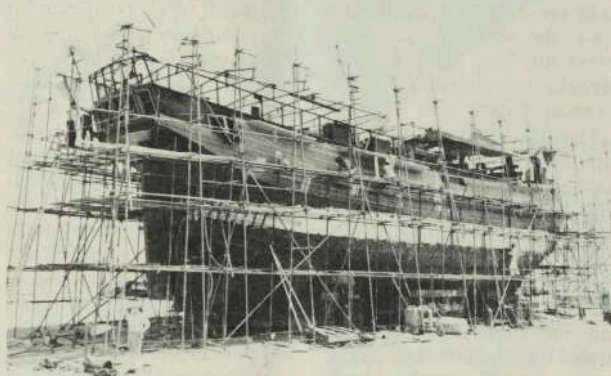
happy, for a while, to earn the good money that filming brings, but when things started going too far they realised that money is perhaps not everything.

Famous Films certainly had a free hand in Bora Bora. The company imported several US army jeeps that carried no number plates and sped all over the island, one of them knocking down some cyclists during the Bastille Day race.

During the shooting of a night scene on one of the *motus* (islets) a young local, employed as an assistant prop man, got badly burnt with petrol from a coconut torch he was trying to extinguish. Kerosene is normally used for the purpose, as the use of petrol is not only highly dangerous but also illegal. There were only primitive first aid facilities available on location, the doctor having gone back to the hotel, so the unfortunate victim had to be taken across the lagoon by boat and then by car to the village hospital. The incident was never fully investigated. Nor were other accidents.

To avoid using the normal channels for freighting equipment and materials to Bora Bora the company bought an old cargo boat, registered in Georgetown, Guyana, but flying the British flag. Taking a long-term look at things, Mr de Laurentiis even built a hotel on Bora Bora, the Marara, to accommodate the actors and crew. The film is now finished and so is the hotel. Even if *Hurricane* doesn't make money, the Marara might. The *Bounty* will probably go the same way and after the filming be used as a private yacht.

It seems to be the same all over the world: first people are falling over backwards to attract a film company to their place, but once the first euphoria has worn off they don't know how to get rid of them quickly enough. New Zealand is doing it now, with the utmost co-operation being promised by the government. There is a snag though: no palm trees. Even Dino de Laurentiis' long arm cannot turn New Zealand's North Island into a tropical paradise. Pacific islands beware!



The *Bounty* nears completion at Whangarei... antique veneer on a modern interior

Dino de Laurentiis Corporation of California which gave out the contract. A year later and the *Bounty* was in the water and ready to be delivered on schedule in February.

With Mac, however, supervising the reconstruction of the *Bounty* was not enough. He has immersed himself in the history and comes down firmly on the side of the controversial Commander William Bligh. He was not the brutal, sadistic, fiend of fiction but a courageous, competent commander, Mac claims. He told Lean that unless the films planned kept to the truth he wouldn't supervise construction of the ship.

The 34-year-old Commander Bligh would be all at sea temporarily at least with the twentieth-century version of the *Bounty*. Outward appearances are authentic but deceptive — the steel hull is timber-clad from deck to waterline, but inside are air

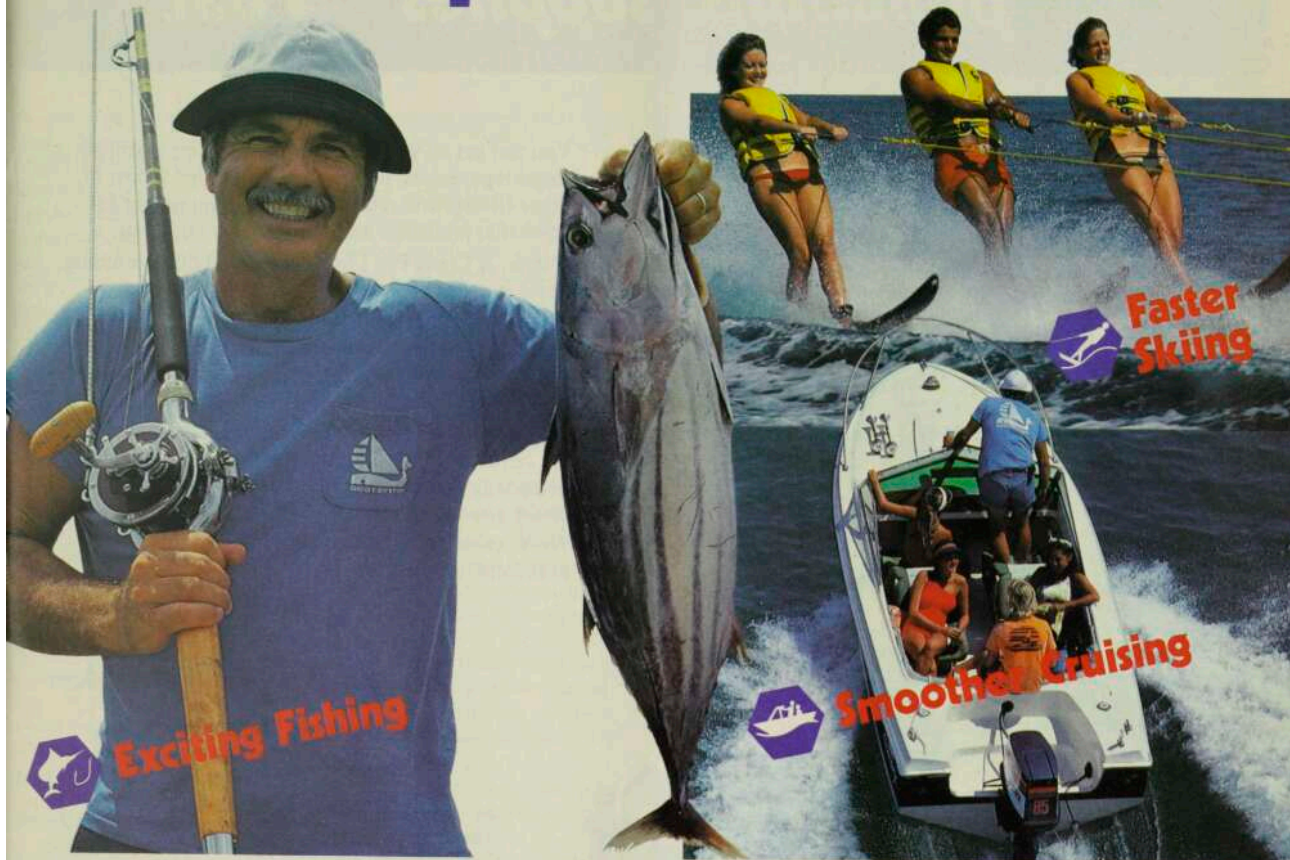
is registered with Lloyd's as a 'pleasure yacht'.

Also writing from New Zealand, Jimmy Cornell takes up the story, and looks into the immediate background of de Laurentiis' Famous Film Company which is to make the *Bounty* films. He writes: Although according to the original plan the *Bounty* was supposed to sail for Tahiti in early 1979, with filming to start there, there are rumours that at least part of the two films will be shot in New Zealand. Dino de Laurentiis has already produced a film, *Hurricane*, in Bora Bora, and was planning to make more.

It seems now, though, that his Famous Film Company has ceased to be the darling of the French authorities who have at long last taken some attitude towards the many abuses committed in Bora Bora by the international film crew (mostly Italian).

The local people were quite

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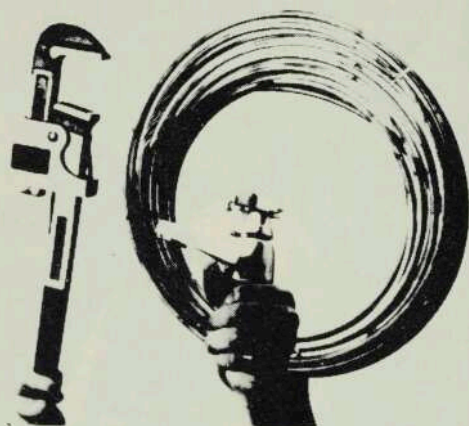
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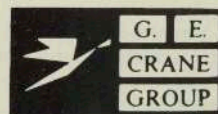
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GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

Communication by the spoken and written word in Solomon Islands is in dire need of improvement, reports Irene Hawkins from Honiara.

Various proposals in the current National Development Plan (NDP) 1975-1979 for telecommunications, the news media and the flow of official information in general, reflect the Solomon Islands government's concern with communications. But, as the 1977 mid-term review of the plan showed, progress toward realising these goals has been rather patchy, especially as far as the flow of information is concerned.

Despite a government newspaper, the *News Drum*, set up in early 1975, a small independent paper, *Toktok*, struggling to survive on a shoestring, and a government radio station that was hived off from a government information section into a separate corporation a year ago, 'a high level of public awareness and understanding of the functions of government, informed public discussions of important issues and means of expressing all opinions' as well as 'provision of education' as desired in the NDP, are still sadly lacking.

The fact of the matter is that these goals cannot possibly be realised until there are flourishing news media, staffed by trained, experienced people who can afford to be critical.

To a considerable degree, the Solomons' serious information gap is due to a widespread lack of interest and understanding among politicians and senior civil servants of the importance of newspapers and the radio as disseminators of ideas and means of involving the people in the country's development. Too often politicians, who until not so long ago were used to reporting only to their colonial masters in London and more recently to parliament in Honiara, are still wary of talking to journalists, who, as they feel, are out to pry into their mistakes and anyway don't

know much about what they are talking.

To some extent they have a point. There is a very serious shortage of qualified Solomon Island journalists and broadcasters. At present only two of the total staff of 16 in the government's information and public relations section are fully trained — and both are expatriates. The system of sending trainees after a year in the information section to a one-year course in Papua New Guinea has so far failed to improve the level of expertise significantly. The frustrations of having to toe the government line tend to make the more enterprising and outspoken journalists look around for other jobs on their return from PNG. Or they go to the Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), where promotion prospects are better.

On top of this, the pre-independence public outrage over the publication of an offensive, anti-Western districts poem — from, as has been discovered recently, the pen of a Malaitan agricultural officer — has thrown the information section, which is responsible for the *News Drum*, really off course. With the Westerners thirsting for revenge, the heads of the two top people in the section had to roll. Francis Mauli, Principal Information Officer, was transferred into an administrative job on the Public Service Commission, while Tom Hughes, former *News Drum* editor, has moved over into the newly-created Foreign Affairs Department under Francis Bugotu, to concentrate on improving the flow of news and information within the Solomons and between it and the outside world. In his stead, Simon Papage, formerly deputy editor, has been promoted to the post of editor.

Despite all the recent commotion these moves could turn



Recording session in Solomon Islands Broadcasting Service studio — signs of a renaissance.

out to be a pointer in the right direction. The extremely embarrassing position that the government has found itself in after the publication of the poem may well have caused politicians and civil servants seriously to question the government's role as a newspaper publisher.

More may feel now that rather than trying to run a weekly paper along commercial lines with some outside credibility and yet no real scope to be critical of the government, the government should put all its efforts behind increasing and improving the output of relevant, informative local and regional news from its news section — and leave the interpretation of it to someone else. The government is likely to gain in credibility abroad by relinquishing its role as publisher. At home it is very much in its interest that the electorate should have the fullest possible knowledge of political and economic problems and developments.

But what should happen to the *News Drum*? Quite a few people would like to see it become part of some foreign newspaper group to obtain the badly needed injections of both expertise and capital. Last year the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, like *PIM* part of the Melbourne Herald group, displayed some interest in moving into publishing in the Solomons. But nothing happened after a survey indicated that a local newspaper would not be commercially viable.

Apparently the *Post-Courier* has not abandoned all interest. The calculations could look

different if the *Post-Courier* were to go into job printing at the same time, possibly taking a stake in an existing press. This time it might also find more willing ears in higher circles. Concern last year about further increasing the Melbourne Herald's already strong position in the South Pacific's regional news media may have now been pushed aside by pressures to do something about the *News Drum*.

On the other hand some people feel there are convincing arguments for trying to find a local buyer. The example of quite a few of the smaller Caribbean islands has proved amply that although a foreign publisher brings undoubted benefits in terms of efficiency and higher standards of reporting, it is at the cost of inevitably gearing the readers' attitudes and expectations to outside values and standards.

Therefore, backing the small independent *Toktok* or some similar local venture may produce less spectacular results to begin with but be more in line with the country's needs in the longer run.

For more than a year now George Atkin, himself one of the ex-PNG School of Journalism students, has been trying to set up a rival weekly newspaper, *Toktok*, his third attempt, has been surviving, albeit rather shakily for more than a year now, selling 1000 copies against the *Drum*'s 3000 a week. *Toktok* too is desperately short of experienced journalists and good copy. But at least it has the freedom to be outspoken.

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MEDIA

take over the *Drum*, Atkin is now planning to oust it, by doubling *Toktok's* weekly circulation and increasing the number of pages. He has also begun to bring out a monthly review, called *Observer*, whose first 800 copies for the month of August sold out quickly.

The prospects for strengthening the local broadcasting service look a good deal more promising. Like the *News Drum*, SIBC has no scope to comment and can only present facts. But even the vital role as an informer in a country where only one in eight adults can read, has remained largely unexplored. The output so far consists largely of European light music, interspersed with some local music, news, service and shipping messages. Again this is above all a question of staff, but also of outdated equipment.

Although the level of expertise is higher at SIBC than at the government information service — not the least due to the fact that some of the best people with overseas training have come over from that section (in fact four of the five newsmen are ex-information people) — the present programme staff of 13 plus another 12 employees on the administrative and technical side is short of programme producers and writers. SIBC was planning to recruit 10 Form 5 school leavers at the end of last year to fill existing vacancies and start training up personnel for the expanded broadcasting services which with Australian financial and technical support (worth \$A1.6 million) should come into operation in the next two to three years.

Since the beginning of last year things have begun to look up for SIBC. It has made a conscious effort to increase the local content of its programme — partly by reviving old programmes, partly by adding some new ones like a programme introducing ministries, a programme for farmers as well as a news spot containing facts and figures about the Solomons. At the same time, the new Australian-financed aerials have increased its coverage from under 50 per cent to

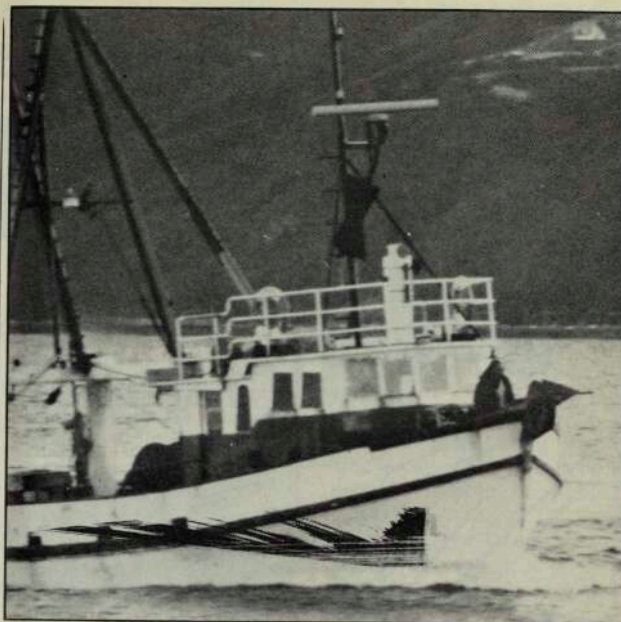
80 per cent of all potential listeners.

Australian technicians and a programme adviser have arrived, the latter to advise the management and train staff over a period of three years. Another Australian specialist, due to arrive last month, will run a course for news work and programme production. A technical expert is expected to take up his training and maintenance job at SIBC soon.

The Australians are not only assisting in upgrading the expertise of the present staff as well as training additional staff, but are also financing the building and equipping of a new studio in Honiara as well as small regional stations at Gizo in the West, Kira Kira on Makira, Graciosa Bay in the Santa Cruz Islands and Auki on Malaita.

The Gizo station should be ready by the middle of this year. It will begin to broadcast some district programmes in addition to those from Honiara. In three years Solomons Islands may well be served by two channels from Honiara (one in English and one in pidgin to cater for two quite different groups of listeners whose interests and understanding cannot really be served by a joint programme) as well as locally orientated programmes put out by several district stations.

This year, educational broadcasts for primary schools should also be resumed. SIBC is thinking of expanding this vital service provided it can secure the co-operation of educational authorities and work out some suitable courses. There is a great need, not only to help Solomon teachers in class with new ideas and well-prepared radio school broadcasts, but also to fill the education gap in those areas where there are not enough schools or schools are inaccessible. With not more than half of all Solomon Island children of school age being able to attend school, the radio could be a vital means of using scarce educational resources for the benefit of the largest possible number of children. Similarly, radio could be an essential means of adult education.



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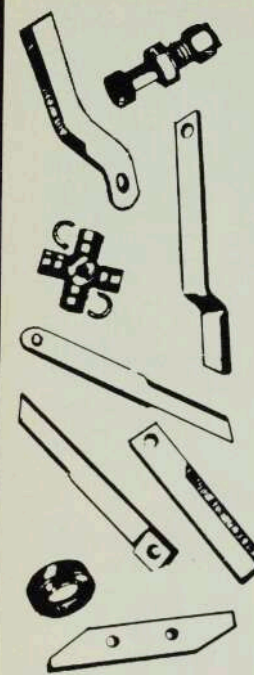
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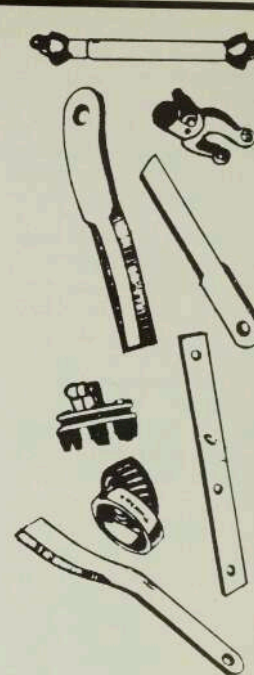
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TRADEWINDS

AIR NIUGINI IN SEARCH OF A NEW MANAGER

Air Niugini last month was looking for a new general manager in the wake of Bryan Grey's resignation at the end of his three-year contract.

Mr Grey's resignation in mid-January sparked an unexpected blast at government by normally mild-mannered Bart Philemon, assistant to the general manager.

Mr Philemon's outburst was quickly followed by opposition charges that interference by public servants in the airline's operations was responsible for any reduction in its effectiveness and profitability.

Although Mr Grey followed up with an explanation of his decision not to renew the contract available to him by saying he was leaving for 'purely personal and family interests', there is no doubt that, at times, he has had to operate Houdini-style to thread his way through snarls of red tape.

Mr Grey, who is understood to be heading for a near top post with Ansett Transport Industries' Melbourne-headquartered organisation, leaves three years of remarkable progress behind him.

In that time he has taken the airline's 'workhorse' DC3 fleet out of the air; boosted the F27 Fokker Friendship numbers; introduced pure jet F28 Fellowships; purchased a Boeing 707 to take over the role of the previously-leased 707; opened up routes to Hong Kong, Kagoshima in south-western Japan, and Sydney; and, more recently, laid the groundwork for the purchase of more F28s, a second 707, and for new routes to Hawaii and Guam in the near future and to Jakarta and Singapore in the longer term. All this, and at a profit — and with a high degree of localisation which doubters of yesterday's colonial Papua New Guinea would not have believed possible.

Senior among nationals on Air Niugini staff is Bart Philemon, generally regarded as the man most likely to become the airline's first Papua New Guinean general manager. How Mr Philemon's January outburst will affect his career remains to be seen.



Bart Philemon ... not ready for the job

Mr Philemon is on record as saying that he is 'simply not capable' of taking over management, but clearly he feels Mr Grey's life was made no easier as a result of excessive government interference and particularly by non-nationals in the National Planning Office (NPO) who 'know nothing about running an airline and tend to knock down ideas presented'.

Mr Grey, said Mr Philemon, had had no end of trouble getting the F28s into domestic service in the face of NPO resistance.

Then came a government decision to force Air Niugini to submit its papers destined for the National Airlines Commission (NAC) to scrutiny by an 'Air Niugini Planning Committee' before they went to the NAC. 'The government had representatives on the NAC so the new committee simply duplicated the work and added to the general manager's frustrations,' said Mr Philemon.

On overseas landing rights, Mr Philemon argued that it was normal for a national airline — government-owned or private — to negotiate an agreement before seeking the advice of their governments. But this was not the case with Air Niugini. 'You simply can't run an airline as a government department and at the same time operate efficiently, make a

profit or compete with other airlines,' he said.

Mr Philemon was lavish in his praise for Mr Grey who, he said, 'has made a name for himself in the airline industry worldwide despite the handicaps he has worked with'.

Predictably, opposition leaders leapt into the fray. Jointly, National Party leader Iambakey Okuk, People's Progress Party chief and former deputy prime minister to Michael Somare, Julius Chan, and Papua Besena top man Galeva Kwarara, said: 'Mr Bart Philemon should be con-



Aviation Minister Wingti ... under fire

gratulated for revealing the truth.'

In the firing line was Paia Wingti — known in the airline industry since his appointment late last year as civil aviation minister as 'Wingtips'. 'He is still a schoolboy who retains schoolboy values and schoolboy rhetoric, as opposed to the pragmatic approach of the former minister for transport, Mr Bruce Jephcott,' the three leaders said. (Mr Jephcott is a senior member of the PPP which went into opposition last November after nearly seven years in coalition with Mr Somare's Pangu Pati.)

NPO director, Charles Lepani, defended his organisation by saying that it could not always be taken for granted that whatever was good for Air Niugini was in the interests of Papua New Guinea as a whole.

Air Niugini officials were particularly sore about Mr Wingti's decision to close Rabaul airport at the beginning of the December peak period last year. Mr Philemon said the minister had

overridden the advice of his own technical staff to close the airport. Said one Air Niugini official: 'That decision — which was wrong — cost Air Niugini about K250 000.'

Pointedly, Mr Grey in his personal explanation, said: 'I enjoyed working closely with the former minister for transport, Mr Jephcott, and have no doubt that Air Niugini management will co-operate with Mr Wingti and any minister appointed from time to time.'

Mr Grey has had a long career in Papua New Guinea dating back to the fifties. Apart from a spell elsewhere, he has worked with Ansett-MAL, ATI's domestic Papua New Guinea service which operated in near parallel with TAA in colonial days, and with Talair (formerly Territory Airlines) during which he computerised its third level operations, a move which sparked considerable controversy.

In 1976, on returning to Papua New Guinea after an absence of four years, I discovered that Air Niugini, like most international operators, had picked up a nickname along the way. Lost baggage was often blamed for the tag of TANGFU (typical Air Niugini foul-up). It's a word that's rarely heard in PNG these days. Its disappearance could be seen as a tribute to the manner in which Bryan Grey has turned an *enfant terrible* into one of the Third World's aviation successes. — Bob Hawkins

'Downhill without brakes' in Noumea

After looking forward to autonomy for several years, the members of New Caledonia's Government Council have found that the territory is as hard to manage as a truck running downhill without brakes, writes Andre Chaville from Noumea.

Minister Paul Dijoud had given the council until October 1978 to present a new budget, introducing direct taxation for the first time. But while the Rightwing group in the council has a majority, they are very much in the minority in the Territorial Assembly which had to approve the draft.

With no established organis-

TRADEWINDS

ation to collect direct taxes and no experience of income tax, the councillors sought an easy solution by taxing salaries and wages. At the same time, they proposed a decrease in tax on nickel ore exports and left the independent businessmen and entrepreneurs almost free to declare whatever income they thought fit. With most associations, chambers and unions rejecting the plan or suggesting more efficient methods of taxing their social opponents, the council's recommendations were doomed.

That the Bill was rejected was only half a surprise. But that it was knocked back by an unexpected coalition of centrists, autonomists, socialists and advocates of independence was more of a shock.

While the wheelings and dealings, so typical of French politics, draw interested attention, the territory runs up its debts. Despite the enormous resources of its nickel reserves, the good potential of its agriculture, and a budding

tourism industry, the territory is going bankrupt. The general atmosphere is of indifference or despair and capital investment is at its lowest ebb.

The old supporters of autonomy are bitter. Self-government during the boom would have been easy to organise, by encouraging foreign investment and taxing the new industries. Today capital is pouring in the opposite direction. Socialist Alain Bernut continues to claim that the first people to tax are those transferring their money overseas.

With theoretical autonomy, New Caledonia is even more dependent on France than before. As the daily *Les Nouvelles* declared: 'Paul Dijoud asked for our help, but he is the one who holds the purse strings.'

New confidence for PNG tourism

Three reasons for an improved tourist industry year in Papua New Guinea are offered by Peter Barter, managing direc-

tor of the Madang-based Melanesian Tourist Services.

Mr Barter hails the appointment, at last, of a new director of tourism; Air Niugini's increased activity in tourist promotion, establishment of overseas offices and planned services to Honolulu, Jakarta, Singapore and Auckland; and the commencement of services by Philippine Airlines from Manila and Cathay Pacific Airlines from Hongkong.

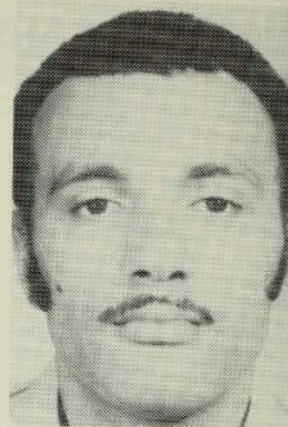
Skipjack team in F. Polynesia

By year's end about 1500 recaptures had been reported in the South Pacific Commission's skipjack survey and assessment programme which began its second year of operations last October.

Surveys had been completed in the waters of Guam, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Tokelau and the northern Cook Islands and, in December, the chartered vessel, *Hatsutori Maru* moved into French Polynesian waters

to work in the Society Islands and the Tuamotus.

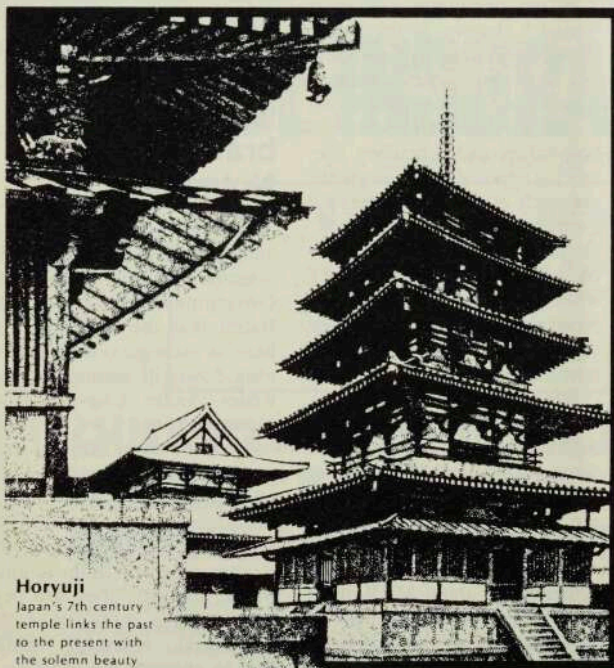
At the end of 1978 more than 54 000 fish had been tagged



Ian Campbell ... Union Steam promotion

• Union Steam Ship Company has appointed Ian Campbell (pictured) freight sales manager for the Pacific region. Mr Campbell, who has been with the company nine years in Suva and Lautoka, will be based in Suva.

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BANANA production in Tonga this year is expected to be half that of 1978 as a result of Cyclone Fay which hit plantations in Tongatapu and outer islands.

INFLATION in Fiji last year was measured at 6.1%, down from 7% in 1977. Food contributed only 2.1% to inflation last year against 3% in 1977.

TUVALU Government has imposed a \$2.50 airport departure tax at Funafuti, effective from January 1.

JOSEPH Chan, who has joined Melanesian Tourist Services in Papua New Guinea as operations manager, was for many years involved in tour operations in Malaysia.

AKG (NG) Pacific has been awarded a K520 000 contract to build a radio station at Vanimo for the West Sepik Province, and Golesons (PNG) has won a similar contract at Daru, Western Province, valued at K325 000.

RUBBER is being considered as a fourth tree crop after copra, oil palm and cocoa in Solomon Islands.

JAPAN Air Lines has appointed Masato Inoue administration manager in its Sydney office, and John Winters, from Qantas, is JAL's new Sydney sales representative.

BOUGAINVILLE Development Corporation has acquired a minority shareholding in Aviation Developments (PNG) in which General Credits has the major holding.

A ONE-for-three free scrip issue, subject to the approval of a February shareholders' meeting, was to be made to shareholders on the books at February 16 by Fiji Industries, the first in its 19 years of operations.

THE PNG Government has parliamentary approval to borrow K1.6 million from the European Investment Bank to buy shares in the K50 million Higaturu Processing oil palm project in Northern Province.

THE GOVERNMENT's newest ferry, the *Puleono*, which arrived in Western Samoa from Singapore recently, has a passenger capacity of 100 and can carry up to 20 small vehicles.

HAWAIIAN Airlines has filed a route application with the US Civil Aeronautics Board for a service between California, Honolulu and Pago Pago.

LUFTHANSA German Airlines has been appointed Polynesian Airlines general sales agent in West Germany and West Berlin.

A SUPPLEMENT of \$A43 million sets Australia's 1979-80 aid to Papua New Guinea at \$223 million.

NEW ZEALAND's Pacific Islands Industrial Development Scheme (PIIDS) up to November had committed just over \$NZ300 000 to ventures in Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Niue.

FIJI's exports to European Economic Community countries last year totalled \$F82 million against EEC exports of \$27 million to Fiji, according to Eberhard Stahn, European Commission delegate in Suva.

A MINISTRY of transport is being set up in Western Samoa with civil aviation, shipping and road transport under its control.

NEWSPAPERS of Fiji Ltd, publishers of the Fiji Sun and the Sunday Sun, had an operating loss of \$77 476 in the year ended September 30, 1978.

MENDANA International Travel of Solomon Islands, is in voluntary liquidation in a corporate rationalisation move by the Solair group, the directors of which emphasise that it in no way reflects on the company in its ability to meet financial commitments.

TONGA received about \$17.7 million in foreign aid in the 12 months ended June 30, 1978, from Australia (\$2.03 million), New Zealand (\$1.6 million), Japan (\$1.3 million), UK (\$978 000), European Economic Community (\$919 000), UNDP (\$300 000), Asian Development Bank (\$245 000) and 'others' (\$284 000).

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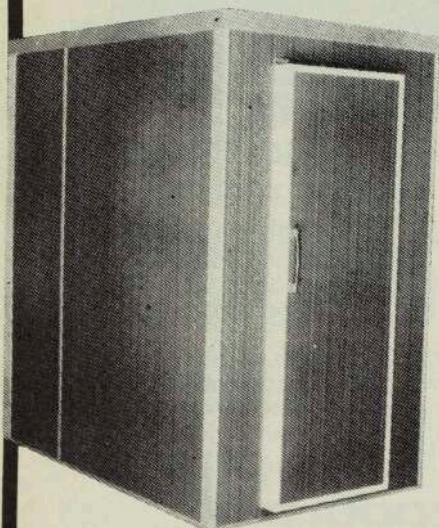
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fishing boat, the *Nei Wairara*, to operate in Fiji waters, all catches to be sold to the Fiji Fisheries Department.

THE BANK of New South Wales (PNG) reports a profit of K956 000 for the year ended September 30, 1977, K354 000 less than the previous year.

THE ASIAN Development Bank has approved a third loan, worth \$US4 million, to the Development Bank of Western Samoa, to make loans for industrial (50%), agriculture (25%), group/village (15%) and service (10%) projects.

THE PACIFIC Forum Line has re-routed the *Toa Moana* to operate a New Zealand-New Caledonia-Fiji service on a three-weekly basis, calling at Auckland, Napier, Noumea, Suva and Lautoka.

PROJECTS in Tuvalu, including a seaplane service, electrification at Funafuti, a road, a seawall, hospital and school buildings and agricultural and marine schemes, will be paid for out of a grant of \$T4.3 million from Britain already approved, and a further grant of about \$4.2 million yet to be approved.

THE WESTERN Samoa Trust Estates Corporation reported a record net profit of \$WS1.06 million in 1977, an increase of 213% on the 1976 figure of \$315 405.

ASIAN Development Bank executives were due to visit Papua New Guinea in February to inspect projects funded by the ADB.

POLYNESIAN Airlines chartered Air Nauru jets for six flights between Apia and Auckland to carry holiday passengers in December and January.

THE WESTERN Samoa parliament has authorised the government to borrow \$WS1.6 million locally, \$800 000 overseas, DM 1 million from West Germany, and \$2.5 million from the European Development Fund.

HAWAIIAN Air has promoted Mike Walters to regional manager for Australia and New Zealand, based in Sydney.

FOREIGN investment in Papua New Guinea in 1978 is provisionally estimated at K90 million, up from K69 million the previous year.

AIR NAURU was due to start its direct service between Tonga and New Caledonia last month, bringing to 17 the number of airports Air Nauru now serves.

BETTER production and mineral prices, and a favourable kina-dollar exchange rate, gave Bougainville Copper improved figures in the second half of last year.

THE SOUTH Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation has firm commitments for 'substantial and increased' financial support for the proposed South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency from UNDP/FAO and the Commonwealth Secretariat and a promise of \$A40 000 from the United Kingdom.

AIR SERVICES to Tonga increased 10% in 1978 with visitors increasing from 11 000 to 12 000.

K. A. McKECHNIE has been appointed managing director of the Australian Overseas Projects Corporation, a new government body to assist Australian industry to 'participate in larger and more complex overseas development projects ...'

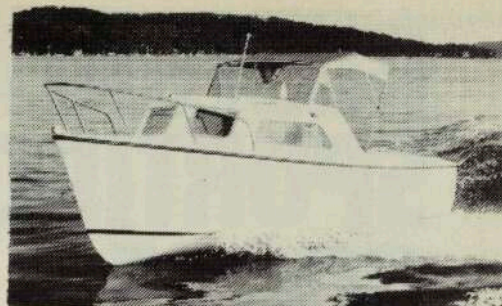
SOLOMON Islands has imposed a 50% duty on laundry soap to assist its local soap industry. Imported toilet soaps and detergents are not affected ...

COOK Islands is expected to use Pago Pago as a transshipment port for imports from, and exports to, the US, following a visit to American Samoa by a trade delegation from the Cook Islands ...

HOLIDAY makers visiting Papua New Guinea in 1977 numbered 16 095, an increase of 11.1% on the previous year's figure of 14 493. They spent K382.38 each and stayed an average of 6.2 days ...

FIJI expects copra production of about 29 000 tonnes this year as long as conditions remain favourable ...

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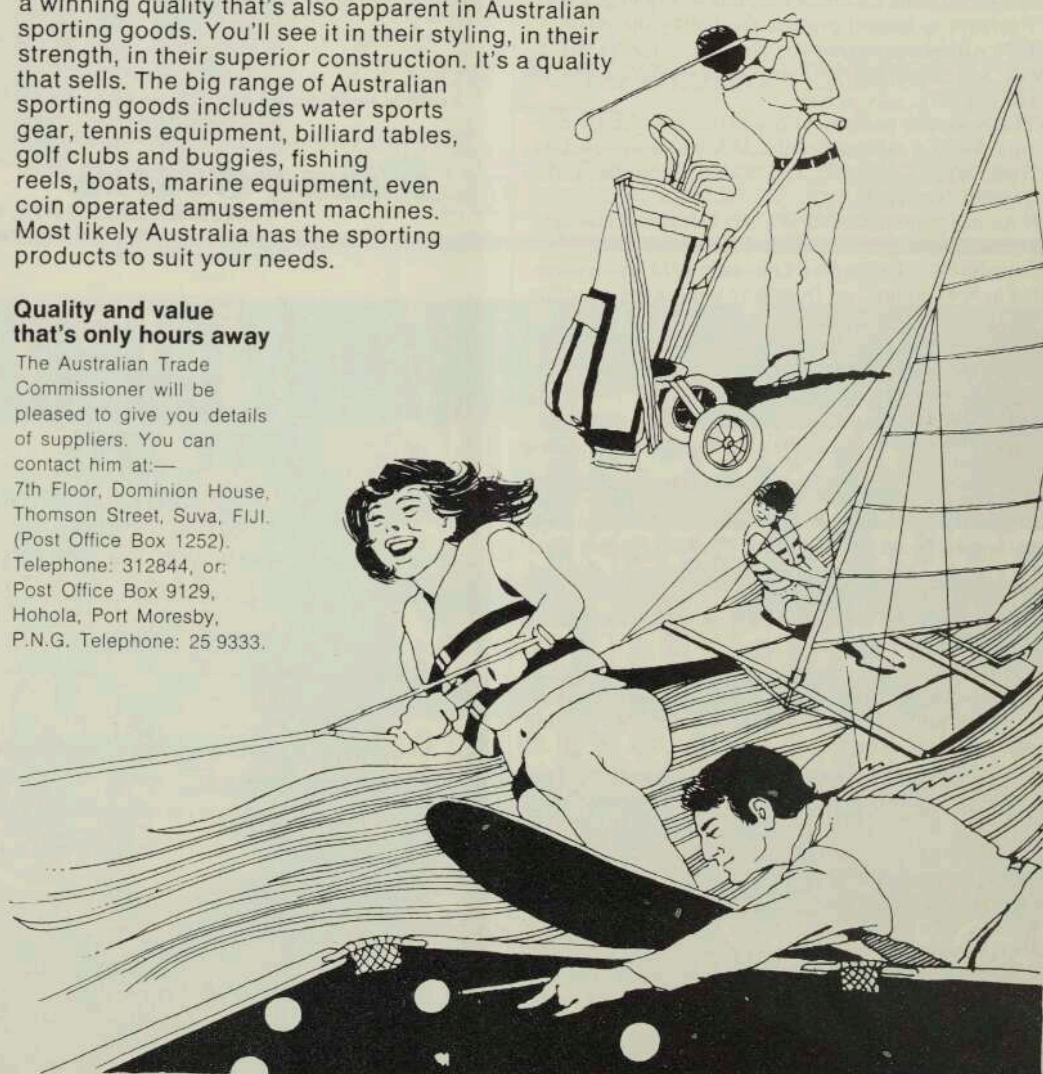
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Hohola, Port Moresby,
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Ask the Australian Trade Commissioner

TRADEWINDS INTELLIGENCE...TRADEWINDS INTELLIGENCE

TWO PAPUA New Guinea Banking Corporation officers are training in banking systems and operations with the Bank of New Zealand in Suva and a Western Samoan artisan is on a six-month attachment to the Public Works Department in Suva. All three are on SPEC Fellowship Scheme scholarships.

HAWAIIAN Air has appointed Don Adams director of marketing analysis and programs. Mr Adams was formerly divisional marketing director (Pacific) for Pan American Airways, a company he had been with since 1962.

THREE unions in the Gilbert Islands — the BKAM, Line Islands and Banaban — planned to amalgamate last month. The merger would result in a union membership of about 2000.

AUSTRALIA is sending a 'survey mission' to Papua New Guinea to assess investment potential as a result of a PNG request. Australian investment — which represents two-thirds of all foreign investment in PNG — has declined considerably since independence in 1975...

PAPUA New Guinea's first budget for a financial year corresponding with the calendar year totalled \$A670 million, including Australia's aid component of \$220 million. Five years ago Australia contributed two-thirds of the PNG budget...

WEST Germany has lent Tonga Deutschemark 20 million (about \$T8.9 million), to buy a roll-on roll-off ship. D17 million is to be repaid over 30 years with a 15-year period of grace at an interest rate of 1%. The balance is to be repaid over 15 years (three-year period of grace) at 7.8%...

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YOUR GUARANTEE



FOR SERVICE

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY - MARCH 1979



DEATHS of Islands People

RATU MELI QORO

Chief of Namoli village, Lautoka, aged 63. Ratu Meli was a former Lautoka Town councillor, school teacher and shipping executive. He was a keen sportsman, with cricket his favourite, and took a major interest in the boy scout movement. He was made a justice of the peace in 1964. Ratu Meli leaves a widow and four children.

KOREAM UREKIT

The longest serving member of the Papua New Guinea Parliament, Koream Urekit, 62, in Port Moresby. Mr Urekit, who became a member of the PNG Legislative Council in 1961, was flown to his home in East New Britain Province for burial. He was member for Pomio.

A. R. SAHU KHAN

Abdul Rahiman Sahu Khan, former Fiji civil servant, law clerk, and nominated member of the old Legislative Council, in Suva, aged 78. An active worker for the National Federation Party, he leaves a widow, four sons and four daughters.

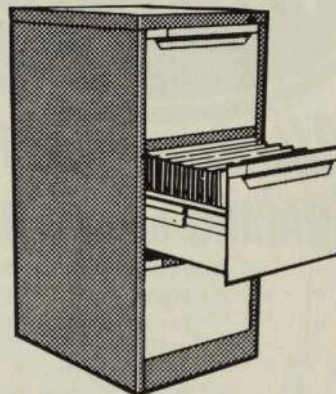
C. S. BROCKETT

Charles Stephen Brockett, principal of Nasinu Training College in Fiji from 1957 to 1961, in Auckland, aged 60. He was dean of Auckland Secondary Teachers College when he died. After service in the Fleet Air Arm in World War II, Mr Brockett held a number of senior appointments in NZ teacher training colleges. He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

B. L. GREGG

Bertrand Lovell Gregg, who was in the colonial service in Fiji from 1919 to his retirement in 1963, in Suva, aged 74. Mr Gregg, a solicitor, became registrar-general and registrar of titles in 1950.

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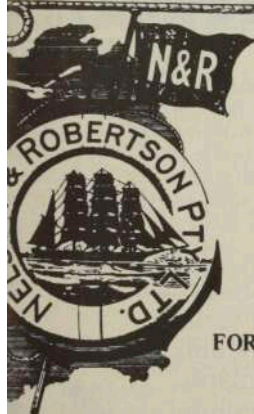
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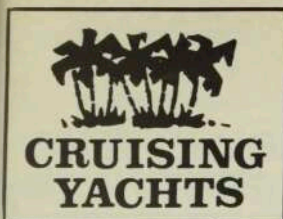


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The Royal Papua Yacht Club, with Air Niugini sponsorship and assistance from the Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron, is organising the first official yacht race between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Preparations are well in hand for the race from Cairns in northern Queensland to Port Moresby starting on April 29. There will be two divisions — IOR and cruising.

All entries must be single-hulled, self-righting vessels, having an IOR Mark III rating of not less than 21 feet, or a LWL of 22 feet. However, at the discretion of the sailing committee, yachts with a minimum IOR rating of not less than 18 feet may be accepted. Yachts entering the IOR division must have a copy of their current rating certificate.

Closing date for entries is March 30.

Among other PNG business houses supporting the event is the South Pacific Brewery.

The RPYC reports that vessels from Port Moresby which have entered include **EVEN**, line honours winner of the 1955 Sydney-Hobart event, two Clansmen 30s, two or more Formosan 64s, the half-tonne **MEKIM SAVE** which won the production boat trophy in the 1977 world titles in Sydney, two Holland 25s and a quarter-tonne Laurie Davidson. Several yachts will be racing to Port Moresby after competing in the Dunk Island race on the Great Barrier Reef.

Entries for the Sydney-Noumea yacht race starting on June 16 were over-subscribed by the turn of the year, 54 having been received. The host club, Cercle Nautique Caledonie, had put a limit of 50 on the event because of restricted mooring space in the Noumea marina. However, race director Peter Rysdyck of

the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, said he intended to consult with the CNC to see if it was possible to squeeze a few more vessels in.

Among early entries was the 72 m French four-masted **CLUB MÉDITERRANÉE** with Alain Colas as skipper. However by February Mr Colas was presumed dead after disappearing while competing in the **MANUREVA** in the *Route du Rhum* (Rum Run) race from St Malo, France, to Guadeloupe in the French West Indies, which began in early November.

Mr Rysdyck is still hoping that the Club Méditerranée will compete and that it will tie up alongside the Opera House in Sydney harbour for public display for about 10 days before the race starts.

It is expected that the fastest vessels will cover the 1750 km course in about 6-7 days with other entries taking up to 15 days.

Mr Rysdyck reports that the French Extension event, from Noumea to Vila in the New Hebrides, to be run about 10 days after completion of the

Sydney-Noumea event, has already attracted 30 entries.

• **TAU**, 27.4 m, owned by Colin Philp of Lami, Fiji, left Suva on November 30 for Hobart. Colin Philp, Hobart-born and 72, was accompanied by three sons aged between seven and 14, and three crew. He plans to return to Fiji early this year.

• **TRITHEAM**, a trimaran which disappeared from Fiji and later turned up, under the name of **ANDATRIX** in Solomon Islands, has been sailed back to Australia. The owner of the boat, Dr Ian McDonald, of Toowoomba, Queensland, was reported critical of the Fiji Director of Public Prosecutions, Kulen Ratneser, for not attempting to have prosecuted the person alleged to have taken the Tritheam. The trimaran was up for sale when it was taken from Fiji. Mr Ratneser said that if the Tritheam's owner had been a Fiji citizen his office would have been justified in taking measures despite high costs. However, the matter did not concern Fiji.

YOUR CRUISER (FOR \$1000)

When a conversation turns to cruising small craft, visions are usually conjured up of husky well-found ketches, schooners, cutters and the like. When it comes to power the same sort of idea seems to prevail... that of the large trawler type, with steady sail, big diesel and tankage for a thousand miles or more.

It's this sort of thing that puts off many cruising enthusiasts who aren't too well-heeled. Provided such a person sticks to coastal hopping in reasonable weather and doesn't expect too many frills there is no reason why he can't go cruising on a workaday budget.

The main rule is not to confuse economy and cheapness with shoddy and unsafe materials. Whether you use an enclosed toilet or a bucket on a lanyard isn't going to matter a great deal. But a rudder that is unlikely to stay in one piece for more than a couple of days

is another matter entirely.

A small displacement-type hull can be driven quite effectively with a small, slow revving motor and their economy borders on the smell of an oily rag. This writer's own craft, while 5 m long with berths for two adults, can be driven to maximum hull speed by a single cylinder petrol motor of only 3½ hp at 900 rpm. Fuel consumption is something like one pint per hour. With a 45-gallon tank in the bows this gives a range never likely to be used to the full, but it's nice to know it's there, and besides the tank provides excellent buoyancy.

Auxiliary sails play their part and a good secondhand rig from one of the larger racing dinghies doesn't cost the earth. As well as supplementing the engine it also acts to steady your boat in a swell. If your budget won't run to a forward and reverse gearbox, a good pair of oars will never go astray.

It has been said that there is

nothing more seaworthy than a corked bottle. Folk who cruise in what may be termed 'tabloid' boats should get as close as possible to this model. A raised deck is probably the best start. This configuration gives vast deck space, is stronger than a trunk cabin and allows the entrance hatch to the cabin to be divorced from the cockpit or steering well.

For sailing performance, to save cutting holes in the boat's bottom to fit a centreboard case that will invariably leak, a pair of leeboards are cheaper, easier to use, and more efficient, even if they do look a little ugly.

Accommodation is best kept simple. A pair of stretched canvas hammock type bunks, with sleeping bags where necessary, are surprisingly comfortable. A small one or two burner kerosene stove is probably most efficient, and though slow will cope with a cruise of up to two weeks before becoming tiresome. Besides stores and a locker for extra clothing, a pair

of plastic buckets will just about complete the 'fitting out'

If self-righting ability is required, the amount of ballast needed is best left to an expert to calculate. Once calculated there are many economical ways of adding the required weight. If the bilges are deep, some concrete with iron or steel punchings mixed in, works well, or worn-out rollers from caterpillar-tracks set in polyester resin are cheap, effective and easily weighed. If your boat is to be careened to scrub the bottom to save slipping fees, movable ballast such as pigs of iron or lead or even sand bags could be the answer.

There is no reason why a small ship's boat or similar craft cannot be converted into a serviceable if stately cruiser for under \$1000. So long as you don't want to double the Horn or circumnavigate the Pacific she'll give you lots of pleasure poking up creeks and seeing what's around the next headland. — John Collins.

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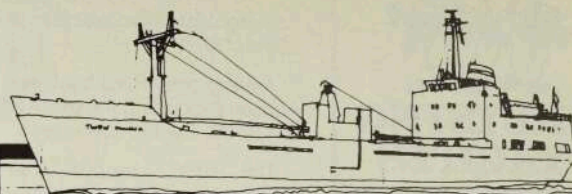
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Union Bulkships Pty.Ltd., 333-339 George Street, Sydney.

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Gilbert Islands Shipping Corp. P.O. Box 495, Tarawa.

FIJI:

Burns Philp South Sea Co. Ltd. GPO Box 355, Suva.

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Burns Philp New Hebrides Limited, Vila.

NEW ZEALAND:

The Shipping Corp. of N.Z. Ltd. P.O. Box 3344, Wellington.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS:

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TONGA:

Union Steam Ship Co. P.O. Box 4, Nuku'alofa.



SHIPPING SERVICES

These listings do not necessarily cover all services to island ports. Should any shipping company wish to have its services — cargo and passenger — included in these listings they should contact PIM.

SYDNEY - LORD HOWE IS - NORFOLK IS

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates four-weekly cargo service Sydney - Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island.

Details Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

SYDNEY - NZ - FIJI - HAWAII - CANADA - US

P & O liners call at Auckland, Suva, Honolulu and Vancouver on eastbound and westbound voyages between Sydney and the US.

Details from P & O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (231-6655).

AUSTRALIA - NZ - FIJI - TONGA - N. HEBRIDES - NOUMEA - PNG - SOLOMONS - SAMOAS

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise programme to include most of the above countries.

Details from Sitmar Cruises, 47 Elizabeth Street, Sydney (232-7511).

Royal Viking Line, with first-class cruise ships Royal Viking Star, Royal Viking Sky and Royal Viking Sea, cruises the Pacific from Sydney and Cairns call-

ing at a variety of Pacific and Asian ports.

Details from Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13-15 Bridge Street, Sydney (2-0517).

P & O liners call at Auckland, Bay of Islands, Honiara, Lautoka, Noumea, Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Papeete, Port Moresby, Santo, Savusavu, Suva, Vavau and Vila on cruises from Australia.

Details from P & O Booking Centre World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (231-6655).

AUSTRALIA - FIJI - SAMOAS - NEW HEBRIDES - TONGA - NORFOLK ISLAND

Pacific Navigation of Tonga operates a five-weekly refrigerated general cargo/container service from Sydney and Brisbane, to Vila, Santo, Suva, Lautoka, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa and Norfolk Island.

Details from Beaufort Shipping Agency Co, 2 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (239-1022).

AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA (AND/OR) NEW HEBRIDES

Karlander operates a monthly service from Sydney to Noumea.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301).

Sofrana-Unilines ships serve Noumea every three weeks from the main ports along the east Australian coast.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031). Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne (67-9162), ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane (221-3116), Elders-ANL Pty Ltd, Port Adelaide (47-5688), ANL, Newcastle (049-24364), Clements & Marshall, Burnie, Tasmania (31-1833).

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates a three-weekly containerised cargo service from Sydney to Noumea.

Details Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, using M/V 'Ymnos' a self-sustained fully containerised vessel.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

AUSTRALIA - FIJI

Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd operates monthly cargo services from Sydney to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301), Dalgety Shipping, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne (60-0731), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

Sofrana-Unilines (Fiji Express Line) operates to Suva and Lautoka every three weeks from the main ports on the east coast of Australia and monthly to Lautoka from Melbourne and Sydney.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031). Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne (67-9162), ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane (221-3116), Elder-ANL Pty Ltd, Port Adelaide (47-5688), ANL, Newcastle (049-24364), Clements & Marshall, Burnie, Tasmania (31-1833).

AUSTRALIA - W SAMOA

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney to Apia, using M/V 'Ymnos' a self-sustained fully containerised vessel.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

AUSTRALIA - FIJI - TUVALU - SAMOAS - TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a container, unitised/palletised and reefer cargo service from Melbourne and Sydney to Lautoka, Suva, Funafuti, Pago Pago, Apia and Nukualofa. Other ports

are included on inducement.

Details from ANL Melbourne and Brisbane, Union Bulkships, Sydney, Hobart, Port Adelaide and Fremantle, Burns Philp (SS) Company Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva, Fiji (311-777); Polynesia Shipping Services, Pago Pago; Union Steam Ship Co of NZ Ltd, Nukualofa, PWD, Funafuti; or Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 655, Apia, W Samoa.

AUSTRALIA - NORTHERN MARIANAS - MICRONESIA

Nauru Pacific Line operates a regular container service from Melbourne to Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Kosrae.

Details Nauru Pacific Line, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne (653-5709), Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

AUSTRALIA - TONGA - SAMOAS - TAHITI

Karlander operates a monthly cargo service from Melbourne and Sydney to Nukualofa, Apia, Pago Pago, Papeete, US west coast.

Details: Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301).

AUSTRALIA - TAHITI

Daiwa Line offers a four-weekly service from Australia to Papeete.

Details: Union Bulkships Pty Ltd, 333-339 George Street, Sydney (2-0238).

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney to Papeete using M/V 'Ymnos' a self-sustained fully containerised vessel.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

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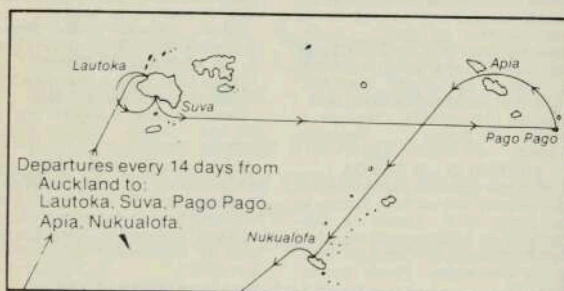
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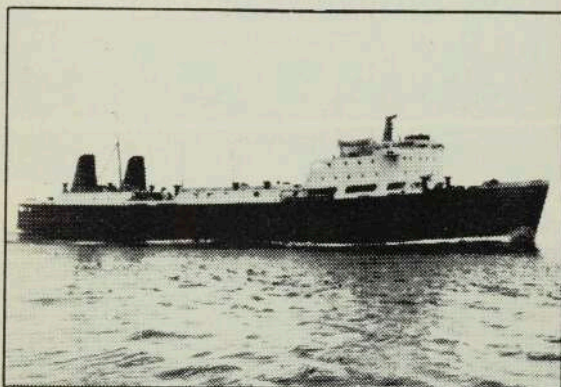
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Standard dry general cargo ISO containers
20' x 8' x 8' 6" box container
20' x 8' x 8' 6" Opensided container.

Seafreighter Units

For movement of general and bulk cargoes.
(Internal) Length 13'9" (4.24M) width 7'6" (2.29M) height 5' (1.52M)
N.B. Units are fully collapsible and open topped to facilitate loading cargoes in excess of 1.52M height. A shower-proof cover is also provided free with every seafreighter.

Newsprint Flats

These units are specifically designed for carriage of forest industry cargo but are also suitable for the carriage of other specified types of cargoes.

(Internal) Length 15'6" (4.77M) Width 6' (1.830M)

W. Containers

These containers are totally enclosed suitable for the movement of smaller consignments or valuable ones.
(Internal) Length 5'7" (1.75M) Width 4' (1.22M) Height 5'6" (1.70M)

Unit Loads

This covers cargo that is unable to be containerised or is not covered by the term 'mobile equipment'. These unit loadings must be of a secure nature to facilitate handling by a forklift with 5" gluts (loading forks).

Refrigerated Cargo

The following containers will be available:

Cold wrap containers 20' x 8' x 8'

Integral containers 20' x 8' x 8' 6"

Livestock

Livestock stalls are available for the carriage of all types of stock.

Wheeled Cargo

The versatility of Marama means that all types of wheeled cargoes including cars, trucks, tractors, scrapers, machinery on mobile tracks, cranes, trailers etc can be catered for.

Hazardous Cargo

The majority of hazardous cargoes will be accommodated on the vessels upper deck either in seafreighters, ISO containers or W. Containers. Full details are available on application.

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SHIPPING

Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kavieng, Wewak, Madang, Kieta and Honiara.

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (20-547) and InterOcean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

New Guinea Express Lines operates three-weekly conventional and container services Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Aotau.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange PO, Sydney (241-3991) MacArthur Shipping Agency Co, 82-92 Eagle Street, Brisbane (229-3777), New Guinea Express Lines, 327 Collins Street, Melbourne (61-3053), Niugini Express Lines in Port Moresby (212466), Lae (42-1536), Rabitrad Niugini Pty Ltd, Rabaul (92-2911), Aotau Stevedoring & Transport (61-1318).

Karlander New Guinea Line's cargo vessels call at Melbourne, Sydney, Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Wewak, Manus, Kimbe, Rabaul.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-6301), Dalgety Shipping, 461 Bourke Street Melbourne (60-0731).

AUSTRALIA - SOLOMONS - GILBERT IS - MICRONESIA

Daiwa Line operates a container service every 30 days from Sydney to Honiara, Kieta, Tarawa and Guam. Gizo cargoes transhipped at Honiara, Saipan, cargoes transhipped at Guam.

Details from Union-Bulkships Pty Ltd, 333-339 George Street, Sydney (2-0238, telex AA20397).

AUSTRALIA - NAURU - MAJURO

Nauru Pacific Line operates regular cargo/passenger service from Melbourne to Nauru and Majuro.

Details Nauru Pacific Line, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne (653-5709), Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

PNG - US - CANADA

Farrell Lines operates regular services from Lae and Rabaul to US west coast ports and Vancouver.

Details from J. G. Waller (Rabaul) Pty Ltd, Rabaul, Robert Laurie-Carpenter (PNG) Pty Ltd, Lae, Farrell Lines, 1 Market Plaza, San Francisco, L.A. (9-4105), Wilh. Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13 Bridge Street, Sydney (2-0517).

PNG - UK/CONTINENT

Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Kieta, Rabaul, Kimbe, Madang and Lae to Liverpool, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and London.

Details from Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-2041), Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, PNG ports.

PNG - US

Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Kieta, Rabaul, Kimbe, Madang and Lae direct to New Orleans; calls at other US Gulf and East Coast ports on inducement.

Details from Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, PNG ports.

SOLOMONS - USA - UK/CONTINENT

Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Honiara, to New Orleans, Liverpool, Hamburg, Rotterdam and Antwerp.

Details from Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-2041); Trading Co, Honiara (389).

FAR EAST - FIJI - NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (CNC, MNOL, Nedlloyd) operates a three-weekly cargo service from Hong Kong

to Lautoka, Suva, NZ ports, Manila, Kaoshiung, Keelung, Hong Kong.

Details from Nedlloyd, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

Nedlloyd operates monthly cargo service with three ships from Surabaya, Jakarta, Bangkok, Port Kelang and Singapore to Suva and NZ ports.

Details from Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (27-3801); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

JAPAN - NZ - PNG

China Navigation Co, with three ships operates a monthly cargo service from Japan to New Zealand calling at Lae on return journey.

Details Nedlloyd, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

FAR EAST - MID-S. PACIFIC

China Navigation Co's vessels operate a regular cargo service from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore to Rabaul, Wewak, Madang, Lae, Port Moresby, Honiara, New Hebrides, Noumea, Papeete and Samoa.

Details from Nedlloyd, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

Kyowa Shipping Co. Ltd, operates monthly services from Hong Kong, Taiwan, S. Korea and Japan, to Guam, Saipan, Solomon, New Caledonia, Fiji, Western and American Samoa, Tahiti, Cook Is., Tonga and New Hebrides.

Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

NYK Line, in conjunction with Daiwa Line, with container ships operates 30-day service from Moji, Kobe, Nagoya and Yokohama to Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Suva, Lautoka, Noumea, Sydney, Honiara, Kieta, Tarawa, Guam and Taiwan.

Details Union Bulkships Pty Ltd, 333-339 George Street, Sydney (2-0238).

NORTH EUROPE - TAHITI - NEW CALEDONIA

Hamburg-Sued operates monthly cargo services from Hamburg, Dunkirk and Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, via Panama.

Details from Columbus Overseas Services Pty Ltd, 333 George Street, Sydney (290-2966), Columbus Maritime Services, 17 Albert Street, Auckland (77-3460).

EUROPE - PACIFIC ISLANDS

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates services from Europe and Mediterranean ports to Papeete and Noumea using three Ro-Ro and one multi-purpose vessel thus ensuring a bi-monthly sailing to and from.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

EUROPE-TAHITI-W. SAMOA-FIJI-N. CALEDONIA

Nedlloyd offers regular cargo services from Northern Europe and UK to Papeete, Apia, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Details Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (27-3801).

JAPAN - GUAM - FIJI - TAHITI - SAMOA - N. CALEDONIA - SOLOMONS - GILBERTS

Daiwa Lines runs a monthly cargo service from Japan via Guam to Lautoka, Suva, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Sydney, Noumea, Honiara, Tarawa, Guam.

Details from Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva.

NZ - NEW CALEDONIA - FIJI

Pacific Forum Line operates a unitised/palletised and reefer cargo service from Lyttelton and Auckland to Napier, Noumea, Lautoka and Suva. Other ports are included on inducement.

Details from Shipping Corporation of

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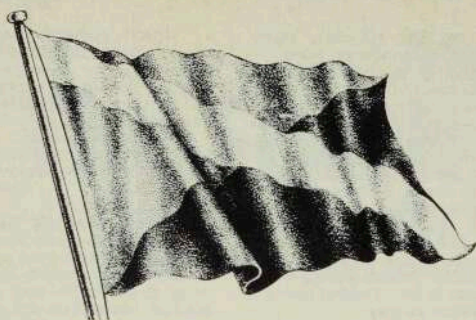
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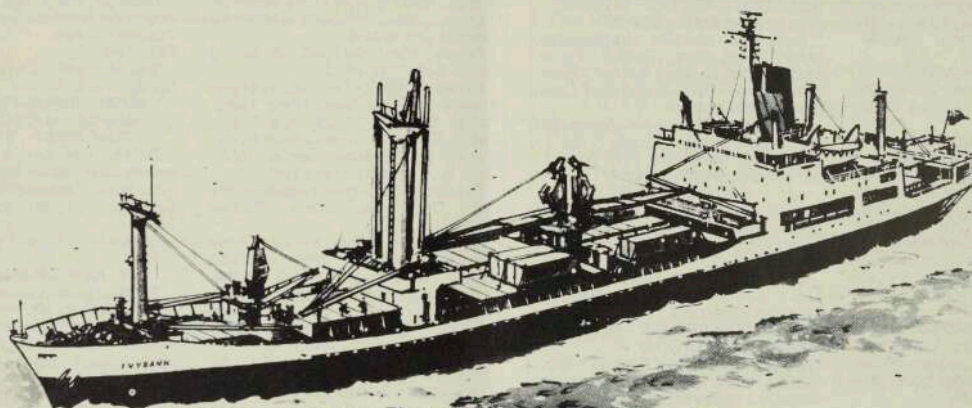
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SHIPPING

NZ Ltd, Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Burns Philp (SS) Company Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva, Fiji (311-777); Polynesia Shipping Services, Pago Pago; Union Steam Ship Co of NZ Ltd, Nukualofa or Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 655, Apia, W. Samoa.

NZ - N. CALEDONIA - N. HEBRIDES - PNG - SOLOMONS

Sofrana Unilines with three ships operates to Vila and Santo, to Honiara and Papua New Guinea and to Noumea.

Details from Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs Street, Auckland (773-279), PO Box 3614, Telex NZ2313.

NZ - AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA - SOLOMONS - GILBERTS - MICRONESIA

Union Co/Daiwa Line operate a container service from New Zealand through Sydney to Noumea, Honiara, Tarawa and Guam, Transhipment to Saipan, Majuro and Gizo.

Details: Union Steam Ship Co of NZ Ltd, PO Box 12, Auckland, or Union Bulkships Pty Ltd, 333-339 George Street, Sydney, (2-0238).

NZ - FIJI - NORTH AMERICA (WC)

Blue Star Line Crusader service to West Coast North America. Only direct service to and from New Zealand. Blue Star vessels call at Suva and Honolulu on NZ-US-West Coast voyages.

Details from Blueport ACT (NZ) Ltd, PO Box 192, Wellington (739-029), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva, Fiji (311-777).

NZ - FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18-day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies Ltd, PO Box 3382, Auckland, NZ (77-1221-3).

Pacific Line with one ship operates fortnightly roro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva.

Details: Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs Street, Auckland (773-279) PO Box 3614, Telex: NZ2313.

NZ - FIJI - GILBERTS - SOLOMONS - PNG

Pacific Forum Line operates a container, unitised/palletised and reefer cargo service from Lyttelton and Auckland to Suva, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Tarawa, Madang, Lae and Moresby. Other ports are included on inducement.

Details from Shipping Corporation of NZ Ltd, Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, Burns Philp (SS) Company Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva, Fiji (311-777) Sullivan, Honiara; Gilbert Islands Shipping Corporation, Tarawa; Steamships Trading in Port Moresby, Lae and Madang or Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 655, Apia, W. Samoa.

Union Steam Ship Co of NZ operates a roll-on, roll-off, container/unitised service from Auckland to Lautoka-Suva-Pago Pago-Apia-Nuku'alofa on a 14 day frequency.

Details from Union Steam Ship Co of NZ Ltd, PO Box 12, Auckland or from Branch offices/agents in Fiji, Tonga and the Samoas.

NZ - SAMOA - TONGA

Pacific Navigation of Tonga operates a four-weekly cargo service, Auckland - Nukualofa - Pago Pago - Apia - Auckland.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, Downtown House, Queen Street, Auckland (33-656).

Warner Pacific Line services Onehunga (Auck) - Nukualofa/Vavau/Apia fortnightly carrying general and freezer cargoes. Also Timaru - Nukualofa/Vavau/Apia every 21 days carrying freezer cargo.

Details from Air Marine Services (NZ) Ltd, PO Box 2505, Auckland (796-841), Telex NZ 21555.

NZ - COOK IS - NIUE - TAHITI

Shipping Corporation of NZ Ltd operates cargo services based on pallets and similar units from Auckland to Niue, Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Details from the Shipping Corp of NZ Ltd, PO Box 3420, Auckland (797-210); Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Rarotonga, Lighterage and Stevedoring Co, Aitutaki, Niue Govt Offices, Niue Island, Compagnie Maritime Polynesienne, B'P 368, Papeete, Tahiti.

UK - FIJI

The Bank Line operates a direct, fast monthly service from Hull to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (Australia) Pty Ltd, 1 York St, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (South Sea) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

UK/N. CONTINENT - TAHITI - N. CALEDONIA - N. HEBRIDES

Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp and Rotterdam to Papeete, Noumea and Vila.

Details from Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-2041); Ets A M Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea, Burns Philp (NH) Ltd, Vila.

UK/N. CONTINENT - PNG - SOLOMONS

Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp and Rotterdam to Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara and on inducement to Yandina, Tarawa and Nauru.

Details from Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, PNG ports; Trading Co Honiara.

SAN FRANCISCO - HONOLULU - NAURU - MICRONESIA

Nauru Pacific Line operates regular conventional/container service from San Francisco and Honolulu to Majuro, Nauru, Ponape, Truk and Saipan.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne (653-5709); North American Maritime Agencies, 100 California Street, San Francisco, California 94111 (981-0343).

US - FIJI - TAHITI - NZ - AUSTRALIA

Bank and Savill Line Ltd, operates regular cargo services from US Gulf ports to Australia and NZ. Calls at Suva, Lautoka and Papeete on demand.

Details from Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-2041) or Howard Smith Industries Pty Ltd, 1 York Street, Sydney (27-5611).

US - A. SAMOA - NZ - AUSTRALIA

Farrell Lines LASH ships operate regularly from US to Australia, via Pago Pago and Auckland and Canada.

Details from Wilh, Wilhelmsen Agency Pty Ltd, 13 Bridge St, Sydney (2-0517); 60 Market Street, Melbourne (61-0301); Farrell Lines, 1 Market Plaza, San Francisco, L.A. (415-777-3300); Dalgety NZ Ltd, Auckland (7-1859); Kneubuhl Maritime Services, Pago Pago (633-5121).

US - TAHITI - SAMOA

Pacific Islands Transport operates a five/six weekly cargo service from North America west coast ports to Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia.

Details from Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, 19 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2441).

Polynesia Line operates container and general cargo service from US west coast ports to Papeete and Pago Pago.

Details from Polynesia Shipping Services Inc., PO Box 1478, Pago Pago (9-6799).



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AGENTS

Taiwan: Royal Steamship Corp., Ltd., Taipei

S. Korea: Dong Sue Shipping Co. Ltd., Seoul

Hong Kong: Dahzun Enterprises Ltd.

Singapore: Ocean Shipping & Enterprises Pte., Ltd.

Guam: Maritime Agencies of Pacific Ltd., Guam

Saipan: Saipan Shipping Co. Inc., Saipan

B.S.I.P.: Solomon Taiyo Ltd., Honiara

Tahiti: J.A. Cowan & Fils, Papeete

Cooks: Eastern Associates Ltd., Rarotonga

Tonga: E.M. Jones Ltd., Nukualofa

New Hebrides: Agence Maritime Raymond Velicite, Port Vila

A. Samoa: Island Pacific Agencies Inc., Pago Pago

W. Samoa: Morris Hedstrom Ltd., Apia

Fiji: Carpenter Shipping, Suva & Lautoka

PNG: Carpenter Shipping Agencies, Port Moresby, Rabaul

New Caledonia: Agence Maritime Du Rond Point Du Pacific, Noumea

Indonesia: P.T. Porodisa Raya Shipping Lines, Jakarta

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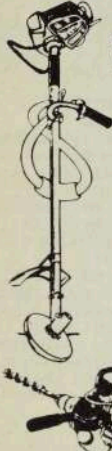
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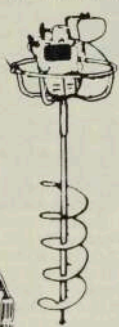
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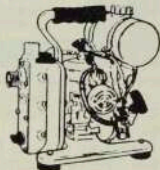
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