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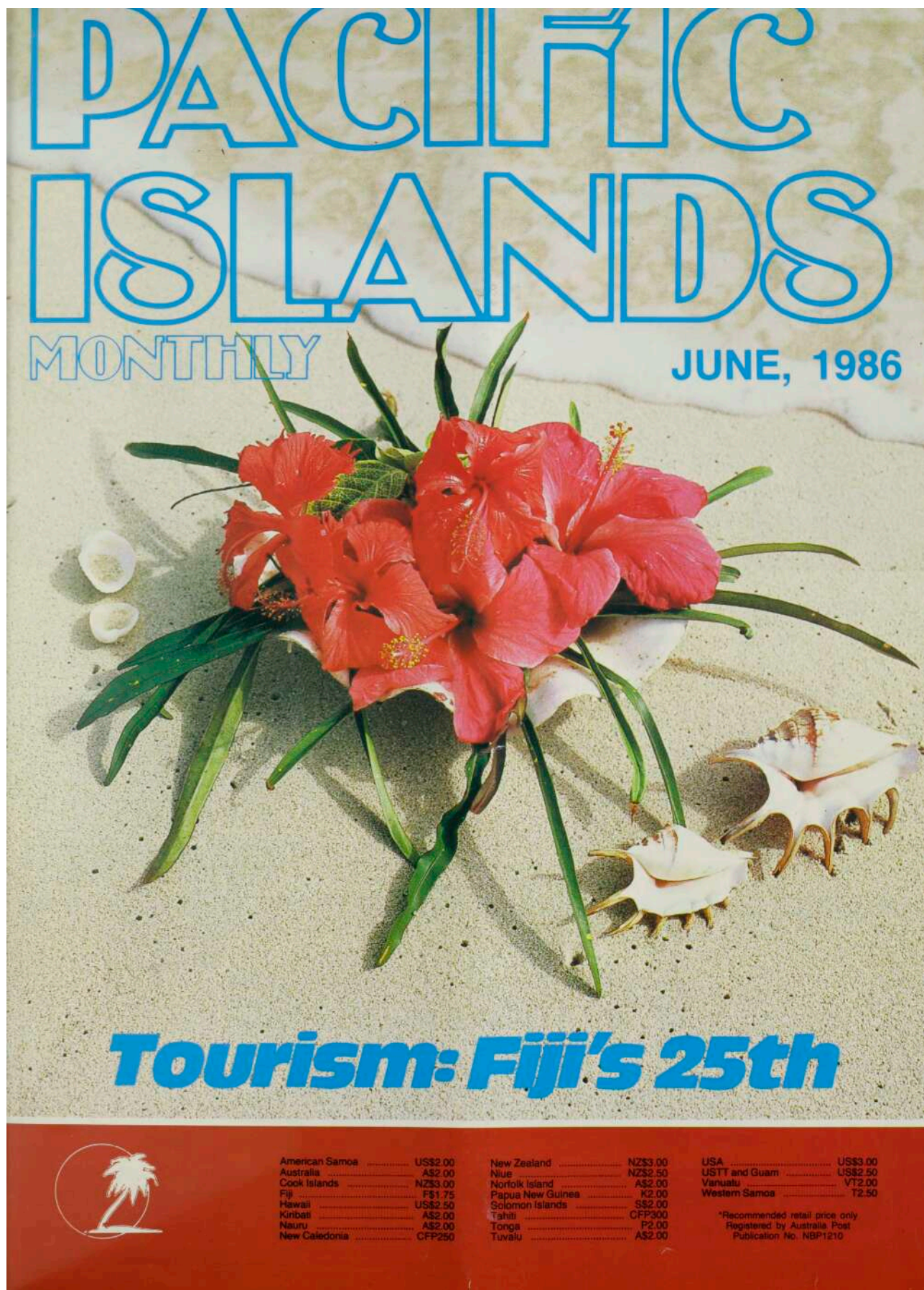
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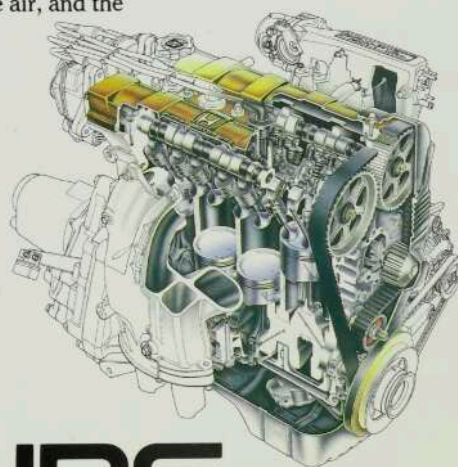
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Honda, constantly setting new standards when it comes to car design, now brings you the Prelude 2.0i-16. What does meet the eye is the Prelude's styling. Its low, angled front slices through the air, and the wide tread stance grips the road firmly for superb maneuverability. What you can't see is the heart of this elegant new model — the 2.0-liter 16-valve Double Overhead Camshaft (DOHC) engine. It comes with Honda's original Programmed Fuel Injection system (PGM-FI) for quick engine response. This perfect marriage between styling and performance offers the ultimate in touring satisfaction. All this plus a long list of other Honda extras put the new Prelude into a class of its own. Find out what it really means to enjoy a car — all it takes is a test drive.



PRELUDE 2.0i-16

• Engine type: Water-cooled 4-stroke DOHC 16-valve in-line 4-cylinder • Fuel supply system: PGM-FI
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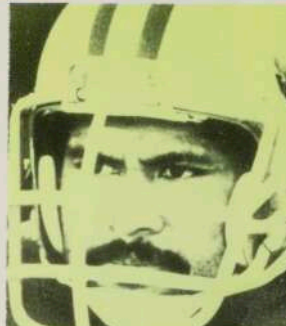
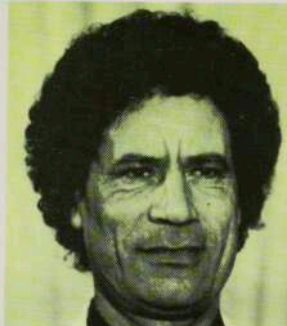
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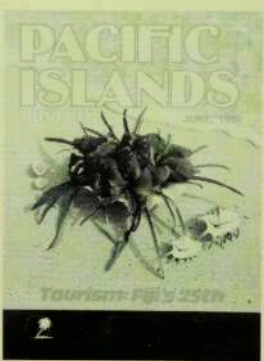
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THE COVER
An image of tourism.
Photo: Robin Smith



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PIM OPINION

The cost of links with Libya

The spectacle of Fr Walter Lini expressing solidarity with Col Ghaddafi has sent a shockwave through the region.

Fr Lini and his fellow party members, meanwhile, spread their hands in a gesture of puzzlement and ask why everybody is suddenly so interested in the Libya connection.

At the same time Mr Uregei points out that the perpetrators of local terrorism are certainly not Libyan.

Fr Lini confides to the Colonel that he regrets the fact that small children were killed by the bombs of a superpower.

He then announces formal diplomatic relations with Libya, adding that it's nobody's business but Vanuatu's.

The Vanuatu prime minister, his aides pointed out, was the first in the region to express his feelings regarding the US raid on Libya and the events that followed.

All well and good, so far. That is until we recall that Fr Lini was less than vocal when terrorists, wherever they may have struck, gunned down or bombed innocent children. Mr Uregei's voice, too, was somewhat muted on these occasions.

There seems to be a perception here that there are "good" terrorists and "bad" terrorists. It's a pretty poor perception. From wherever you stand on the political

spectrum, it is not possible for any respectable government to condone the slaughter of innocents.

Nevertheless, that is the attitude both Fr Lini and Mr Uregei have adopted by default in their one-sided approach to Col Ghaddafi's Libya.

They are dealing, let's remember, with a man who routinely orders the executions of political opponents, a man who has at the very least sheltered terrorists and encouraged if not directly supported them.

The notion that it is necessary to accept money and/or support from any source available is a dangerous one for two reasons.

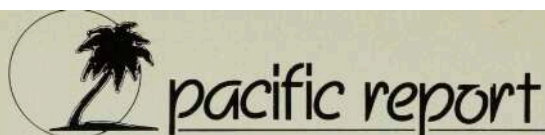
Firstly because nobody gives aid for nothing. There is the risk that island groups will not be able to keep Libya at arm's length while taking its money and or its assistance and support.

Secondly because countries or movements siding with Libya could find themselves isolated within the South Pacific region whereas Libya will never be more than a distant friend.

Both Fr Lini and Mr Uregei are politically experienced enough to know of the risks, yet both seem prepared to accept them. That's their right.

But their neighbors have a right to be worried.

The cover price of Pacific Islands Monthly is increased from this issue. Please see the cover page for full details. We regret the necessity for a price increase but should point out that it is the first increase in over two years at a time of high inflation. Our labor, materials and distribution costs have all greatly increased during that time. Most of these increased costs have been contained during a period when the magazine has been spending more on quality journalism in a bid to enlarge and improve our coverage of the region. This effort will continue.



MELANESIAN 'GUESTS' SENT HOME

A group of 70 Irian Jayans were returned to Asia island near Sorong village after three months detention in Koror, Palau. The men were arrested in early February for fishing for trochus shells at Helen's Reef, about 60 miles outside Indonesian waters, which they claim as a traditional fishing ground. Indonesia and Palau were unable to agree who should bear the cost of repatriation. Finally, the company that hired the fishermen paid for their return. During their time in Palau the detainees had carried out public works and were described as "super guests".

COFFE RUST QUARANTINE LAW

Urgent amendments to Papua New Guinea's quarantine laws were passed by parliament following an outbreak of coffee rust that threatened the country's \$300 million industry. The outbreak occurred in five highlands areas. The quarantine law restricts all movement in and out of the Western Highlands. However industry leaders say the outbreak will not seriously affect this year's crop. They said there had been panic and misunderstanding among the government officials. The PNG Coffee Industry Association's executive director Craig McConaghy said the disease could be controlled and that spraying had already been done by the larger plantations. He agreed, however, there could be difficulties for the many small coffee farms.

TJIBAOU SLAMS FRENCH PROPOSAL

FLNKS leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou described the new French government proposals for the future of New Caledonia as a provocation. The four regional councils are to have their authority curtailed by the new minister in charge of New Caledonia, Mr Bernard Pons, who said a referendum on independence will be held within a year. Mr Tjibaou accused the government of abandoning earlier promises on moves towards independence and said it could not be trusted.

EASIER ACCESS FOR FORUM EXPORTS

As of July 1, most South Pacific Forum countries' exports will have duty free entry to Australia, six months earlier than originally planned. Australia's trade minister Mr Dawkins said the date had

been brought forward in an effort to further reduce the trade imbalance between Australia and the forum nations. He made the announcement at the opening of Fiji's trade exhibition in Sydney.

PANGU TRIO FORM BREAKAWAY GROUP

Three leading members of Papua New Guinea's opposition Pangu Party have left the party to form their own political grouping. Sir Barry Holloway, John Ninkare and Tony Siaguru — all former ministers in the Somare government — say the party and the country need a new direction.

AID TO REPAIR CYCLONE DAMAGE

The British government gave Fiji an immediate grant of \$45,000 for relief work following the devastating cyclone and flooding. Survey teams were sent out to estimate the extent of the damage while evacuation centres were opened and some 8,000 people were being fed by the government. New Zealand provided two helicopters to help the relief operation. Eight people died in the floods.

FUNDS FOR ROADS AND WHARF PROJECTS

The World Bank and the Asia Development Bank have lent Vanuatu \$5 million for wharf and road building developments. The loans, repayable over fifty years, carry no interest.

REAGAN REFUSES SPNFZ BACKING

President Reagan has refused to commit his government to signing the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone treaty. A senior White House spokesman said after the president had met with Australia's prime minister Mr Hawke that no decision on the treaty was imminent.

BURNS PHILP BUYS US COMPANY

Burns Philp bought the American Fleischmanns company and full control of Dixie Inc for \$200 million. Both companies are involved in yeast and vinegar production. A Burns Philp spokesman said the two companies dominated the American and Canadian yeast markets and the move reflected Australia's growing importance in world food markets.

US READY TO END TRUSTEESHIP

The United States has formally advised the United Nations that it is ready to terminate its trusteeship over more than 2,000 islands in Micronesia. A spokesman said the Micronesian states were ready to assume their rightful place in the world. The United States wants the UN Trusteeship Council to certify to the Security Council that the 100,000 people of the territory have exercised their right to self determination. The hope is that the Security Council will give final approval next month to the dismantling of the trust. The Soviet Union, however, is expected to oppose the accords reached between the US and the Marshall Islands, FSM, Palau and the Northern Marianas under which the US retains its responsibility for defence.

RESERVE BANK WARNS AGAINST PROTECTIONISM

The Reserve Bank of Fiji has warned the government against imposing excessive protection measures for local products. The bank, in its quarterly report, says that by the end of 1984 36 categories of goods were subject to import restrictions. Last year, controls were imposed in eight other areas. The bank has warned that a lack of overseas competition might lead to inefficient allocation of resources. The report is critical of import substitution saying a small country such as Fiji should have an export-oriented economy. The bank also criticised the Ministry of Finance's ability to estimate its debt service commitments, saying Fiji's budget estimates over the past six years had consistently over-predicted debt servicing expenditure.

TAA MAKES AIR NIUGINI AN OFFER

One of Australia's two major domestic airlines, TAA, has offered to take over the management of Air Niugini. Senior TAA officials have already had talks with Air Niugini management and aviation minister Mrs Nahau Rooney.

NEW DISEASE HITS SUGAR INDUSTRY

Papua New Guinea's sugar industry was affected by a mystery disease that could threaten half the \$3 million crop. The area at risk covered about 6,000 hectares of cane in the Ramu valley. There were reports that production could be slashed by up to 80 per cent and doubts that the country could meet its export quota of 10,000 tonnes to the United States.



TELEVISION IN FIJI

A cautionary tale from the USA

After working as a Peace Corps volunteer in the School of Education at the University of the South Pacific in Suva for three years, I came to develop an appreciation and understanding of the people, culture, traditions, and sociological conditions in Fiji. I recently read that Fiji may soon be getting television.

There are certainly a lot of benefits to be derived from the introduction of new telecommunications technology in Fiji, and television can be put to use for a variety of informative, educational, and developmental purposes if properly controlled and developed by the Fiji Government. Locally produced programs dealing with inter-island and South Pacific regional news, health education, agriculture, instructional television for schools, and sports could have a fairly positive effect on the appropriate development of the country. It should be noted, however, that television is not without its pitfalls, particularly when commercial entertainment and imported programs come into the picture.

Over 2500 publications on the effects of television have been published over the past 20 years. One of the more comprehensive publications is a U.S. Government document published by the National Institute of Mental Health entitled *Television and Behavior: Ten Years of Scientific Progress and Implications for the Eighties*. This document is a compilation of research done by leading psychologists and communications experts which analyses the effects of television on cognition, the association between viewing violence on television and subsequent aggressive behavior, and the effects on children. Unfortunately, the bulk of the research done concludes that there are many negative

effects associated with heavy TV viewing, and that there is a clear-cut association between viewing violence and subsequent aggressiveness among children and young adults.

The average American watches seven hours of TV a day, yet 70 per cent of all Americans don't know who their own congressmen and senators are, or what the three main branches of U.S. government are, according to one survey. Even people who watch a fair amount of educational TV do not know where Fiji or New Zealand are, or why there is so much trouble going on in the Middle East. How many hours a day might the average Fiji citizen watch TV? Will people devote less time to social and domestic obligations, and more time to a medium which is more convenient and accessible than a standard VCR system? Do video programs always make people more knowledgeable?

The famous Canadian communications theorist Marshall McLuhan once said, "the medium is the message." If information is presented by radio or television, people will always believe it, whether it is true or not. Will Fijian chiefs and Indian patriarchs lose their influence on the younger generation when trying to compete with this very pervasive medium of television? Some people in the United States refer to television as the electric parent. Will the introduction of TV in Fiji in areas with electricity cause greater urbanisation and migration from the non-electric areas, thereby increasing crime, unemployment and other social problems? Marshall McLuhan also said: "When identity disappears with technological innovation, violence is the natural recourse."

If educationally-based government TV is first introduced,

it is quite conceivable that commercial, imported, canned programming could follow as a result of public demand and the influence of businessmen and advertisers. The possible negative effects of an inundation of violent "cops and robbers" shows which are designed for middle class western audiences are obvious. Again, there is much research to verify the fact that excessive violence in the media can act as a catalyst for criminal activities.

The content quality of entertainment media in the United States has declined substantially over the past 10 years, and over the past five years violence on television has risen more than 100 per cent. The average American child has seen over 20,000 murders on television by the time he or she is 18. U.S. Senate hearings have even been held recently to question the content of what is shown on television. If Fiji is to receive satellite transmissions of foreign broadcasting then perhaps the above should be considered.

There are a great many factors which must be taken into consideration when introducing new technologies in developing countries. Potential effects on

social hierarchies, religious beliefs, and cultural norms must all be taken into account. Basic needs and priorities for both urban and rural populations need to be assessed with particular respect to socio-economic conditions. Will poor unemployed urban dwellers feel left out when TV arrives? Will crime increase from the intake of more technological material goods among the middle class population? Will traditional lifestyles diminish when trying to compete with new imported technologies? Will movies like *Death Wish II* and *Scarface* aid the appropriate development and betterment of society in the South Pacific? How long will educational television last before entertainment media are brought into the picture by public demand?

There are, of course, many other economic and political implications to take into account. These are just a few things that the citizens and residents of Fiji should take into consideration in regard to television in the South Pacific.

STEVEN A. DAVIS
Texas A&M University

College Station
Texas, USA

Bras no part of traditional PNG dance

I refer to an item in PIM March (p50) regarding Papua New Guinean dancers "covering up" so as not to offend the Queen at the Royal tournament.

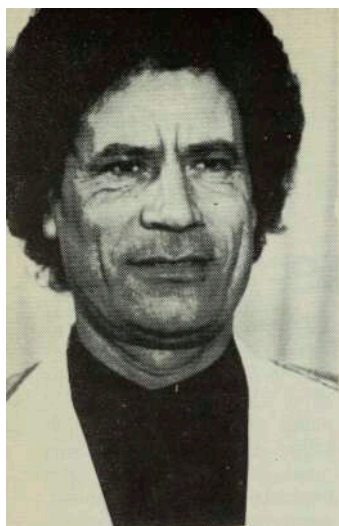
I am a Papua New Guinean and a dancer when at high school. I do not agree with "traditional bras." This is not our culture.

The Queen has been to many parts of the world and

would not be worried about real traditional dress. Prince Charles and the Pope weren't, so why should she be?

Our culture is our own, and our dances should not be altered because some people are more embarrassed than the Queen would ever be.

MARY KEWAS
Mackay, Qld.,
Australia



Col. Ghaddafi.

Despite repeated warnings by regional governments demanding that Libya keep its nose out of the Pacific, evidence now suggests Col Moammar Ghaddafi has succeeded in building a support base in this part of the world.

For more than a year now, rumours have been circulating about the Libyan connection — mainly initiated by the Tripoli visit in 1984 by 17 members of New Caledonia's Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

That particular trip appears now to have been nothing more than a publicity stunt by the front to let the world know that it should be taken seriously.

However, more recently, the rumours and fears have been fuelled again by a more serious — some say much more sinister — turn of events.

It is now claimed that several political groups in the region have decided to join forces with Col Ghaddafi to form an alliance with the Libyan strongman.

The allegations first came to light in the weekly FLNKS newspaper Bwenando. It has alleged that Ghaddafi has formed a revolutionary committee with the ruling Vanuaaku Party in Port Vila, the OPM in Irian Jaya and one of the FLNKS member parties, the United Front for Kanak Liberation (FULK).

The fact that the FLNKS

The Libya connection

journal has chosen to reveal the claimed alliance and the involvement of one of its members gives the story a great deal of credibility. But otherwise it remains unconfirmed.

Vanuatu prime minister Father Walter Lini has denied

the involvement of his party and the other so-called members have chosen to stay silent on the subject.

FULK's leader Yann Celene Uregei, who, along with five of his party colleagues, attended the conference of liberation

movements in Tripoli in March, was nowhere to be found and had obviously decided to lie low for a while rather than face not only the glare of publicity, especially in light of Libya's confrontations with the United States, but also to avoid any

Solidarity with Ghaddafi

In the wake of April's US action, Vanuatu condemned the US raid on Libya and pledged solidarity with Ghaddafi.

Prime Minister Fr Walter Lini, in a message of condolence to the Libyan leader, described the attacks as "armed aggression in complete defiance of international law."

"I am deeply shocked that innocent lives, particularly lives of close members of your family, were taken away by the bombs of a superpower," the message said.

Anglican priest Lini has steadfastly refused to align Vanuatu with either the US or the Soviet Union and Vanuatu still has no diplomatic relations with either power.

Officials in Port Vila told Reuter's correspondent that Lini was the first leader in the region to express open support for Ghaddafi following the US attack.

His remarks may be significant in the light of the fact that the Vanuaaku Party, of which Lini is the leader, was also represented at the Libya conference in March.

In an effort to discover what was discussed there and what relevance the conference held for the region, PIM spoke to Vanuaaku Party general secretary Barak Sope.

PIM also contacted the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Canberra in search of a list of resolutions that came from the conference.

Neither source was very forthcoming. We reproduce the Sope interview in full.

PIM: Allegations have been made that Libya is to fund a Pacific association of independence movements grouping the

Vanuaaku Party, Kanak liberationists and the OPM. Is that correct?

Sope: It is not.

PIM: Did the Vanuaaku Party send a delegation to the Tripoli conference in March?

Sope: We did.

PIM: Was the question of an association of Pacific independence movements discussed there?

Sope: We did not discuss any matters like that.

PIM: Has Libya made any offer of funding to the Vanuaaku Party?

Sope: What is the reason for asking that?

PIM: Some of our contacts in the independence movements of the region have suggested that Libya might channel funds to them through Vanuatu. Could that be true?

Sope: We have never funded any liberation movement. There is so much different kinds of reporting going on. We are a political party and I don't know why there's so much interest in Libya, the Russians and all sorts of things. All I can say is we've been to Libya. Whatever we decide or whatever we agree on or whatever we would like to do in the future, we cannot say. It cannot be published. So that's all I can give you.

PIM: What was the purpose in going to the Libya conference?

Sope: The purpose was to attend the meeting.

PIM: Yes. But what was the reason for going to that particular meeting?

Sope: There was a conference and we attended that conference.

PIM: Can you say what was discussed there?

Sope: We discussed everything that

tion

problems with the FLNKS which remains firmly opposed to any connections with Ghaddafi.

Consequently, the alliance, if it exists, remains shadowy. According to Bwenando, the alliance was first formed last

December with Uregei signing up the FLNKS.

When the front's political bureau was told of the move, however, it immediately annulled its "membership" and made it clear it wanted no part of any deal involving Libya.

It also told Uregei, who at that time was foreign affairs spokesman for the front, that it would not take part in the March Tripoli conference.

Uregei subsequently led a delegation of members of his own party to the conference. It

was at that meeting, apparently, that the revolutionary committee was finalised with Uregei's FULK taking the place of the FLNKS.

Funding for the committee has undoubtedly come from Ghaddafi who was already known to have contributed generous sums to organisations such as FULK — much of which, sources claim, has been deposited in a Port Vila bank.

Exactly what kind of action the alliance will promote is, again, difficult to say.

However, it has been revealed that a member of Uregei's group and one of the six who travelled to the Tripoli conference will be returning to Libya for a six month "training course."

While suggestions of an alliance of this kind have caused alarm among other regional governments, not to mention the French authorities, reaction should perhaps be kept in perspective.

Uregei is a canny politician who has been at the forefront of the New Caledonian political scene for more than 20 years. He is dedicated to an independent New Caledonia and although he has always been seen as something of an itinerant ambassador by the FLNKS, he has proved an effective foreign affairs spokesman travelling and lobbying endlessly to "spread the word" and try to win support.

He has also learned that one of the most efficient ways of keeping things moving is to keep the issue on the front pages of the world's press.

By flirting publicly with Libya he has managed exactly that, even though it has resulted in his suspension as foreign affairs minister in the provisional Kanaky government by the political bureau of the FLNKS.

The suspension has led to much speculation that Uregei's FULK — thought to have about 2,000 followers in New Caledonia — could part company with the mainstream FLNKS to form a radical splinter group.

FULK maintains that it will not quit the front. However, relations between the two groups are obviously under strain.

The issue is likely to be settled once and for all at the next congress of the FLNKS.

Meanwhile, in Port Moresby, OPM sources indicated that there are renewed hopes for overseas funding for the battle to separate Irian Jaya from Indonesia.

Former guerrilla leaders Seth Rumkorem and Jacob Prai were recently in Moscow, PIM was told. "We're hoping that, because of Moscow's new found interest in the region, we might be able to find some money there," said one source.

He added that it was thought possible Russia might channel



concerns independence movements, support for South Africa, all sorts of topics.

PIM: Can you be more specific on the discussions as they affect the Pacific independence movements? What form did this discussion take?

Sope: There were over three hundred independence movements represented there and all of them decided to support independence movements everywhere. There was concern over our region because you have New Caledonia and other countries which are not yet independent.

PIM: Was there a resolution or series of resolutions from that conference that might have a direct bearing on events in this region?

Sope: Yes, there were lots of resolutions. We have all the resolutions. We have them with us.

PIM: Can you explain what they might mean to the Pacific independence movements?

Sope: We like all independence movements. We support the independence of

people who are still under colonialism in the Pacific.

PIM: What we're asking is, is there any action, any development, that we are likely to see as a result of the Tripoli conference?

Sope: Well, there are many resolutions passed. Some of them are acted upon, some are not, but these resolutions are of general support for independence, condemning racism, condemning colonialism and all that. People meet at the South Pacific Forum, you know, and pass resolutions and nothing is done.

PIM: Do you think that something will be done in terms of, for instance, the liberation of New Caledonia?

Sope: Something is being done now. The independence movements are continuing to do their own groundwork. But what I don't understand is everybody's interested in Libya now.

PIM: Yes, but we thought we would contact you to find out exactly what did happen in Tripoli because, as you know, there are all kinds of reports and rumours about a Libya connection.

Sope: I am not in a position to give you any more information. There was a conference, we attended it, there were resolutions that were published at the time.

PIM: Published? Where?

Sope: I saw them in a Libyan newspaper before I left. The report was in English. I cannot give you any more information because there has been too much publishing all over. You know, I hear reports on the radio about what might be coming up. I attended a meeting. Everybody attends meetings nowadays. But everybody's suddenly interested in the Libyan connection, Libya this or Libya that. If the Libyans want to be around the Pacific it's not the problem of the superpowers or anybody else. They can come here. If they want to go to Australia, that's up to them. My personal opinion is that there's too much said about it. Vanuatu seems to have all this publicity but we just take things as normal.

support through Libya.

Madang-based spokesman Moses Werol confirmed that the OPM was represented at the Tripoli meeting.

"Some of our people from Europe were there," he said. "I don't know all the details yet.

Asked if there was any possibility of a Pacific grouping of independence movements supported by Libya, Mr Werol replied:

"That's what we hear from Libya. We're hoping for support or at least a guarantee that we will have what we need.

"We're a small organisation. We need help from any country. At the moment I think Libya is willing to give us help. But up to now we have nothing positive."

He said the OPM had received no money from Libya.

PIM: Has there been any offer of funding by Libya?

Werol: Not up to now. But there's a promise there. I don't know any details yet because we are waiting for our congress in Vanuatu in June. Maybe congress will give positive information on what countries will support us.

Werol explained that the congress would comprise all the factions of the OPM under one umbrella-type "revolutionary council."

The revolutionary council will wage the propaganda and diplomatic battle, he said, "while those inside the bush will come under the military council."

He confirmed that the OPM congress was "very likely" to have observers from New Caledonia and the Vanuaaku Party "because we are all Melanesians."

Australia's foreign minister Mr Bill Hayden was expected to discuss relations with Libya when he visited Vanuatu late last month.

He stated earlier, however, that Australia took the view that foreign relations were a sovereign matter for Vanuatu and did not wish to interfere.

He would, however, be seeking "clarification".

He said in Honiara that he was worried about Libya's presence anywhere and Australia would be particularly concerned if Vanuatu's relationship led to a Libyan involvement in the Pacific that went beyond normal diplomatic activity.

Propaganda by Australia

While the media were chasing around New Caledonia in search of Yann Celene Uregei, the man himself was on a mini-trip around the South Pacific.

Despite his suspension from the position of FLNKS foreign affairs spokesman because of his Libya links, he was nevertheless accorded ministerial status in Papua New Guinea where he met the acting foreign minister Galeva Kwarara and acting foreign secretary Sir Alkan Tololo.

In Honiara, Uregei was interviewed by the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Service.

He was at pains to point out that the FLNKS is "not a unified political party" but consists of seven pressure groups each of which remains autonomous within the framework of its own political party.

"The congress of my own political party which met in January decided on my participation at the conference in Tripoli — the conference of liberation movements.

"It was thus as secretary general of my own party FULK that I led a delegation of my party to attend this conference. My party took its position from the demand of the Kanak people for independence.

"That's why we attended the conference. The so-called FLNKS decision about our attendance was in fact only the decision of three groups of the seven within the FLNKS.

"There is, therefore, no consensus in favour of this strange co-called decision to dismiss the minister for external affairs of the provisional government.

"It therefore appears that these three parties declined to meet with other liberation movements and thus placed themselves in a position favouring colonialism and French imperialism.

"It therefore appears that the party is a victim of a campaign of distortion by the western media and press.

Interviewer: You must have seen this conference in Tripoli as very important. That is why you attended even though three factions within the FLNKS didn't approve. What did you gain from the Tripoli liberation conference?

Uregei: 302 organisations from all over the world united in Tripoli on March 17 and 18 to plan a program for the fight against imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid.

The conference decided to establish a world revolutionary force and a revolutionary front worldwide which will



Uregei: Terrorism is here.

comprise, at the same time, both state governments and political organisations of small peoples and nations

The conference decided to counteract arrogance and hegemony worldwide.

The best demonstration of this hegemony is the recent American attack on Libya.

It decided, in the first place, that New Caledonia and other French colonies must be liberated. The struggle for independence of the Kanak people and that of West Papua was explained to the conference.

I also wish to speak of international terrorism. I believe that in the matter of terrorism the peoples of the Pacific are also victims of the propaganda of the media — particularly of the western countries.

In the region this propaganda is, in particular, put out by Australia. We don't need to look elsewhere for terrorism because it continues to be visible in the Pacific region.

The continuance of French colonialism in the Pacific region, the French nuclear tests, the dynamiting of the Greenpeace vessel, arms traffic between Australia and New Caledonia are local terrorism.

Within New Caledonia we have seen the dynamiting of the Palais de Justice in Noumea and the Ministry of Finance.

Those responsible for these acts have not yet been found. What I wish to point out in this respect is that none of these actions were the work of Col Ghaddafi or Libya but are obviously those of France and those who support its politics.

End of 12-year Palmyra saga of piracy, murder

One of the most unusual cases in modern American jurisprudence — a story involving piracy, circumstantial evidence, murder and prison escape — finally came to its end in San Francisco in March when Stephanie Stearns, a 39-year-old Los Angeles office manager, was acquitted.

The end to a drama that began in August of 1974 at Palmyra atoll, 1600 kilometres south of Hawaii, was suspenseful. Jurors told U.S. District Judge Samuel King, who came with the case from Honolulu where it originated, that they were tied 6-6 but did not indicate whether this position was fixed. The judge returned them for further deliberations. They reported subsequently that they were now split 10-2. Defence attorneys wanted a mistrial but the judge ordered more deliberations.

Stearns, a compact woman who wore business suits to her trial, fidgeted and was obviously nervous. Her mother, also in court, displayed tension. But Stearns was a free woman when the jurors made their final return to the courtroom which is high atop the 20-storey Federal Office Building near the San Francisco City Hall.

The skyscraper courtroom was much removed in time, distance and setting from the events which were laid out during the weeks of the trial.

Herewith a narrative:

In the fall of 1974, the luxurious 38-foot ketch *Sea Wind* of San Diego, California,

PIM has often over the years reported on aspects of the grim events of August 1974 in Palmyra lagoon, most recently in our August '85 issue (p. 59) where we reported that a jury in San Francisco had found Buck Duane Walker guilty of the first-degree murder of Eleanor "Muff" Graham of San Diego, USA, at Palmyra in August 1974.

The marathon court hearings came to an end in March with the acquittal in San Francisco of Walker's companion, Stephanie Stearns, who faced a charge of murdering Eleanor Graham's husband, Malcolm.

Now RALPH CRAIB in San Francisco surveys the whole 12-year saga in an exclusive report for PIM.

was anchored in the Palmyra lagoon while its owners, Eleanor (Muff) Graham and her husband, Malcolm (Mac) Graham, fished and used the beaches. They were a wealthy couple and their vessel was abundantly supplied.

But *Sea Wind* soon had an unwelcome company. The ketch *Iola* limped into the lagoon. It was crewed by Stearns and her boy friend, Buck Duane Walker, now 47. The newcomer was in ill repair and its hippie duo were poorly supplied. The vessel had to be bailed out daily by hand to keep it afloat.

Oceanographer, Norman Sanders, who was a witness at Walker's trial in San Francisco last June, said that the situation at Palmyra wasn't nice. The lagoon, he said, was awash with sharks, poisonous fish and human hostility. He said that he made plans to leave Palmyra

within a few days and that he also advised the Grahams to do so.

"If the 200 inches of rain per year and the rapacious sharks were bad, the culture clash between the hippies and the establishment was worse ..."

"I wrote in my log book," the oceanographer said, "that it was a place where even the vinyl would rot." If the 200 inches of rain per year and the rapacious sharks were bad, he

said, the "culture clash between the hippies and the establishment" was worse.

Sanders told the court of hiding behind a palm tree in fear when Walker used a pistol to shoot one type of fish in the lagoon that was edible. This placed in the record of the trial Walker's possession of a weapon. Sanders subsequently left Palmyra.

The Grahams' equipment aboard the *Sea Wind* included a radio transmitter which enabled them to communicate with friends on the U.S. mainland and in Hawaii. They maintained weekly radio schedules. On August 28, 1974, Graham contacted Curt Shoemaker, a Honolulu amateur radio operator who had previously relayed messages to members of the Graham family. Graham told Shoemaker that the *Sea Wind* and the *Iola* were still at Palmyra and that the *Iola* was to leave in a few days. Graham said that the two people from the *Iola*, whom he knew as Mr and Mrs Allen, were coming to his ketch that evening for a *bon voyage* party.

Graham was never heard from again. No trace of him has ever been found. Remains, subsequently identified as those of his wife, did however turn up seven years later.

Two months after that August 1974 radio message, the repainted *Sea Wind* sailed into the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor, just a stroll from the luxury hotels of Oahu's Waikiki. When other yachtsmen recognised the well-known boat, Walker told them

that he had taken the boat over after its owners had been lost in a storm while fishing in their rubber dinghy.

Someone tipped the authorities. When federal agents approached the *Sea Wind*, Walker went over the side and successfully hid beneath a catamaran's hulls. Stearns fled ashore. Both were apprehended a few days later. In the absence of proof, the government did not file charges of murder. Walker admitted the theft of the *Sea Wind* and was convicted of it. He was also convicted on drug charges from which he was fleeing when he and Stearns took the *Iola* to Palmyra.

Then, in 1983, a metal box showing fire scars washed ashore on a Palmyra beach. It contained human bone remnants and experts were able to identify these as the remains of Mrs Graham.

Murder charges were filed in the U.S. District Court in Hawaii. But attorneys were successful in getting an order for a change of venue. They argued that an unprejudiced trial could not be held in Honolulu because of the amount of publicity given to the unusual case. The decision was also made to hold separate trials for the two defendants.

Before his trial for murder last year, Walker had been sentenced to prison, had been transported to McNeil Island, a federal penitentiary in the State of Washington, had escaped and had been recaptured in Arizona. A chunky man, he brightened the austere federal court in San Francisco by appearing in aloha shirts.

"Walker paid dearly for a prison indiscretion. He bragged to a fellow inmate that he had made Graham 'walk the plank' at Palmyra . . ."

Walker paid dearly for a prison indiscretion. He bragged to a fellow inmate that he had made Graham "walk the plank" at Palmyra. The man, who was given new identity by federal authorities, was under protection of authorities until he testified at Walker's murder trial.

Last June 12, the 12 members of the jury took but two hours to rule that Walker was

guilty of the murder of Mrs Graham. Assistant United States Attorney Elliot Enoki built his case on the circumstantial evidence he had available to him. He made much of the fact that Walker did not report the alleged disappearance of the Grahams when he sailed their boat to Hawaii.

The government contended that Mrs Graham's body had been placed in a metal locker or

box and set afire. Somehow, years later, the tides brought the grisly evidence to shore. A South African yachtsman found the box and bones.

When Walker and Stearns reached Palmyra, prosecutor Enoki said, they were down and out, had to catch their food or barter for it. "Suddenly, 200 yards away, there were the Grahams with every provision known to man," said Enoki. "Only two people could have committed the murder," he said. "Only two people on earth."

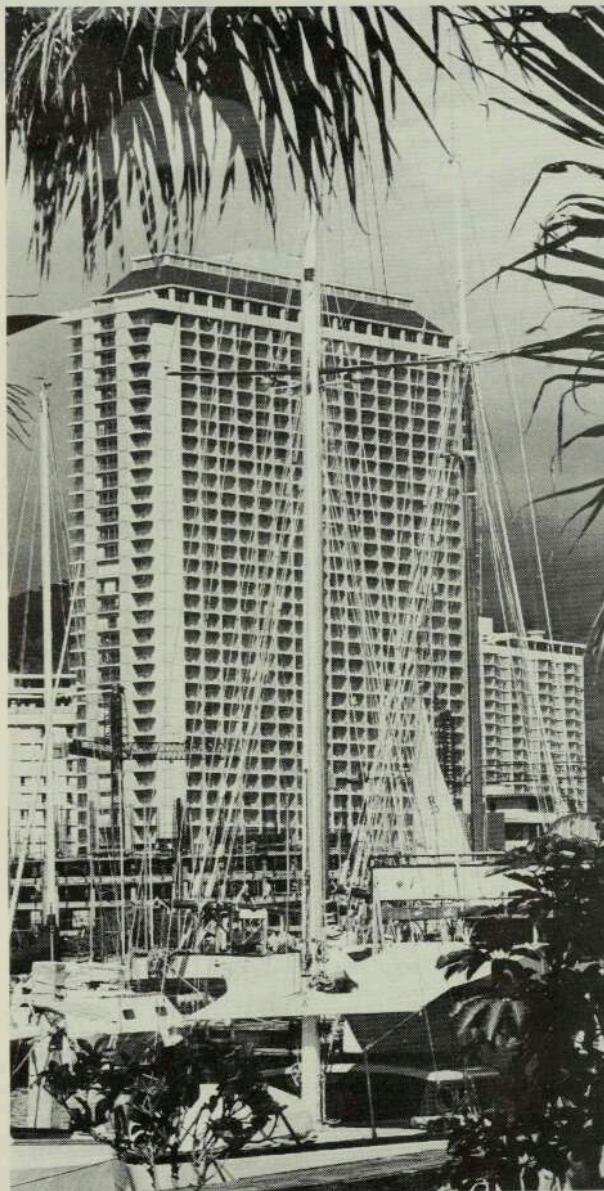
Walker's attorney argued unsuccessfully that no one on earth could truly tell what happened at Palmyra. But the jury obviously agreed that Walker did know. Judge King sentenced Walker to life imprisonment. That sentence cannot be begun until he has served earlier sentences involving theft of the *Sea Wind* and drug

"Walker will be eligible, under current law, to begin applying for parole in the year 2006 . . ."

charges. He will be eligible, under current law, to begin applying for parole in the year 2006.

Miss Stearns' murder trial began in February. Judge King immediately dismissed a charge that she killed Malcolm (Mac) Graham. He said that the government had failed to prove that a murder had happened during the theft of the Grahams' yacht.

Her defence portrayed her as a hapless person who had no other choice but to make use of the Grahams' boat to return to civilisation. She contended that she believed that the Grahams had died during a fishing trip. The jury was willing to believe that few women would have been much of a match for Walker, the tough ex-convict and escape artist.



Ala Wai Yacht Harbor, Honolulu, with the Ala Moana Hotel in the background. It was in the yacht harbor that the repainted *Sea Wind* was recognised, touching off the hunt for Walker and Stephanie Stearns.

Islanders sit in against 'apartheid'

When 210 protesting Marshall Islanders were forcibly removed by police from the US missile facility at Kwajalein atoll, a five month "sit-in" came to an abrupt end.

But the islanders say they're not beaten yet. Bruised, perhaps, but not beaten.

The sit-in was a protest at what some islanders claim is the lack of a lease agreement, the use of their atoll as a missile testing site and what they claim is a US version of apartheid in the US-administered UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Marshallese senator Ataji Balos, chairman of the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation (KAC) which staged the five-month protest, described the events of their eviction in a dramatic telephone interview.

He said: "On Monday evening the judge of the High Court of the Marshall Islands issued an order of eminent domain, condemning the land we were occupying and stating that it was needed for immediate use."

"Police from Majuro were sent to Kwajalein to serve the order. We were given one hour to respond."

"I requested to talk to my lawyer which was refused. In one hour the police moved our people — ladies, elders, children — from our camps. We refused to move from the Pacific and Ocean View clubs which we were occupying."

"The police used force and handcuffed ladies. Two, three guys lifted them into trucks. Two ladies fainted and went to hospital. The police were really rough on them."

Balos said the police took the people to the docks and kept them in uncovered boats for the night.

Landowners at Kwajalein island, the US missile testing range in the Marshall Islands, recently were evicted after a five-month protest sit-in on their ancestral land. They claim US policy is akin to "apartheid" and reject the land lease agreement signed by their government and the US. ED RAMPELL reports.

"The following morning at 6am they took us against our will to Ebeye. I was handcuffed."

The Ebeye people, meanwhile, had learned of the condition of the "boat people" and large numbers of them were waiting at the dock.

Balos: "The dock was filled with our people. They jumped into the boats and were thrown off by security."

"We went to nearby South Loi island where we were left until the afternoon. There was no food, water or shelter. We were sent water by our people."

In an official statement, Kwajalein Missile Range (KMR) public affairs officer Pat Robbins said: "With limited assistance from Kwajalein Missile Range, the Majuro police were able to remove all the demonstrators from the four islands within the atoll."

Robbins put the number of protesters at 140 while about 70 more were removed from three other off-limits isles — Meck, a US launching site for minuteman missiles, Enewetok and Omelek, radar tracking and communication stations.

The KAC is protesting against a lease agreement which expired last October and was later extended.

Under the terms of the land use agreement, the landowners were paid US\$7 million per annum — or about \$1200

each. According to KAC lawyer George Allen, "the landowners are seeking to negotiate directly with the US government, as happens at places like Okinawa and Christchurch, New Zealand."

The US, however, has been negotiating with the Marshall Islands government and on March 11 both sides signed an agreement extending the expired lease.

According to KMR spokesman Robbins, the Marshall High Court gave ownership of the land to the Republic of the Marshall Islands' government on April 21. Under the law of eminent domain, said Robbins, the Marshallese government will retain possession of the land at the US military installation for three years.

Allen, however, contends that "the law of eminent domain only affects six of the 120 parcels of land at Kwajalein" and insists that the dispute is far from over.

He told PIM that "complex litigation" has been filed challenging the military's right to restrict people from unconceded land. Defendants cited include Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of the Army John Marsh.

Ebeye mayor Alvin Jacklick also believes the trouble in paradise is far from over. He said: "One to two thousand landowners are occupying the Ebeye dock in order to return to

Kwajalein and re-occupy their land."

The sit-in had also prevented between 600 and 700 Marshallese labourers from travelling to KMR to work, said Jacklick, and the response to an army edict that absentees would lose their jobs was for many people to walk across the reef to work.

Both Balos and Jacklick stress that there is more at stake than a land agreement.

Balos claims that "the situation at Kwajalein atoll is definitely like apartheid. Our kids aren't allowed to attend high school at Kwajalein. There isn't any at Ebeye."

"We can't use their hospital; ours is inadequate. Their high standard of living three miles away makes Kwajalein island look like a paradise and Ebeye a slum."

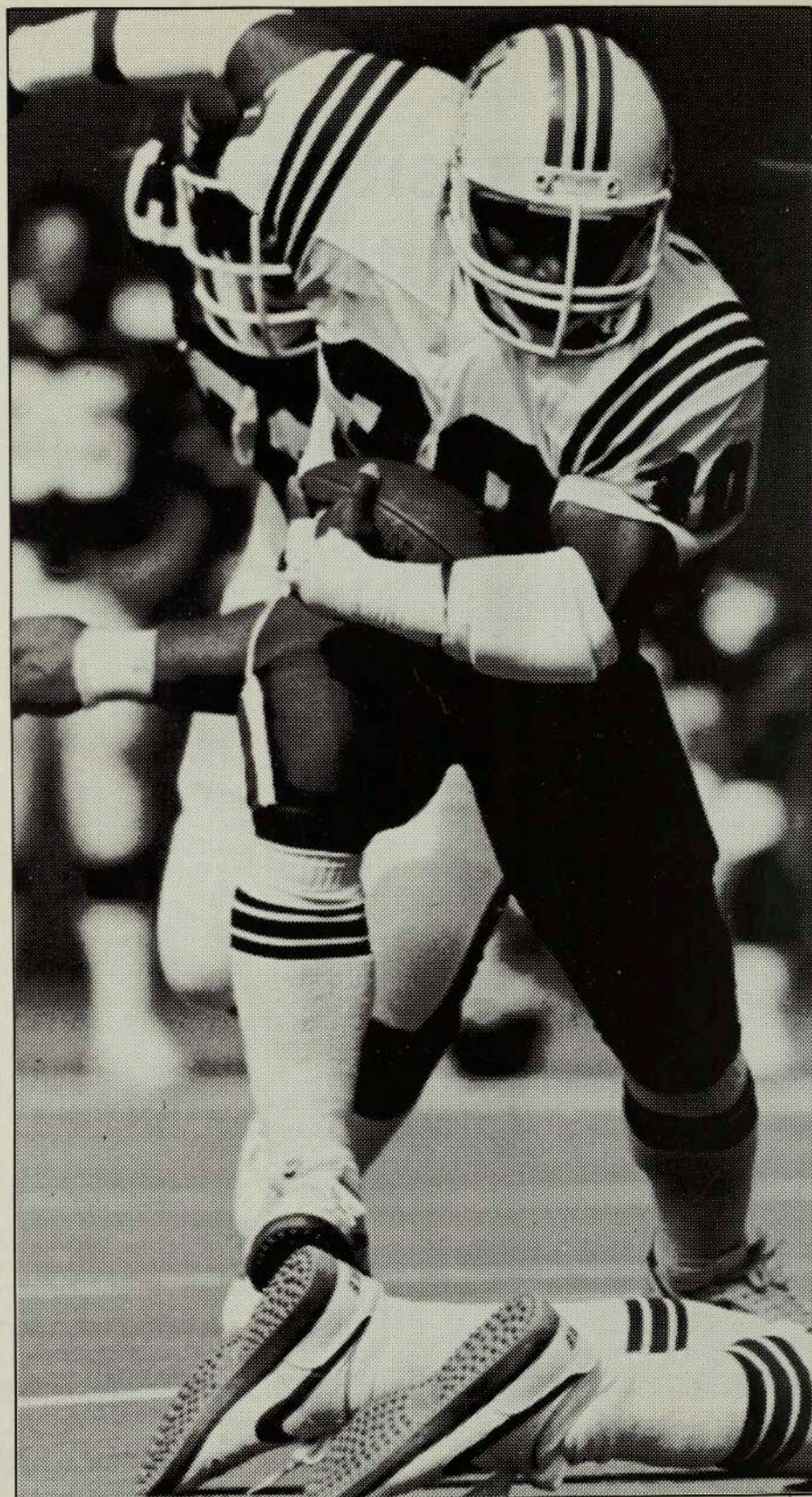
"They mistreat and look down on our people as if we are not human beings" and, while South Africa had abolished the notorious pass laws, "Marshallese still need a pass to travel to Kwajalein. They don't allow us to live there."

Kwajalein, thirteen times larger than Ebeye, has less than a third of Ebeye's population (2,500 compared to 8,000).

The Marshallese militants have vowed to continue their protest. Balos and Jacklick plan to petition the UN and will campaign against the proposed compact of free association which would give the US the right to continue using KMR for at least another 30 years.

"The landowners are determined to spread the sit-in all over the atoll by walking the reef," said the mayor.

Balos added: "We are a small people, but we are not going to give up fighting for our rights."



American Samoans migrating to the US take on a wide variety of occupations but few match the endeavor of men like Mosi Tatupu, Terry Tautola, Wilson Faumuina, Manu Tuiasosopo and Jack Thompson.

All of these are grid-iron footballers, practitioners of an art which, like cricket, is a sport notable mainly for its total lack of comprehension in large areas of the world.

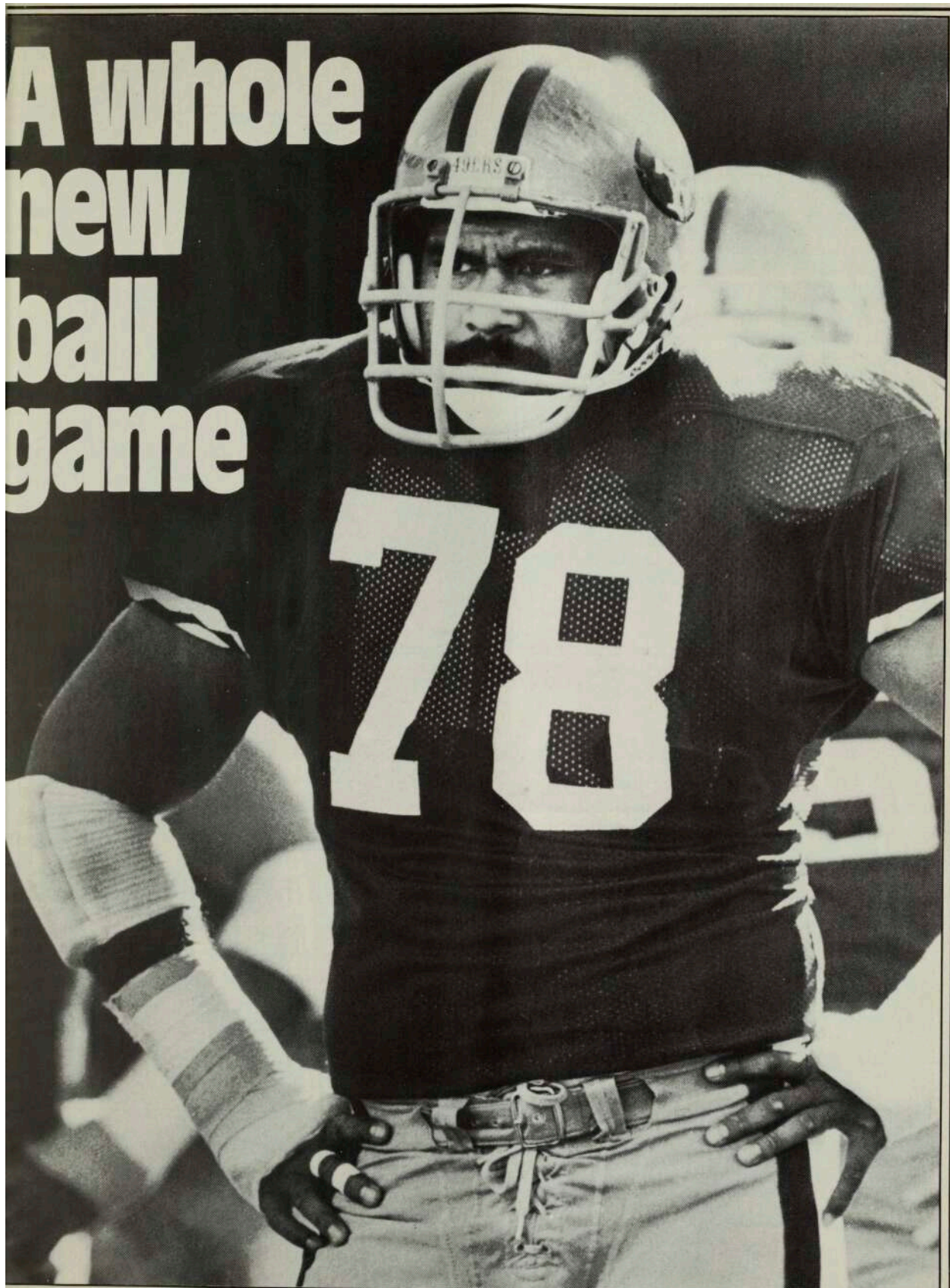
Yet it is one of the most popular of spectator sports in the mainland US and, thus, offers, through athletic scholarships, a chance of getting an extensive, and expensive, education which otherwise would be unavailable to many young men.

Because Samoans start early to play with the oval Rugby-style football a version of which is used in American football, they take naturally to grid-iron and, today, between 70 and 80 young Samoans are to be found playing collegiate football in the US. University College, Los Angeles, Long Beach State, Washington State, Long Beach City College, and University of Southern California are among the many major university sides including Samoans in their ranks.

From there many have become professionals. Those named above are, today, the best-known and, of them all, the most famous is Mosi Tatupu who plays with the New England Patriots.

He was born in Pago Pago in 1955 and moved to Hawaii as a boy during his father's efforts to further a professional boxing career. Young Mosi had no pugilistic aspirations, but loved football and was soon one of the most successful players in Hawaiian schoolboy grade grid-iron history. Leading mainland colleges, searching for football talent, quickly offered scholarships and he chose University of Southern California, joining their team, the USC Trojans.

Mosi Tatupu of the New England Patriots powers his way past a prostrate defender (left) while (right) a mean looking Manu Tuiasosopo waits grim-faced for the next play.



PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JUNE, 1986

15

He is still remembered in collegiate circles for the proficiency of his tackling.

In 1978 the New England Patriots, one of the US National Football League's most popular clubs, drafted him into its paid ranks. Since then he has played in over 110 successive games, a record equalled by only three other Patriot players.

He is a "running back" whose forte is to carry the ball the last vital few yards to touchdown when the defence is at its most ferocious.

Tatupu stands exactly 6ft tall and weighs 16 stone, which makes him a comparative lightweight in the National League where monstrous men rejoicing in names like "The Refrigerator" and "Man Mountain" are commonly seen. But he has a low centre of gravity and extremely powerful legs, which gives him the ability to bulldoze his way through the smallest gap in the last desperate seconds of a score.

Off the field Tatupu is equally popular, spending many hours working for various charities,

notably animal welfare, the mentally handicapped and the Cancer Society. He is also to be found often visiting high schools in deprived areas, giving speeches on the importance of self-esteem and the value of a good education.

In between times Tatupu has started a business called, perhaps oddly, "The Snowin' Samoan's Hawaiian Style Shaved Ice Store."

How he got the nickname, "The Snowin' Samoan" is a bit of a mystery, but probably is related to the fact that some of his most brilliant performances were seen on snow-covered fields quite unlike the atmosphere of his homeland.

Mosi is married, with a daughter, Linnea Mosiula, and a son, Mosiula Mealofa. He will be 31 soon and therefore has a limited life left in professional football. Friends believe that on retirement he may turn to politics, perhaps back in Hawaii where his American career began and where he has many kinsmen very proud of his success. — Paul Moon.

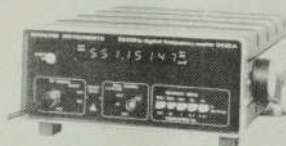


Manu Tuiaosopo of the San Francisco 49ers takes a tackle in his stride.

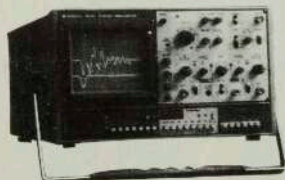
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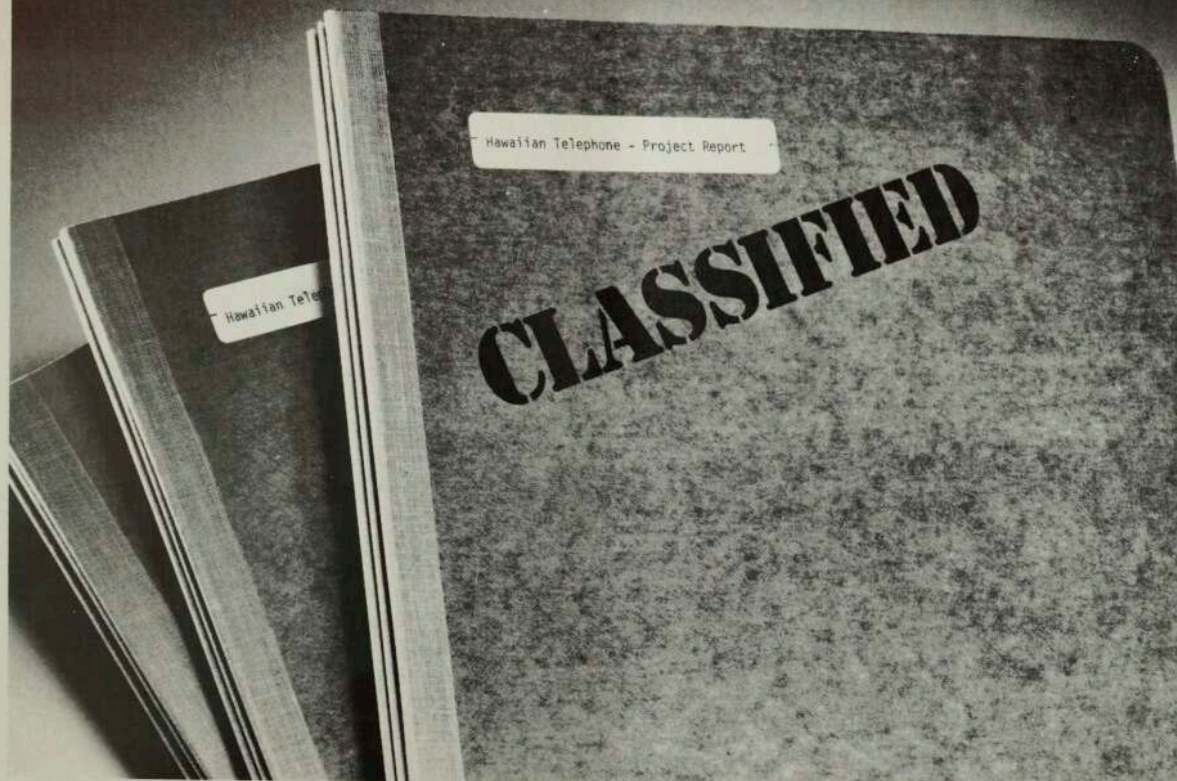
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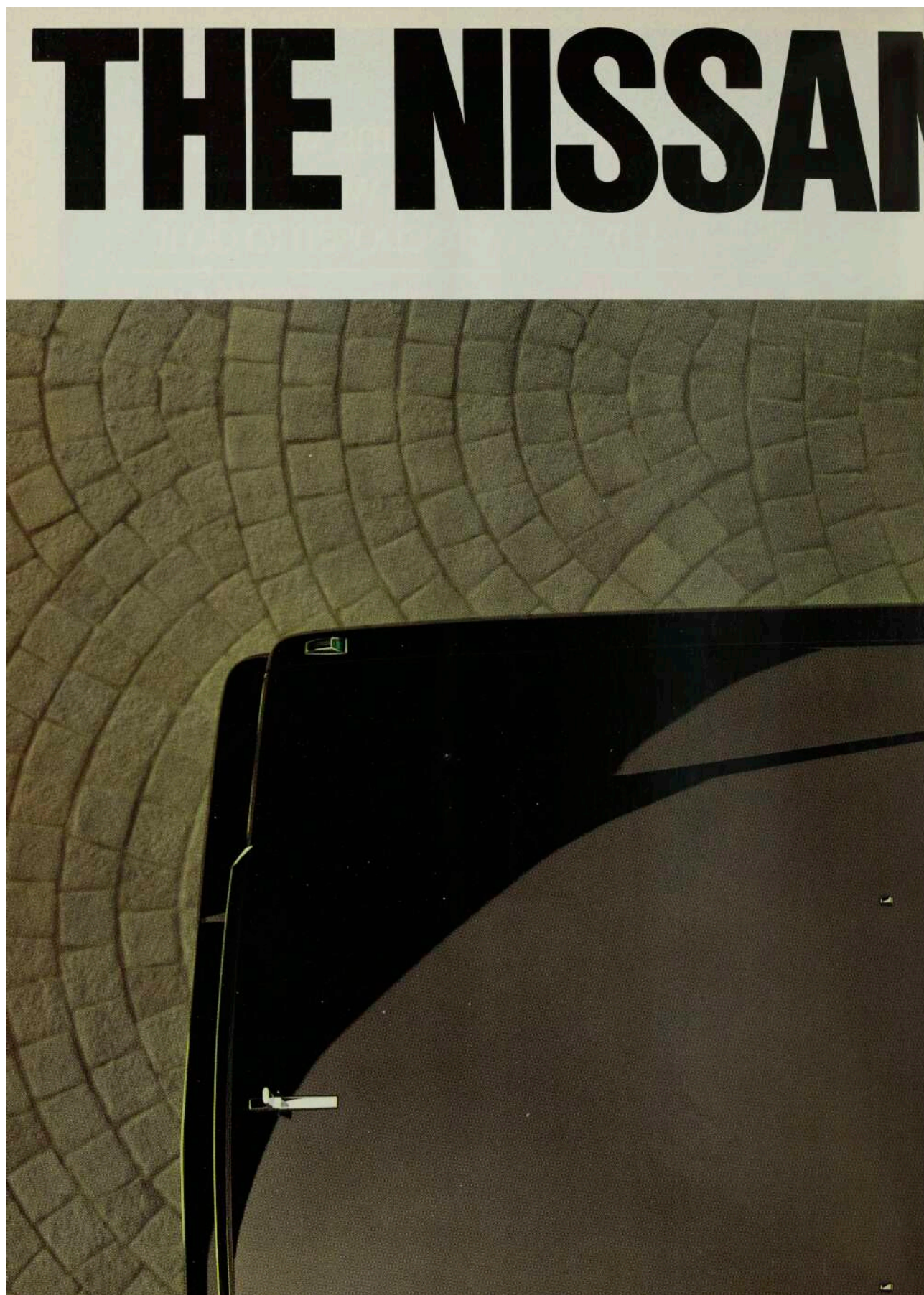
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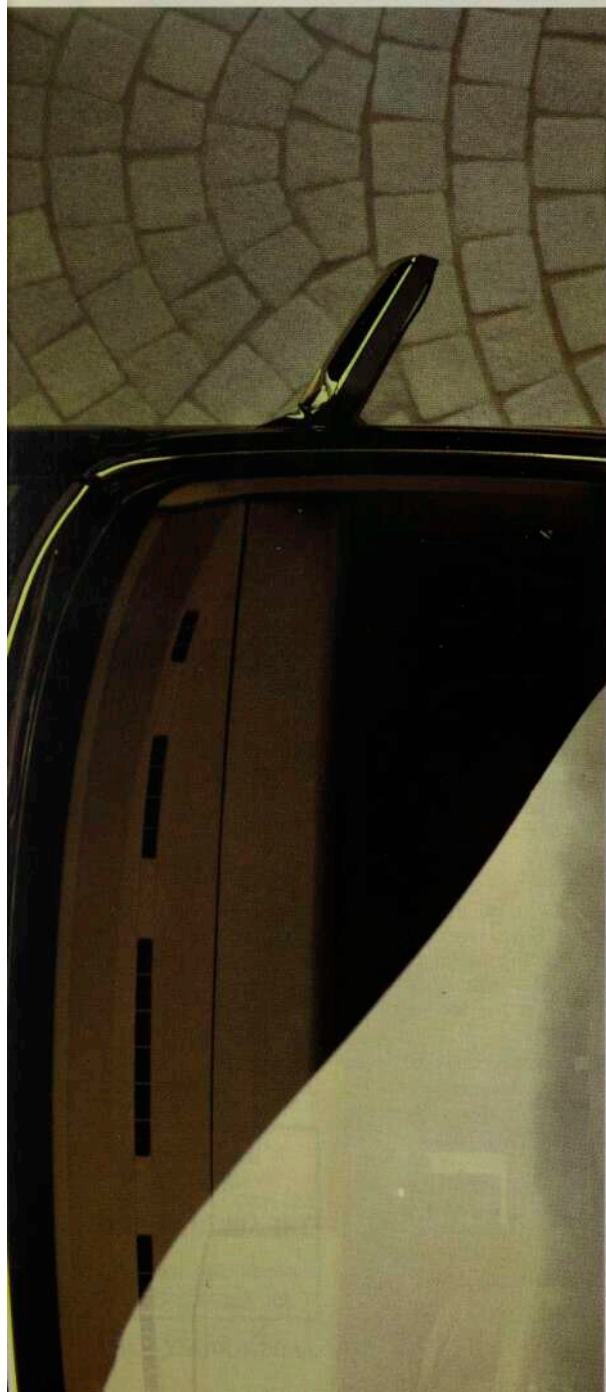
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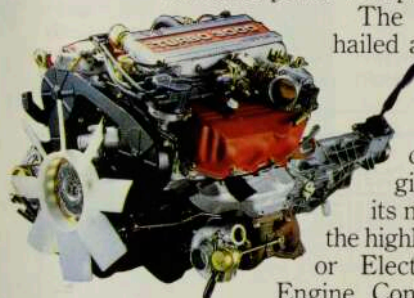


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NISSAN

New leader with an uphill task

Fiji's new Opposition leader, 54-year-old Mr Harish Sharma, is the third person to hold the office since Fiji's independence 16 years ago.

Mr Sharma took over the reins from Mr Siddiq Koya, the first leader of the Opposition who took up the position in 1969 after the death of the founder president and leader Mr A. D. Patel.

Mr Koya then lost the position to Mr Jai Ram Reddy in 1977 but rose again when Mr Reddy resigned in May 1984.

Like his predecessors, Mr Sharma is a practising lawyer with an office in the western division of the country.

He was born and brought up near Suva in a humble family with a rural background. Sharma began his career as an insurance clerk and held a part-time job as a radio announcer for Radio Fiji's hindustani program.

Later he studied law in Tasmania, returning in 1966 to join

the law firm of Mr Koya at Lautoka and later moved to Nadi to set up on his own.

Mr Sharma entered the political arena in 1972 and has since been returned to Parliament.

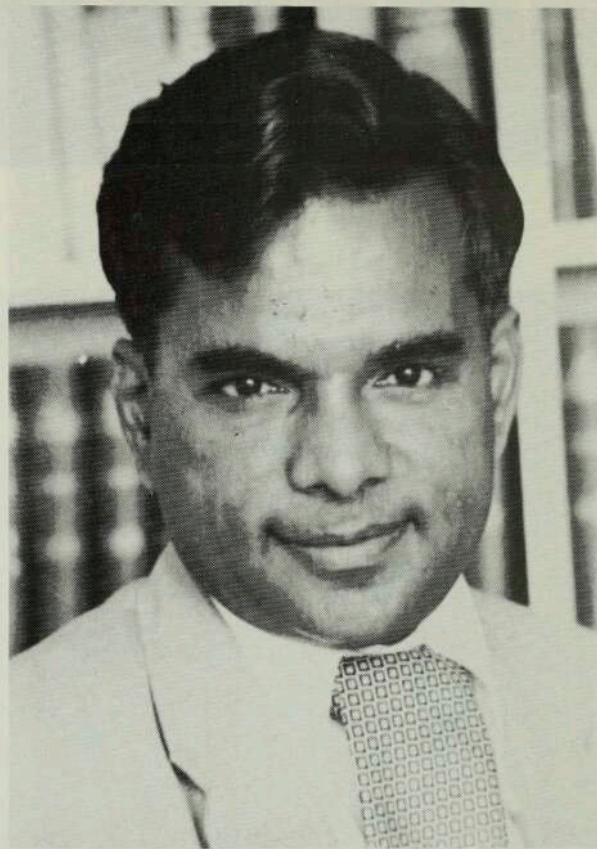
While he may lack the charisma and personality of his former boss, he is generally acknowledged as a thorough and disciplined politician.

His parliamentary approach has always been methodical and well researched. He is both articulate and eloquent in Hindustani and English.

Sharma does his homework. He sticks to issues — for which he has earned the respect and admiration of both sides of the House.

He has also served a term as deputy speaker when his rulings were always impartial.

Mr Sharma has also chaired a number of Parliamentary select committees and has represented Fiji and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meetings abroad.



New opposition leader Mr. Harish Sharma.

Although he kept a low profile both inside and outside the house, the new Opposition leader has an air of dignity about him.

And while he never aspired to the leader's position, now that he is there, he has promised to make it a full time occupation.

He said he will initially commute to Suva from his Nadi base, spending weekdays in the capital and weekends at home with his wife, two teenage sons and daughter.

Koya stepped down in Sharma's favour because he saw the writing on the wall in the form of the declining popularity of the National Federation Party and growing internal dissent. He knew it was time to depart.

Sharma now has the uphill task of reversing the party's fortunes by means of a united public image and an effort to

win back disgruntled members who recently left the party to sit as independents in Parliament.

Sharma has to contend not only with petty jealousies and internal bickering within his own party, but also with the emerging political force of the Labour Party.

Fiji's general elections are due next year although rumours of a snap poll are rife.

Sharma will want to move swiftly to transform the NFP into a serious alternative government. — from our Suva correspondent.

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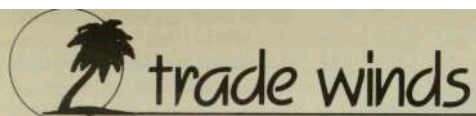
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Philip Daniel and Rod Sims
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ALL THE NEWS
IN A FLASH
THE SOUTH SEA DIGEST
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Prospectors strike paydirt

THE islands of the Western Pacific are experiencing a gold rush on a scale unprecedented in this century: Fiji, New Zealand, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and even tiny Palau, are being beset by modern prospectors and, most excitingly, all are yielding new discoveries of gold.

The rush developed in Papua New Guinea, fired by the spectacular discoveries at Porgera and Lihir, and has spread in the last year to the other island nations.

These modern prospectors are not the lone adventurers of previous times, but organised exploration groups using experienced geologists with sophisticated technologies and are backed by substantial financial resources.

This activity has arisen from a world wide resurgence of interest in gold exploration, but is largely Australian based and financed from Australian sources.

It is an extension of the current gold boom in Australia which has seen the development of a host of small mines and several large ones, including the highly profitable and much publicised Kidston mine in Queensland.

The rush has attracted both established companies and groups looking to raise capital through the Australian stock-markets; for these the Pacific Islands have become a fashionable "address". This boom has

As the Pacific gold rush gathers momentum, consultant W.A. McGEE surveys the scene with particular focus on the prospectors, their discoveries and their dreams.



Panning for gold in a Vanuatu stream.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

the potential to bring great benefits to the people of the islands, but there are risks, and it requires careful management by the governments involved.

The prospectors are hoping to find another gold deposit like that discovered on the small island of Lihir in Papua New Guinea, by **Kennecott Explorations (Australia) Ltd.**, the local arm of the giant American copper company, though a somewhat lesser discovery would be acceptable.

In early December, information on the size of this deposit was at last released, effectively quelling the speculation that had been rampant.

The reserves announced are 137 million tonnes with an average grade of 2.7 grams per tonne of gold, implying that the deposit contains some 360 tonnes of gold metal. On present prices this amount of gold has a value of about \$US4,000 million.

The figures describe the deposit as it is in the ground, and do not report the quantities that can actually be extracted, although at least 90 per cent of this gold is likely to be economically recoverable. Kennecott and their junior Australian partner in this project, **Niugini Mining Ltd.**, have reason to feel satisfied with their exploration team.

Interestingly though, after the announcement, the price of shares in Niugini Mining fell on Australian markets as investors shaved off the over-expectations of the deposit.

They apparently preferred not to speculate on extensions to it, even though the

announcement included a comment that limits to the mineralisation had not been fully established.

In another twist, it is strongly rumoured that Kennecott, which has recently embarked on substantial new investment in its large United States copper mines, is seeking a new partner to whom to sell some of its equity in the Lihir project.

This would give the opportunity for a newcomer to have an easy, if perhaps expensive, entry to the Western Pacific gold province. Kennecott have acquired over a long period the reputation of failing to retain their discoveries (for example PNG's Ok Tedi mine) so this development should not, perhaps, have been unexpected.

Who is likely to take up the equity, if indeed they do divest, is arousing some curiosity.

Vanuatu provides an interesting focus for the new Pacific Islands rush.

Whereas previously the country had only meagre association with the mining industry, almost all of it is now covered by exploration conces-



Many prospectors are now using ship-borne helicopters to cover more ground.

sions which have been taken up within the last year.

A substantial manganese mine had operated on the island of Efate for about 20 years but it became uncompetitive during the seventies and was closed.

Since the discovery of the immense copper deposit on Bougainville in the mid-sixties, several companies have reconnoitred the islands of Vanuatu for large copper and other base metal deposits, but without

making a discovery.

The only known gold occurrence had been a minor alluvial showing in central Espiritu Santo, a discovery of the 1930's gold boom. This was inspected by a mining company about four years ago, but failed to stimulate any continuing interest.

Despite the production of a series of excellent maps and reports by government geologists describing the geology of the islands and clearly indicating that much is highly prospective for gold deposits, the country had not been systematically prospected for gold before the present rush.

By late 1984, as the Papua New Guinea discoveries became generally known, the prospects of Vanuatu began to attract the attention of exploration companies.

In 1985 three groups, **City and Suburban Properties Ltd.**, **Dominion Gold Mines N.L.** and the **Canyon Resources Pty. Ltd.** consortium, implemented major field programs. It is these who currently have the largest holdings of ground in the country.

All operate from Sydney, though interests from elsewhere in Australia and the United States are represented in their consortia.

City, who operate in Vanuatu through their subsidiary **United Resources (Vanuatu) Ltd.**, have small gold mines in Australia and have a very large exploration program in Papua New Guinea (PIM, April page 33).

To make an initial assessment City brought in a ship equipped with a helicopter to

move their geologists around the islands. This technique was developed by **Conzinc Riotinto Australia Ltd.** in the sixties to prospect the Pacific Islands for copper.

The helicopter permitted rapid and efficient deployment of the geologists, although the island people in remote areas were sometimes surprised by their precipitate arrival. The ship, the **M.V. United Venturer**, has been retained in Vanuatu to serve as a base for the continuing operations.

A 25 metre steel-hulled catamaran, it is equipped with a laboratory and advanced communications equipment, as well as its helicopter. As a base, it offers City's geologists comforts seldom available on a field project.

City has announced discoveries of gold on both Espiritu Santo and Malekula. As yet there has been only preliminary evaluation by surface methods of any of the prospects, but drilling to test for mineralisation at depth on one of them is planned to commence shortly.

In the southern part of Espiritu Santo, City has found three areas of gold mineralisation and these have been named the Upper Tufwakar, the Tafuse and the Webe Creek Prospects.

Surface samples carrying as much as 20 grams per tonne of gold have been found and, just as importantly at this early stage, large areas have been recognised in which the rocks have been affected by heated, and possible mineralising, waters.

On Malekula, a large vein of purple quartz carrying gold has been discovered. The early work indicates it has a width of about 5 metres and occurs over a length of at least 1 kilometre.

In one section a gold tenor of around 3 grams per tonne across the full width was obtained. City's geologists have optimistically named it the **Amethyst Lode**, a name shared with a fabulously rich purple vein on the old Creede silver field in Colorado.

It remains to be seen if continuity of the grade can be established before this vein can be considered a resource.

Nearby, a zone of altered rock from which individual rock samples have been found to carry gold, with values up to 34

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grammes per tonne, has been discovered. These encouragingly early results clearly demonstrate that the province has gold mineralisation of significance and requires further prospecting.

Also on Espiritu Santo, City has recognised gold in alluvial deposits in the Big Bay area and is assessing the potential of the prospect.

This is where Quiros and his Spaniards sojourned during their abortive colonisation attempt during the sixteenth century. It would be an odd twist to their sad adventure if a gold deposit was to be found here.

Minor gold values have been reported from City's ground in the southern part of Pentecost, but this prospect is considered of less importance than the other discoveries at this stage.

Other groups have been less forthcoming than City on their results. The Dominion Gold and Canyon reconnaissance programs are known to have shown some indications of mineralisation and these are to be followed up.

Canyon, a private company also active in Australia and New Zealand, holds ground in its own name and also manages the programs on ground held by its associated company, **Mumbil Mines N.L.** Canyon is in the process of transferring its interest in Vanuatu, both direct and through its shareholding in Mumbil Mines to another associated company, **Delta Gold N.L.**

Finance for the consortium's operations in Vanuatu is being largely provided by the Perth-based **Paragon Resources N.L.**, which is earning equity in the project.

Paragon, formed as part of the restructuring of the Australian Selection Trust group in 1985, has substantial assets, including a controlling interest in a gold deposit near Temora in New South Wales.

The Canyon consortium holds ground throughout Vanuatu, some of which is close to the discoveries announced by City. Their Fatmalapa prospect on Efate has attracted some attention and has been inspected by a number of geologists from other companies.

The Canyon geologists con-

sider the prospect to be a fossil geothermal system with potential to host gold mineralisation.

The Dominion program arose from a project originally planned by **Anaconda Australia Inc.**, a division of a large American mining company. When Anaconda withdrew from operations in this region, the project was carried on by a consortium which included **Dominion Mining and Oil N.L.** and several of the ex-Anaconda geologists.

Dominion Mining and Oil has income from oil production in the United States and is involved in oil and mineral exploration in Australia.

Dominion Gold Mines N.L., under which the consortium operates in Vanuatu, also holds ground near the City discoveries as well as promising areas on other islands.

Their early reconnaissance, like the City program, was made with a ship-based helicopter but they have reported only that encouragingly anomalous values have been discovered. This group is active also in the Solomon Islands.

Other groups active include **Jason Mining Ltd**, which is sponsored by Sydney interests, **Nationwide Resources (Vanuatu) Ltd** also from Sydney, and **Kia Ora Gold**

Corporation N.L., a Perth group.

Besides its Vanuatu operations, Jason is involved in several other gold mining and exploration projects in Australia and Indonesia, and has its technical management in the hands of the prominent Sydney consultants, A.C.A. Howe Australia Pty Ltd.

Kia Ora operates a small gold mine in Western Australia and has interests in exploration programs elsewhere in Australia.

Another company operating in Vanuatu is **Austpac Resources N.L.**, also from Sydney. It is managed by the well-known geologist Mike Turbott, who previously, as exploration manager for Kennecott, was responsible for the program that led to the Lihir discovery.

Several groups are assembling portfolios of properties with which they plan to float in Australia.

Vanuatu is a particularly favorable country for such entrepreneurial groups to acquire ground. Situated on the island arcs of the Pacific rim, the "address" is prime.

The country is readily accessible from Australia and is regarded as having a stable government which is sympa-

thetic to Australian investment. Yet for the speculators who provide the capital it retains an air of tropical adventure.

Exploration tenements offered by the government are small and carry reasonable expenditure commitments. And discoveries are being made.

The exploration boom in Vanuatu is being encouraged by a pragmatic government attitude. Previously, or at least over the last twenty years when large mineral deposits have been the specific target, the risk of exploration in the western Pacific Islands has largely been carried by the major mining companies.

Some of these, for instance City, are quite substantial and generally all would seem to have or to be able to obtain sufficient resources to explore for and to develop moderately sized mines.

When large discoveries are made, if Lihir type deposits are indeed lurking in the country, the major companies will appear to provide the organisation necessary to exploit them.

In the future, as the exploration in the Pacific Islands moves from the present reconnaissance programs into more detailed phases, it will fall to the governments to explain to the affected people what the companies are doing and to establish mechanisms to arbitrate any disputes that arise.

For efficient and just exploitation of mineral resources it is necessary that, whatever the land rights, mineral rights be reserved to the state and this principle is recognised in the legislation of most of the Western Pacific Island nations.

That the minerals are the property of the government and that the company, by its licence, acts as a government agent must be made clear to landowners by government officers.

A taint of colonialism can arise if the companies are left to make these explanations. The Vanuatu government, with its high level of popular support and its effective system of contact with the people, is well equipped to meet problems of this nature as they arise.

With the very high chances of establishing a profitable gold mining industry the outlook for this Pacific nation is promising.



Even exploration work can help bring employment.

From rubber to riches

How does a venerable island plantation operator come to be listed in the top 150 Australian companies? The answer for **Koitaki Ltd** was to get out of plantations and into financial services.

When the Darling family bought into Koitaki, a plantation on PNG's Sogeri plateau, one of the first changes they made was to move away from the traditional rubber and plant coffee. It was the first of a series of inspired decisions that set the company on the road to that spot in the hot 150.

The coffee move came just in time to catch the prices boom of the late '70s which brought welcome returns for Koitaki, first listed as a public company in 1929 with the intention of developing a rubber plantation.

At the same time as the coffee boom, however, a recently independent PNG was striving for national ownership in the plantation sector and the plantation was sold to national interests.

"We didn't particularly want to sell," recalls managing director Michael Darling. "But we saw the writing on the wall and, in the event, we negotiated a sale in an amicable way."

In fact, Koitaki received three times earnings for the plantation, a deal that would be hard to repeat in today's commodity price climate.

The Darlings at the same time sold the Smugglers Inn in Madang to **Steamships Ltd**.

With cash in hand the family looked for investment opportunities in PNG. "But there was nothing around at the time," said Michael.

They did, however, maintain a PNG connection with the subsequent acquisition of a 25 per cent holding in Watkins, a company with substantial interest and activity in the new nation.

An attempted take-over was beaten at the post by the Thiess group, although the Darlings were able to retire from the proceedings with a A\$10 million return for a \$1.5 million initial investment.

Koitaki then turned to the

When the PNG government bought the Koitaki plantation from its then owners, it launched Koitaki Ltd. on a spectacular journey into the stock exchange stratosphere. RUSSELL HUNTER asks how it was done.



Michael Darling: "We are active investors".

financial services industry with a 50 per cent share of Australian National Life Insurance, pioneering the Australian version of a unit trust-linked life insurance plan that had caught on big in the UK but was as yet untried Down Under.

The other half of ANLI was taken up by **Key West Investments Ltd** which runs the Clayton Robard Unit Trust. Koitaki later acquired 27 per cent of Key West.

The venture was, to say the least, a success.

In 1979 Koitaki was capitalised at \$2 million. Current market capitalisation stands at around \$179 million. The company earned \$3.75 million in profits after tax in the last half year.

The 700 or so investors lucky enough to hold Koitaki scrip have had a good run for their money by any reckoning.

The original 800,000 shares climbed to about \$20 before last year's 9 for 1 issue brought

the price down again to \$2.

Michael Darling says the company will split the shares again to reduce the price per share towards the \$5 mark in the current 1:2 bonus issue. "Then we'll hope to repeat the process."

Koitaki itself consists of four executives and a secretary who operate out of a 20th floor eyrie in Sydney's financial district.

But with upwards of 590 million managed dollars, Koitaki, through associated companies, has a wide range of interests. "We're active investors," said Darling. "We support the executives in the companies in which we have an interest and take part in the decision making process through board meetings."

Koitaki, he said, had been a major beneficiary of the strong Australian stock markets of recent times.

"But the eighties are different from the seventies when commodity and resource invest-

ment was the big attraction. Our strategy for the eighties is earnings-based investment and I don't see that changing in the short term."

Last year, Koitaki did try to diversify into TV through two stations. "But they wanted too much money and we were satisfied to take a profit and walk away," he said.

"The businesses we are now in are growing very fast," he added.

One of these is Niugini Mining, pioneer of the Lihir Island prospect in which funds managed by Koitaki, associated companies, have a "substantial" interest.

"So I suppose we have maintained our PNG connection in that respect," said Darling.

The company is still more than 50 per cent owned by the Darling family whose members have some heavyweight connections in Australia's business establishment.

Koitaki chairman L Gordon Darling has been a director of BHP since 1953 while Michael Darling is a former McKinsey consultant and David Darling sits on the boards of CUB and Elders IXL.

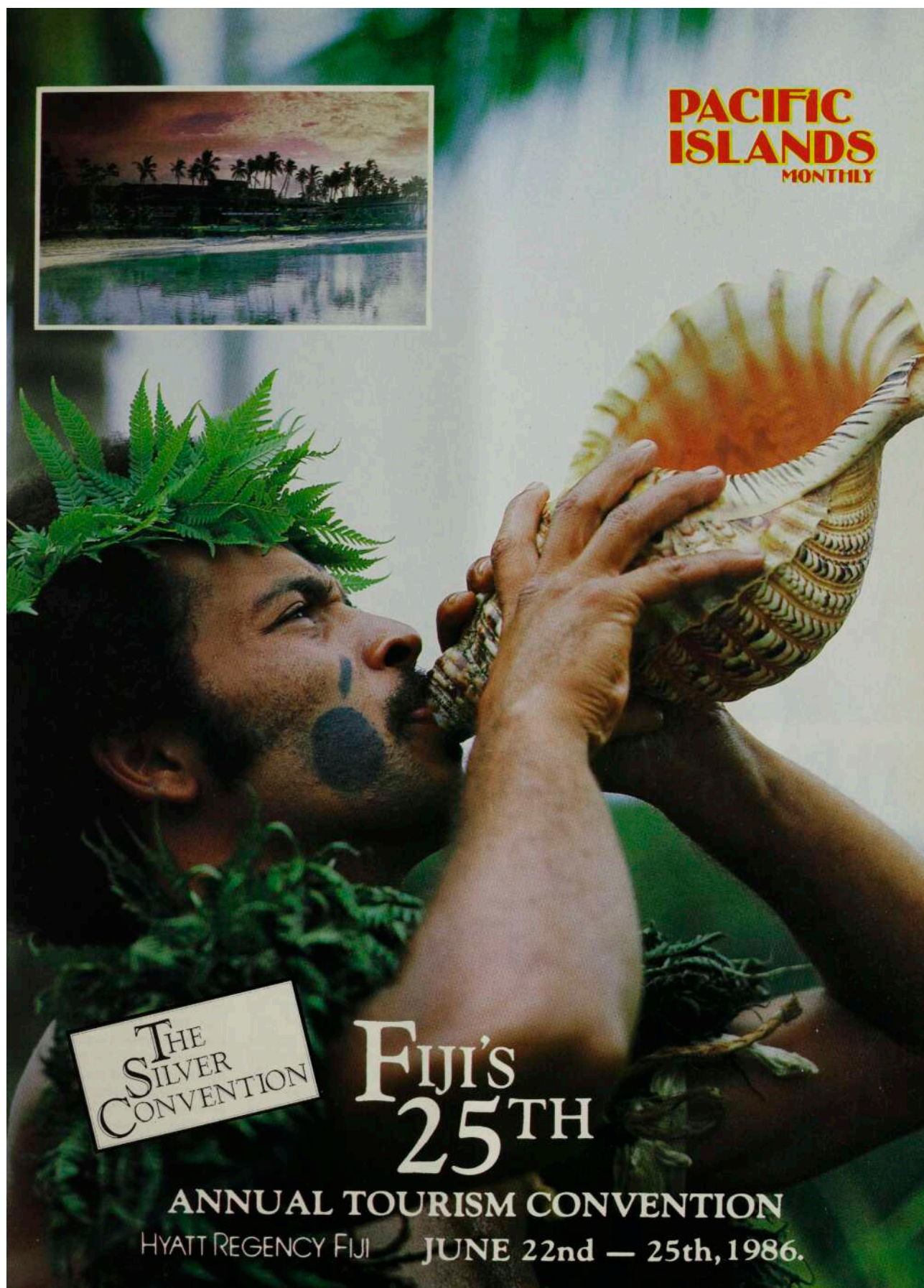
Director Robert Oatley is also on the board of PNG's Angco coffee exporters.

Koitaki has steadily risen in the Sydney exchange "league table" over the past three years. "But in comparison with our competitors, we're tiny," said Michael Darling. "We have a certain niche in the market (unit trust-linked life insurance) because we got there first. But we're now up against the really big names."

He does not see a return to islands interests in the near future. "In the short term, we think that the island economies — as well as Australia — are exposed to commodity weaknesses. PNG has an immense tourism potential but is still a long way from realising it."

"It's still too expensive to get there and to travel there for any major tourism development as far as I can see."

Lihir, on the other hand, "looks good as long as there are no political roadblocks."



**PACIFIC
ISLANDS
MONTHLY**

**THE
SILVER
CONVENTION**

**FIJI'S
25TH**

ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

HYATT REGENCY FIJI JUNE 22nd — 25th, 1986.



The Silver Convention welcome

Fiji's prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara heads an impressive list of guests at this year's 25th Fiji Tourism Convention.

Already dubbed "The silver convention" the event is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the Coral Coast from June 23-26.

The planning committee, headed by Andrew Drysdale, expects over 300 delegates for this most important event on Fiji's tourism calendar.

"The calibre of our speakers, the investment opportunities theme of the convention and the fact that the PM has agreed to deliver the keynote address will all be attractions to delegates," said Mr Drysdale.

Other guest speakers include:

- Mr George Warde, president of Continental Airlines Pacific Division and former CEO of Continental worldwide;

- Mr Savenaca Siwatibau, governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji;

- Mr Richard Hartman, director of operations, Asia Pacific division, Sheraton Hotels.

Chairman of this year's convention is former Fiji hotelier and now general manager of the Regent, Auckland, Andrew Thomson.

Other events on the program for the country's annual tourism event include a travel mart conducted along similar lines to those held at PATA and other travel conferences where "buyers" and "sellers" of tour-

ism have an opportunity to meet.

Overseas delegates can also enjoy tours both before and after the convention to give them a wider experience of Fiji.

A touch of nostalgia will be added to the convention with the cutting of a silver jubilee cake by former Fiji minister of finance and tourism, Sir Charles Stinson.

Sir Charles and Lady Stinson will be making a special return visit to Fiji from Australia where they now live in retirement.

Open forums and debates on related tourism topics will be a major feature of the working sessions in the three-day program.

On the final day, the ministers of the Fiji government's

Tourism Commission have been invited to attend and take part in what promises to be a lively afternoon.

Another event which has been a feature of recent conventions, the poster and brochure competition, will be expanded to cover awards for the best examples of media advertising Fiji abroad.

A list of 100 leading North American travel executives, recommended to the committee by their major airlines, has been drawn up and they each have received a personal invitation to the Silver Convention.

The packed convention program gets off to a sporting start on Sunday June 22 with a "Funday Sunday" with golf, tennis and gamefishing tourna-



nes the world

ments, scuba diving or a Vatulale cruise with night time live entertainment in the various hotel nightspots.

On Monday, it's down to business with the keynote address by the prime minister followed by a guest speaker and the report on resolutions from the 1985 convention.

The Fiji Visitors Bureau has a presentation after lunch and this is followed by the first travel mart session.

The Silver Convention then has a gala birthday party on the beach.

Air Pacific's presentation opens the next day's proceedings, followed by a panel debate, the address by Mr Siwatibau and the second travel mart.

Wednesday has the second

panel debate followed by a guest address and a question session with the Tourism Commission ministers.

After the awards presentation and closing ceremony, the convention venue, the Hyatt Regency, is hosting cocktails and dinner.

The Silver Convention is sure to justify the hopes and hard work of the planning committee who have set out to make this convention a showpiece for the industry and for Fiji as a whole.

It will be a forum for detailed discussion aimed at reinforcing Fiji's position in its traditional markets, helping to develop new markets and encourage investment.



Ratu Mara . . . to open the Silver Convention.

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Planners keep watch on world movements

Fiji's efforts over many years to develop its tourism industry have now made it the largest recreational destination in the South Pacific.

It has been helped by its geographic position which represents a natural hub for international carriers to transit through Nadi airport. Some 99 per cent of Fiji's visitors arrive by air.

The country's major tourist markets are Australia, New Zealand and the USA for short haul visits while long haul markets exist in Canada, Japan, continental Europe and the UK.

The Fiji Visitor Bureau's long term strategy is to continue to develop the primary markets and to seek to widen the marketing base in the long haul areas.

The bureau's 1986 marketing and budget program emphasises that Fiji should concentrate on quality tourism.

With a 1986 budget of F\$1 million from the government plus F\$250,000 for co-operative marketing and industry contributions, the FVB has set itself a target of 255,000 visitor arrivals.

The bureau hopes to achieve this by careful research and planning to identify potentially high-yield market segments which will then receive a marketing campaign to sell high quality beach and island resorts and cruises.

The FVB also plans to interest airlines, hoteliers, tour wholesalers, tour operators, duty free dealers and other agencies in co-operative marketing.

The local industry will also be encouraged to make use of the FVB's PR consultants network — at no charge — to enable them to place articles and information and to identify carefully selected groups of

media personnel to be invited on facility trips to Fiji.

The FVB plans special Fiji consumer and trade promotions to stimulate awareness of Fiji as a desirable and prestigious destination.

The marketing strategy also includes seminars, point of sale materials, airline support and educational/promotional activities.

This year there is an updated Fiji Travel Guide (agent's manual), a Fiji Book, a press kit, an increased number of giveaways (Fiji handicrafts) for use in window displays, gifts to agents, decorations for functions and promotions.

The FVB again hosts agents, journalists and media personnel either invited to or visiting Fiji.

Australia — Fiji's largest market — has been allocated a target of 104,300 arrivals, a 4.5 per cent increase on the 1985 estimate.

The major Australian growth targets are Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania where the FVB hopes to increase market share.

New South Wales, for instance, with 36 per cent of Australia's population, accounts for 55 per cent of Fiji's Australian visitors.

Victoria, with some 27 per cent of the population provides 26 per cent of the visitors. This is despite the fact that surveys show that more Victorians take holidays out of state than do the people of NSW.

The FVB also sees the obvious needs to maintain market share in NSW, increase traffic during the "off" and "shoulder" season months of February—June and November and to increase average earnings per visitor.

To achieve all this, says the bureau, more people have to be motivated to go into the various travel agents and booking offices. And this can be done through vigorous consumer advertising campaigns and by the FVB promoting its own services and expertise among travel agents and wholesalers.

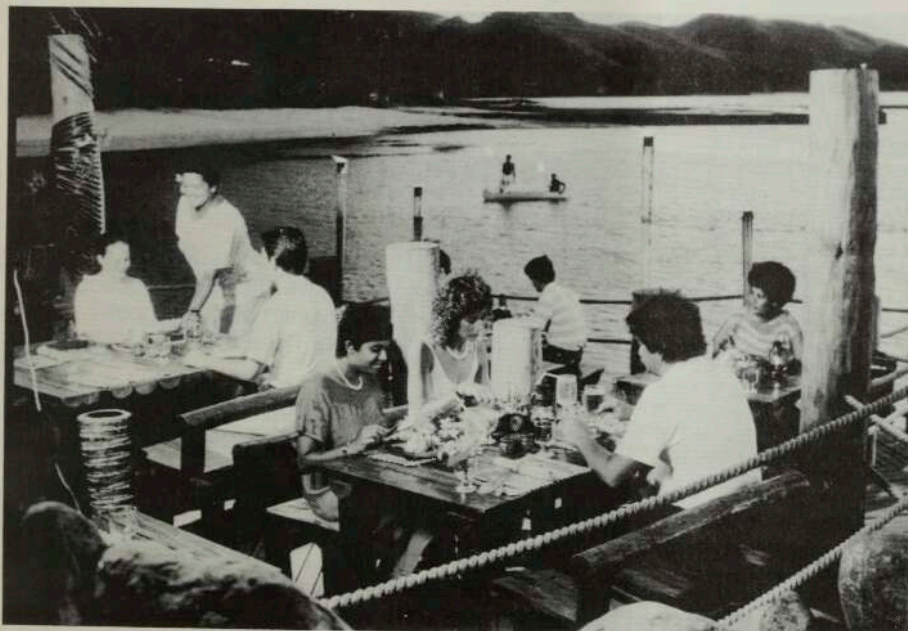
New Zealand has recently been infertile ground for Fiji, but several factors may have combined to alter that picture.

The relative strengthening of the NZ dollar, the more competitive airfares offered by Air Pacific and Air New Zealand and the introduction of a direct Christchurch-Fiji service have all had an impact.

Target for New Zealand arrivals in 1986 is 26,500 against the 1985 estimate of 20,000.

The South Island market, in particular, is seen as capable of development, though the major market areas of Auckland, Wellington, Waitako and Taranaki cannot be neglected.

The Travel Agents Associa-



Dining out at the Hyatt combines the magic of the tropics with the fine cuisine of the world.

FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

tion of New Zealand Convention from October 14-19 is seen as a marketing opportunity.

An impressive attendance from Fiji this year could present an opportunity for Fiji to host the 1991 TAANZ conference.

The US, frequently referred to as "the sleeping giant" as far as Fiji tourism is concerned, is also a FVB target.

The FVB, in co-operation with Qantas, will take part in their usual October series of South Pacific Adventure Seminars for travel agents and will also visit the North American central reservations offices of Air New Zealand, Continental and Qantas to ensure staff are updated on all Fiji information.

The US market, however, poses specific problems.

The extreme length of the journey confronting most North American visitors to Fiji and the usual short stopover en route to a further destination combine to make it hard for the traveller to go home as a committed



Fiji has attractions of its own to offer the gourmet.

ambassador for Fiji as a destination.

With little time to relax between flights, let alone get to know the pleasures and attractions of Fiji, the American tourist is likely to get a mistaken

impression.

The FVB will campaign to: Increase the length of stay in order to overcome the disorientation of jetlag. Schedule Fiji as a homebound stopover after only short flights from

Australia or New Zealand. Emphasise Fiji as a longer stay destination not associated with a more distant point.

The Japan market also has great potential for Fiji. Japan's overseas travelling population is expected to reach 10 million in the next ten years and Fiji can expect to share in that growth.

But the market is highly competitive. There are more than 50 government offices in Tokyo devoted to promoting tourism in their home countries, some of them very aggressive in their marketing.

Strategy is very important under these circumstances.

FVB strategists suggest that sales promotions should be aimed at consumers as well as the travel trade in order to heighten awareness of Fiji among the other travel destinations being offered.

With the yen continuing strong, the time has never been better to make a bid for the Japan tourist traffic



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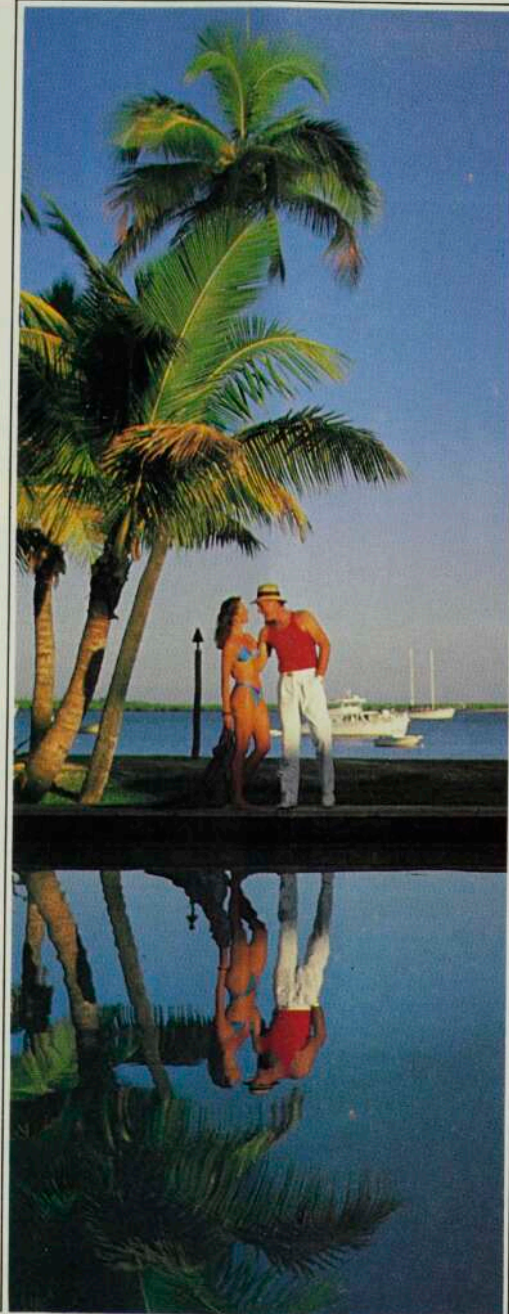
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Weight of the dollar debate

The impact of the depreciating Australian and NZ dollars on the number of visitors from those countries to Fiji has attracted much attention in recent months.

A relationship must, of course, exist. But the strength of this inverse relationship is not well understood. Given the current structure of costs and prices this relationship may not be as strong as some commentators think.

In 1985 the Fiji dollar, on average, weakened against the Japanese yen by 6 per cent compared with 1984. But visitor arrivals from Japan dropped by 15 per cent in the same period.

Similarly, arrivals from the UK dropped by 10 per cent despite the weakening of the Fiji dollar against the pound by about 3 per cent.

In 1984 the Fiji dollar had appreciated against the New Zealand dollar by 9 per cent. At the same time there was an increase in visitor arrivals from New Zealand of 11 per cent.

In other words, there is a combination of factors besides exchange rate variations that impact upon a tourist's decision on whether to visit Fiji or another country.

The actual weighting of each factor is, of course, not easy to unravel.

Other factors affecting the drop in visitor arrivals from Australia in 1985 include:

- Natural disasters in the first quarter;
- The state of the Australian economy;
- Competition from the Australian tourist industry itself and;
- A general feeling that Fiji is no longer attractive as a duty free shopping destination.

It is reported that, for the first time ever, Australia is out to promote its tourism industry on an extensive scale. There has been a significant increase in tourist accommodation and facilities.

To devalue or not to devalue? The debate throughout the tourism industry continues. In this thoughtful article, the Reserve Bank of Fiji's research officer, Ane Vaubula, rehearses the arguments and has facts that lead her to a definite conclusion.



This not only offers Australian and overseas visitors a wider choice but has tended to create a boom in Australia's tourism-related businesses.

In addition, huge sums are being invested in the industry by both federal and state governments to encourage Australians to "See Australia first."

Towards the end of 1985 the Australian dollar depreciated against most currencies including the US dollar, the yen, the pound, the Singapore dollar and the NZ dollar.

This implies that if Fiji had lost competitiveness as far as Australian tourists were concerned, others had too.

At the same time Fiji faces competition from up-coming Pacific tourist destinations such as Tahiti and the Cook Islands.

Statistics show that there has been a downturn in the numbers of both Australian and New Zealand tourists travelling abroad.

But New Zealand arrivals in Fiji picked up in the last two months of 1985.

The exchange rate is, first of all, a price. It is the price for which a country is ready to exchange its product for those of other countries. A country may like to have a very high exchange rate because it would mean that it has to pay only very little in terms of exports, for a given amount of import.

But this desire must be balanced by the need to make sure that total imports will not be too high and total international trade not too small.

In reality this is a difficult

thing to do due to factors which include the large number of foreign currencies and huge short term capital movements which blur trade balance.

What can be done is to make general judgements while taking into consideration as many elements as possible after attaching priorities to them.

While fixing and monitoring the movements in the exchange rate of the Fiji dollar, the Reserve Bank of Fiji also examines the exchange rate differential between Fiji and the countries whose currencies are included in the Fiji dollar basket.

The combined effects of prices and exchange rates (real exchange rates) is thus more meaningful to examine. An analysis of the real effective rate of the Fiji dollar according to the weight in the Fiji dollar basket shows a slight depreciation (on an annual average basis) in the Fiji dollar in 1985 compared to 1984.

Another point worth noting is that many Fiji Hotels purchase imported items including drinks, linen, etc and are also heavily indebted in foreign currencies.

A depreciation in the Fiji dollar will result in increased debt service burdens as well as costs for the imported items like foodstuffs in the market (roughly about 50 per cent of our consumption basket is imported.)

In conclusion, even if we are faced with a situation where devaluation is absolutely unavoidable, devaluation, in itself, to boost tourism is dangerous unless supported by other measures.

For example, Fiji will have to invest a lot of money in its tourism industry if it is to compete with Australia. The country will also need to put appropriate incomes, fiscal and monetary policies in place if the objectives pursued through exchange rate policies are to be achieved.

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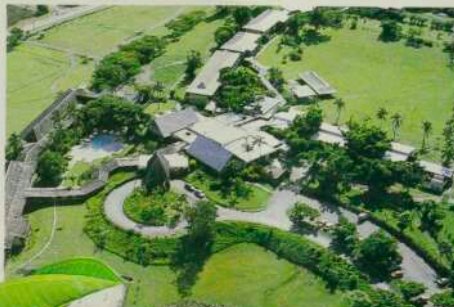


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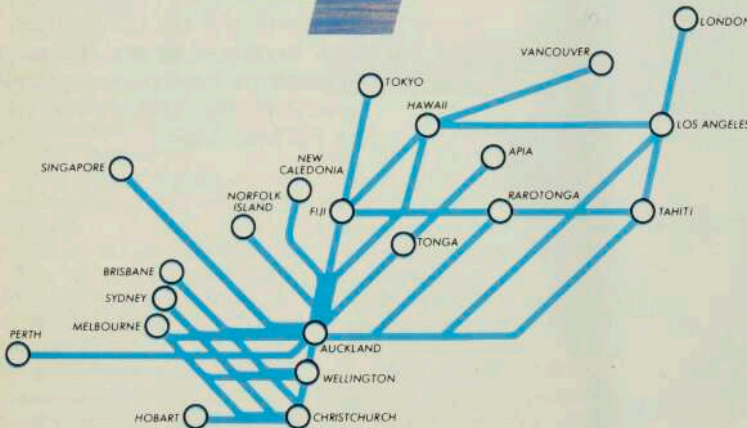
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Incentive is boost for tourism

The government of Fiji provides a package of incentives to assist the tourist industry.

For example, under the Hotels Aid Ordinance a hotel owner may set off 55 per cent of his capital expenditure (less the cost of the land) against annual chargeable income stemming from the hotel or extension.

This can continue until the amount is claimed in full.

This investment allowance is in addition to any ordinary depreciation allowance the hotel owner may enjoy.

As an alternative, owners may opt for a cash subsidy of up to seven per cent of the approved capital expenditure. The net expenditure after the set off of the subsidy may be entirely written off within 15 years.

Cruise operators can also qualify for government incentives.

If an operator cannot have a suitable boat built locally, he may qualify for import duty concessions on any craft he brings in from overseas.

And where an operator does decide to build his boat locally, he may be able to set off 55 per cent of the construction cost against income from that craft or others — or against income from other tourism facilities carried out by the vessel's owner.

Similar concessions can be granted, at the discretion of the

Minister of Finance, for imports of specialised furniture, air conditioning units, fridges, cookers and other tourism requirements.

Investment allowances similar to those granted under the Hotels Aid Act above may also be available for projects allied with or supportive of the tourism industry.

This applies particularly where the project expenditure is incurred in setting up a facility whereby Fiji's natural flora, fauna and other natural characteristics, or the history and culture of Fiji, are used to promote tourism.

In this case the taxpayer can qualify for a cost write off to the extent of 55 per cent against profit.

And really big spenders are able to negotiate special arrangements with the Fijian government.

Again, as a tourism incentive, the government channels funds through the FDB to be used as "seed money" for investment as equity and loans in major hotel development projects.

The FDB uses this allocation to borrow additionally, within its approved gearing guidelines, in order to create a larger pool of funds for this specific purpose.

Government guarantees are available, where necessary, to the FDB to raise additional resources.

In addition, FNPF funding available for loans to the hotel industry would be channelled through the FDB in order to increase the amount of funding available from the FNPF for hotel construction.

In addition all contributions to the Fiji Visitors Bureau, which includes funds for co-operative marketing, qualify for deductions equivalent to 150 per cent of the contributions against chargeable income.

The government, in general, recognises the vital role of private investment both local and foreign and, in fact, makes no distinction between local and overseas investors in the awarding of investment incentives.

The government is especially keen to encourage foreign investment where the capital re-

quirement is high and local technological and managerial skills are not yet available; and joint ventures between local and foreign interests, particularly where the overseas involvement may lead to the penetration or expansion of export markets.

Overseas investment requires approval by the Business and Industrial Development Committee of Fiji (BIDC), a procedure that need take no longer than four weeks to complete.

Also, key managerial positions may be filled by expatriate personnel without time limit.

However, the investor is expected to make arrangements to train local staff members with the ultimate aim of replacing expatriate expertise.

Work permits are normally granted for an initial period of three years. However, investors bringing in F\$200,000 or more may be granted seven year permits.

This kind of approach has helped the industry to an average growth rate of 20 per cent between 1960 and 1973, which, in turn, led to a boom in hotel construction financed mostly by foreign capital.

The international oil crisis which struck the whole world in 1973 had an adverse effect on growth, but by 1979, the record of 1973 had been surpassed.

In 1984 tourism generated F\$160 million in foreign exchange earnings.

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is especially keen
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FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

Top facilities at convention venue

Venue for the Silver Convention is the Hyatt Regency on Fiji's famous Coral Coast.

The hotel with its distinctive Fijian architectural influence, was opened 1979 making it the newest of Fiji's major resort hotels.

It is built on a 28 acre setting at a white sandy beach in the wide blue Pacific.

The low-rise hotel has two wings of three storeys — the

Nadi wing and the Suva wing.

The restaurants feature both casual and luxurious dining representing cuisine from around the world with a wide variety of entertainment from jazz and classics to island-style music available in the cocktail lounges.

The 249 guest rooms are furnished with a Fijian flavour. All have balconies, 200 of which have ocean views and 50

with attractive mountain aspects.

All rooms come with stocked mini-bar and all are air conditioned.

The Regency Club on the top floor of the Suva wing consists of 23 rooms and is a "hotel within a hotel."

It combines the best of old fashioned service with all the advantages a modern deluxe hotel can provide for the dis-

criminating traveller.

Regency Club costs an additional F\$20 (plus 5 per cent tax) per night.

For the extra money, club users get individual service. Club rooms have complimentary flowers, fruits, French formula soap, shampoo, bath crystals, a bath robe and slippers.

Free newspapers and continental breakfasts are available each morning, while complimentary afternoon tea is served on the balcony, and free cocktails and hors d'oeuvres are served before dinner.

Before you retire, the liquors and mints are also free of charge.

Three Regency Club hostesses are on hand to deal with restaurant reservations and free tennis and golf bookings.

The Hyatt Regency has a variety of restaurants and cocktail lounges from the world-renowned Hugo's where the superb cuisine complements the striking decor and design, to the smaller Walu restaurant named after a local fish.

The Walu is an open air casual restaurant in tropical setting.

The Silver Convention venue also has the Cafe Korolevu with breathtaking views and facilities to dine inside or outdoors.

The Hibiscus Lounge with its resident band will take you through to the early hours, while the Explorer's Lounge is dedicated to Abel Tasman, the first western explorer to visit Fiji in 1643.

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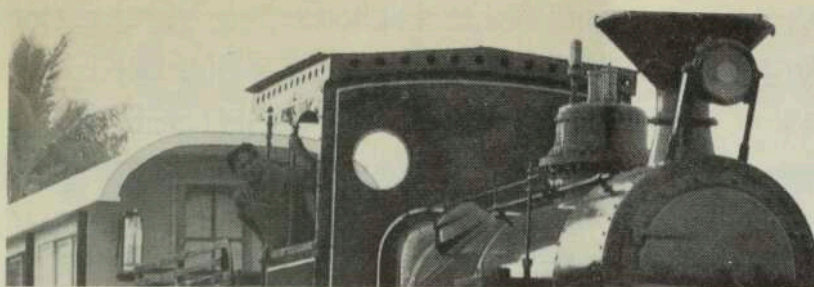
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FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION



Two of the latest tourism developments in Fiji will doubtless be major talking points during the Silver Convention.

The Sheraton Fiji Resort, due to open next year, has captured the imagination of everybody in the industry.

So too has Fiji's railway. Having recently got up steam, the Coral Coast Railway Co is already ferrying tourists for a day's outing to Natadola Beach by means of the Fijian Princess.

The Princess is a lovingly restored steam engine that plies the 12-mile journey between Yanuca Island Station and Natadola Station every day.

The train travels the historic sugar cane route, through plantations with breathtaking coastal scenery and Fijian villages before arriving at the beach.

Hostesses make sure the journey is comfortable and tickets include fresh fruit on the outward journey, a barbecue lunch at the beach and afternoon tea on the return trip.

The beach itself is unspoiled and perfect for surfing, snorkelling or just snoozing.

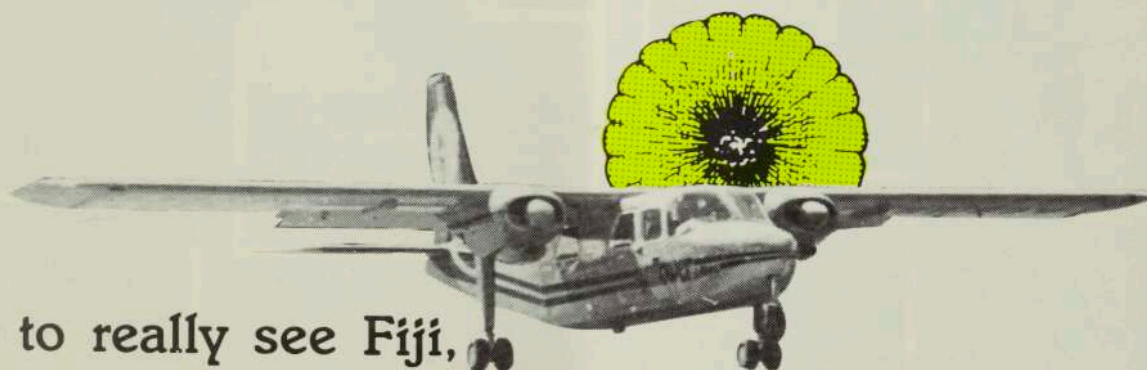
There are also guided tours around the reefs that surround the beach.

The new Sheraton is Fiji's biggest tourism development for some years.

The new hotel, on a 25-acre site at Denerau Beach within 15 minutes of Nadi airport, will be bounded on two sides by a sparkling lagoon.

The hotel will feature 141 king size rooms, 138 doubles and 21 suites.

Tourism line pulls in the crowds



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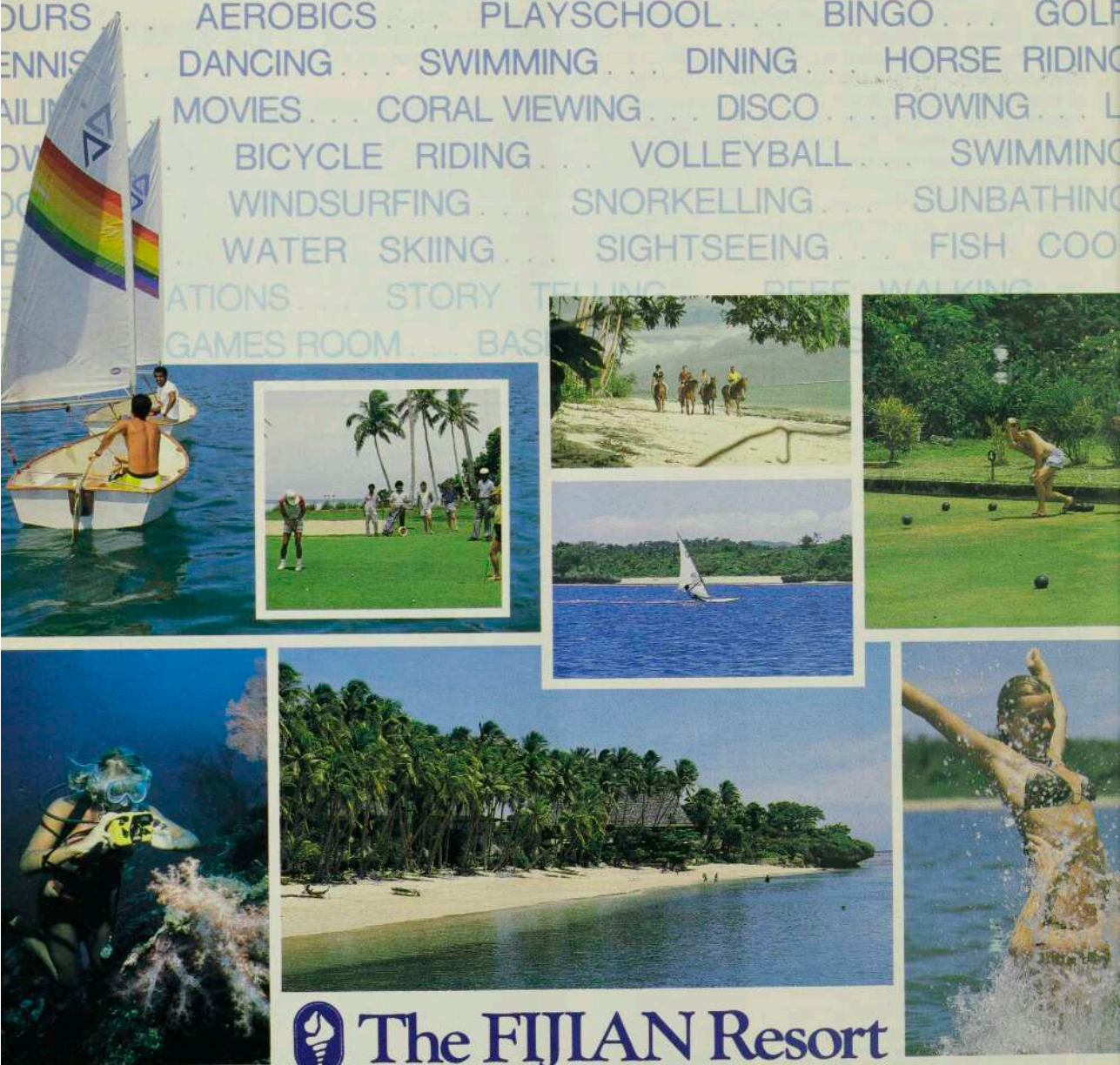
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FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

Guest speakers of international renown

This year sees the tourism industry in Fiji celebrate its 25th anniversary convention.

Over the 25 years that this important annual event has been staged, many changes have taken place in the industry.

But 1986 marks a milestone. That's why the organising committee of the Silver Convention have planned an event to remember — both as a spectacle and for the program content.

Previous convention attendees and newcomers alike have been receiving the same message for months:

"The silver jubilee event is the one event on this year's Pacific tourism calendar that you cannot afford to miss."

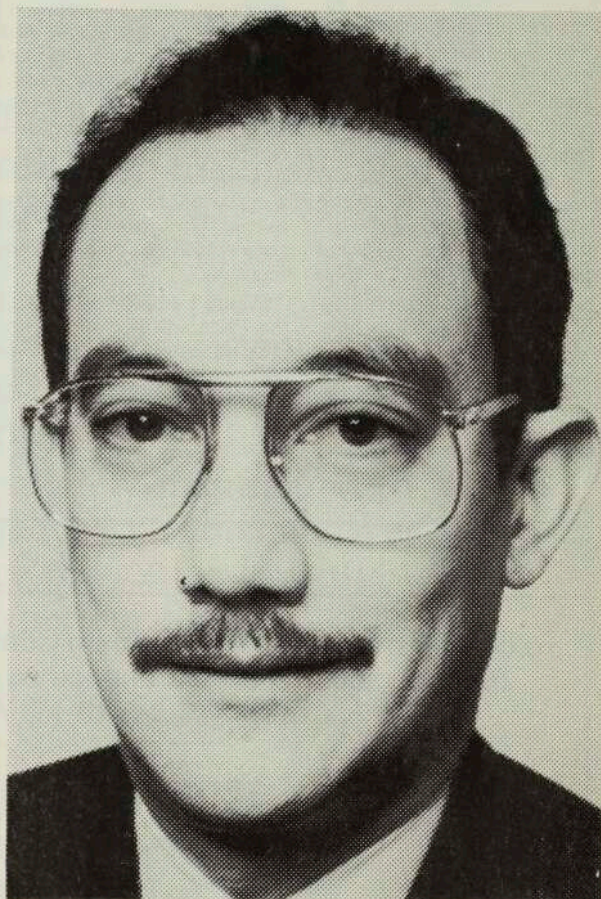
The Silver Convention has been planned as a showpiece for the industry and for Fiji as a whole.

"Doing business" is the common aim of all at the convention which will provide plenty of opportunities to do just that under the umbrella of the celebrations marking 25 years of Fiji tourism conventions.

And an event of this significance warrants an impressive line-up of guest speakers.



Savenaca Siwatibau . . . respected around the world.



Richard Hartman . . . wide management experience.

The Silver Convention organisers have risen to the occasion. The four speakers, headed by prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who will open the meeting with a keynote address, are drawn from the top levels of politics, commerce and tourism.

The speakers:

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. Became prime minister of Fiji when the country gained independence from Britain in 1970 and has held the position ever since. Under his leadership Fiji has established itself as the most progressive and stable

nation in the South Pacific.

Knighted in 1969 and sworn in as a privy council member four years later Ratu Mara's abiding concern has been to ensure that the country evolves a strong and self-sufficient economy.

Tourism is the country's main foreign exchange earner and the prime minister is actively involved in the industry, holding the portfolio of the Minister for Air Pacific, the nation's airline.

In agreeing to deliver the keynote address, the prime minister has ensured that the theme of investment and

FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

opportunity is off to a positive start.

Richard Hartman, Director of operations for the newly created Asia Pacific division of the Sheraton group with headquarters in Hong Kong. A long serving Sheraton employee, Hartman has wide experience in management.

His presence at the Silver Convention is timely with the scheduled opening later this year of the Sheraton at Nadi.

After the hotel's involvement in negotiations with the Fiji government, Hartman will be ideally placed to provide insight on why Sheraton chose Fiji and how they went about the task.

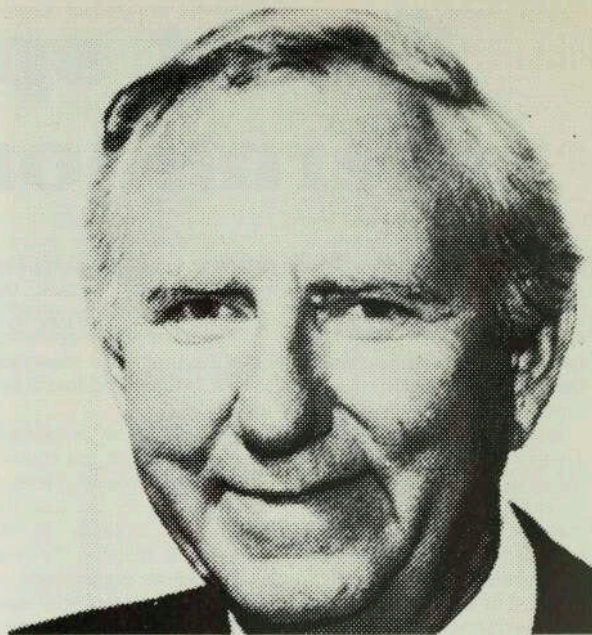
Savenaca Siwatibau, Governor, the Reserve Bank of Fiji. Siwatibau's name is highly respected in financial circles in Fiji and in the region. He has been governor of the reserve bank for the past two years after

being general manager of the Central Monetary Authority of Fiji.

In 1978 he went to Washington for two years as alternate executive director of the International Monetary Fund.

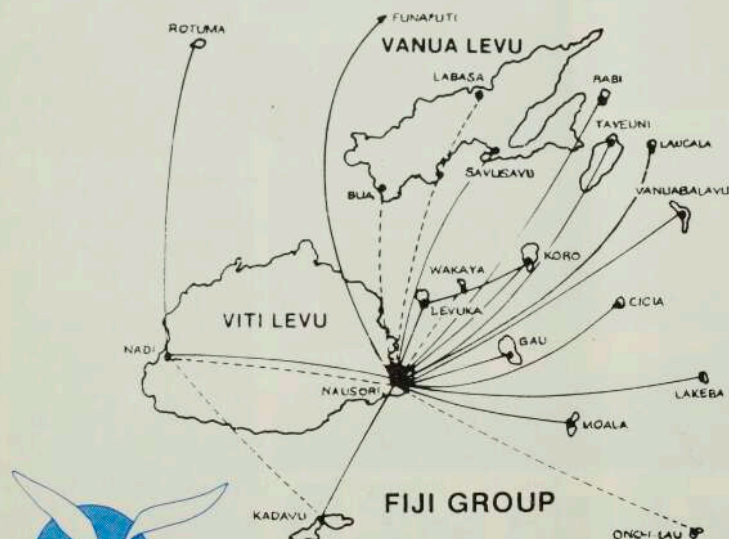
George Warde. Has been associated with the airline industry for over 46 years and has held positions ranging from engineering and maintenance to operations and management. He has worked with companies such as American Airlines, Pan Am and has been a consultant on airline matters to the US government and corporations including Airbus Industrie.

Warde became president of the Pacific division of Continental Airlines in April last year and, with Continental's commitment and involvement in the region, he will be a major attraction.



George Warde . . . a major convention draw.

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In the beginning . . .

I suppose it all began with Northern Hotels. Sir Hugh Ragg started his chain of hospitality in the early fifties culminating with the development of Korolevu Beach Hotel, ably operated by Bill and Kathy Clarke.

This set the tone of what a South Pacific resort was all about, and highly successful it proved to be.

The point was that nobody at this stage had professional status as far as hotel management was concerned. It was a fully amateur adventure. But after all the human race was started by a pair of amateurs.

In 1960 another group of amateurs got in on the act.

I had spent 18 months fooling around with 1,600,000 square feet of concrete comprising the new jet runway at Nadi. If I never saw another bag of cement it would still be too soon!

I met an American, Pete Slimmer, and an Australian, Ray Wilson, and got into the hotel game with the creation of Skylodge at Nadi Airport.

Our calling card proudly announced "American, Australian and Irish spoken fluently. English understood."

We, of course, were also amateurs. Maybe a new breed of hotel cat, but amateurs nevertheless.

Time passed by during which we were joined by a group of PanAm pilots (professionals in the air, but very amateurish on the ground), acquiring the Mocambo Hotel (built by Barry Philp) and finally developing the Fijian at Yanuca.

Having been project manager for the construction, I got the job as general manager, not on any professional qualifications, but because I knew where all the plumbing was located.

Then the professionals arrived. Travelodge, The Regent, Hyatt, Courtesy Inn etc.

Having served a stint with

Fiji's tourist industry is in a state of flux, says industry pioneer PADDY DOYLE, who also asks some questions and offers a few answers.



The Fiji Visitors Bureau, which gives you exposure to advertising and a lot of public relations, I suppose I had by then acquired a certain amount of professionalism by "osmosis".

I therefore offer comments on the basis that I have seen it all even if I don't know it all.

One thing that bugs me is the number of divisional meetings that seem to be held daily at the large hotels. If you ring the G.M. (on a first name basis) you invariably find he is holding a rooms banqueting, maintenance, F&B etc. division meeting and will call you back, which rarely happens.

The way to get through is to say the Prime Minister wants a word with him.

Robert Townsend (my management guru) of Avis fame, says, on the subject of meetings "The fewer the better", and favors a weekly meeting of department heads of fixed duration at a fixed time for

information, not problem solving.

This allows the top brass to spend more time with their guests, the raw material of the hospitality industry. A general manager has got to be seen to be believed.

Fiji is at present in a state of flux. We are urged by airlines and wholesalers to build more rooms and promptly react by closing down hotels.

We complain for years that we are dominated by the Australian market while at no stage have we developed a strategy for penetrating that so called "sleeping giant", North America.

Now we take on large chunks of the States when a city like Los Angeles could flood Fiji if properly motivated.

In this respect, I believe Fiji has not really worked out the image it wishes to create. Golden beaches, palm trees, the

sun? Australia has it all, and better. Big game fishing? Ever heard of Cairns? Duty free? Singapore, Hong Kong and Sears Roebuck do a better job. Food? Read about Bali.

Somehow we have to paint an image of the people, the culture and the environment before the individual products. We are really trying to play chess without creating the chessboard in the first place. In a world where tourists are either hi-jacked, shot, blown up or hate "honkies", Fiji is unique.

The history of Fiji as a colony that was never taken by force of arms is unique. The dedication to the royal family is unique. The simple artifacts made by villagers out of palm leaves are unique. The Sandalwood trade, The Reverend Baker, multicultural society, anti-gun laws etc. are all to some degree taken for granted when they could be welded into a major drawcard for our industry.

Finally, I believe that our government has some homework to do.

The cost of liquor, in particular wines, is giving Fiji a high-price image. The restrictions on certain food imports makes it hard to compete in the international market, where these items are an expected norm. Substitution should be encouraged but so also should the quality of the substitute.

Fiji needs a North American terminator. By hook or by crook this is a must even if it means bending bi-laterals, lobbying at the United Nations or sending President Reagan a ton of yaona! In a world where airlines sell long haul traffic, we are disadvantaged to a great extent by our "whistle stop" status.

So much for the fulminations of a crusty old SOB who should have been put out to grass years ago. I hope our convention this year produces some really constructive thinking. We badly need it.



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IDC

FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

Aussies spend their dollars at home

The honeymoon with the Australian market is over. Fiji's popularity as a resort for Australian honeymooners has taken a beating this year.

There are two reasons: the weak Aussie dollar and very tough competition from on-shore resorts.

As an Australian newspaper recently pointed out "the Australian dollar is working best for those who decide to honeymoon at home." It added that there are now dozens of world class tourist facilities in Australia — where, as the TV ad continually repeats, "your dollar is still worth a dollar."

Nevertheless, Fiji still has a lot going for it.

But in order to make the most of Fiji's attractions it might be well to know the competition.

Bill Whiting of the Fiji Visitors' Bureau in Sydney has carried out an extensive survey of the local and off-shore opposition. It will provide Fiji operators with some food for thought.

Whiting reports that airlines are feeling the pinch with a decline in outward travel and can be expected to mount aggressive promotions with price cuts and other incentives. (Within weeks of his report, a price war had already broken out on the Far East routes.)

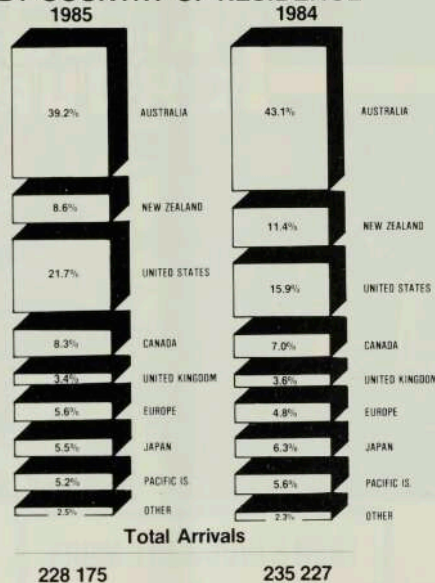
Other countries, too, have increased their efforts to compete for the tourist dollar.

●In Bali there are new hotels in the Nusa Dua area that will have to be filled somehow;

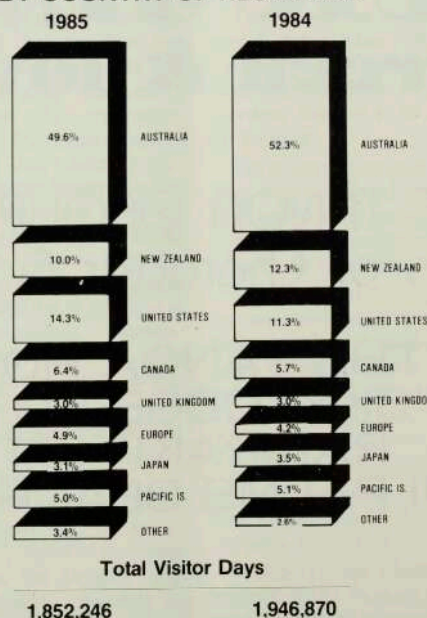
●New Caledonia is very keen to regain its popularity in the Australian market (though it may find that difficult in the short term due to the local political unrest).

●Singapore, with an over supply of top class hotel rooms, has been discounting heavily.

VISITOR ARRIVALS INTO FIJI BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE



VISITOR DAYS SPENT IN FIJI BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE



●Honolulu and the US west coast have been offering attractive tourist packages in Australia and this is likely to continue as capacity increases and airlines compete for market share.

●New Zealand, with its low dollar, represents excellent value for Australian travellers at present.

●Fiji's South Pacific neighbours are also making major efforts to capture a share of the Australian holiday dollar. Tonga last month had a major tourist promotion in Sydney while the Cook Islands and, especially, Vanuatu have been active.

Fiji's price advantage in the Australian market has been badly eroded by the collapse of the Australian dollar, which although showing signs of recent recovery is still well below its level of a year ago. (see graph).

For example, an average Fiji land holiday cost is up by about 25 per cent, making Australia's Barrier Reef resorts a far more price-competitive holiday for the Aussie tourist.

A holiday for seven nights with twin shared accommodation including all meals at one of the Barrier Reef islands will cost between A\$576 and A\$668, excluding airfares.

While Fiji hotels do not normally quote prices including all meals, Whiting has added A\$200 to their tariffs to reach an accurate comparison.

This gives a broad spread of prices ranging from A\$537 to A\$836, again excluding airfares.

With airfares added, Whiting has been able to produce a table of holiday prices. (see box).

Bali, meanwhile, can offer nine-day holidays — including airfares from Sydney — at prices between A\$659 and

FIJI'S 25th ANNUAL TOURISM CONVENTION

A\$1026. Although trade will have been affected by April's debacle over Australian tourist visas, the long term competition cannot be ignored.

Port Vila's two major hotels are also highly competitive in roughly the same price range as Fiji, though they make no charge for access to most sports activities.

Cyclones, as Fiji well knows, also have an impact on the Australian tourist market where a belief exists that Fiji is more cyclone-prone than other Pacific islands.

Whiting reports that some travel agents have also been critical of the re-scheduling of Air Pacific's Sydney-Nadi service from Sunday to Sat-

urday.

Honeymooners are thought to have been especially affected by this move as they are unable to travel on Saturday and must therefore wait until Monday or chose an alternative destination.

Whiting also notes that Qantas are using the Air Pacific 747 on the Bali run on Sundays.

In conclusion, says Whiting, the weak Australian dollar is having a short term effect on Fiji arrivals.

But the more serious and longer term impact will come from the development of an Australian domestic tourist industry.

"However," he reports, "there is still a plus here in that

this will also attract increasing numbers of overseas visitors from North America and other markets. Fiji should be able to share in some of this increased business."

But the days when Fiji was 25 to 30 per cent cheaper than the Barrier Reef are gone and are very unlikely to return.

The cost difference between Fiji and the Barrier Reef resorts is now almost negligible. And the argument that Fiji's air fares are too high just doesn't get off the ground.

Whiting's research shows beyond doubt that Fiji is competitive with other short haul carriers.

To counter the increasing competition, Fiji's marketing

strategy in Australia may be in need of an overhaul.

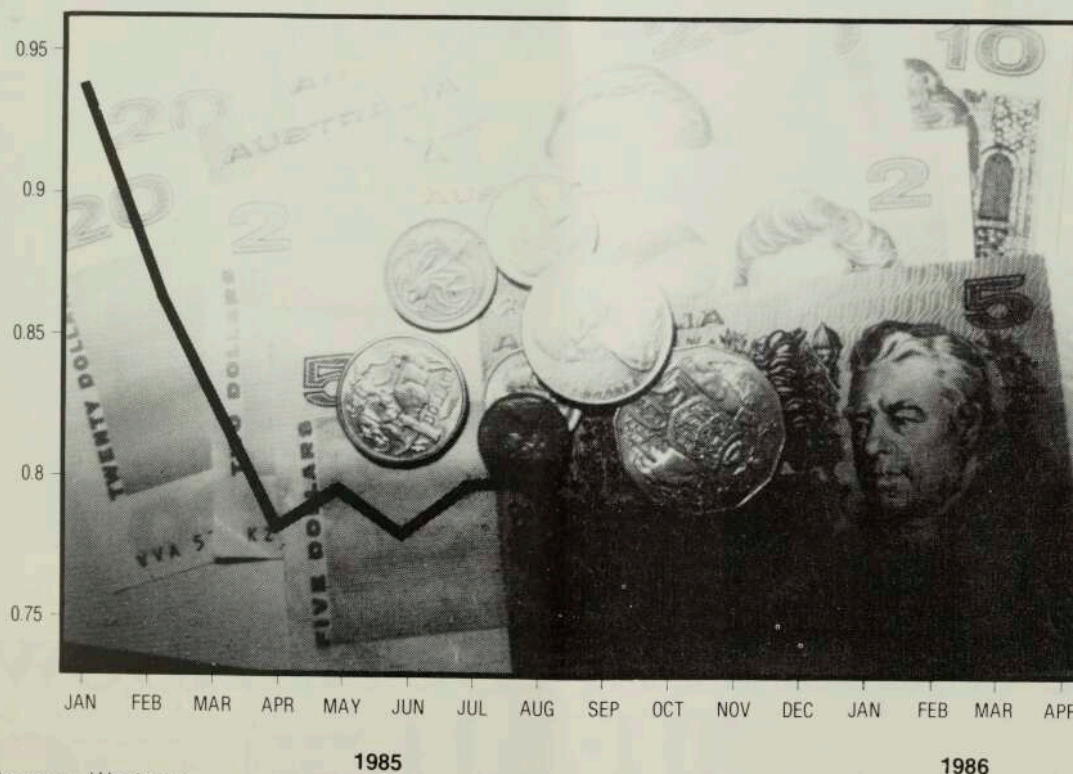
In the past most, if not all, of Fiji's Australian advertising has been price oriented. This was an obvious ploy in the days when Fiji was genuinely a cheaper holiday destination than Australia.

In the current climate, however, it may be time for a change.

Destination advertising, for one thing, must now be a distinct possibility, given the funds for a continuing campaign.

Fiji's image has never been truly marketed. It's culture, customs and people are still virtually unknown in Australia. The marketing opportunity is there.

AUD/FJD MONTHLY EXCHANGE RATE JANUARY, 1985 - 23 APRIL, 1986



Source : Westpac



A photograph of an Air Pacific Boeing 747-400 in flight against a clear blue sky. The aircraft features a special livery with a large rainbow stripe running along the fuselage. The tail is dark blue with a circular logo containing a stylized bird and a rainbow. The words "AIR PACIFIC" are visible on the upper fuselage. The registration "VH-EOK" is visible on the rear fuselage.

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III

Gold find outshines expectations

The Wapolu gold find on Ferguson Island, PNG, continues to exceed earlier expectations.

The prospecting company reports that a mining program may be under consideration before the end of the year.

Early results from an extensive diamond and air core drilling program on the project have been announced by **City and Suburban** which holds a 50 per cent interest in the prospect with **Esso PNG Inc.**

Significant gold mineralisation was intersected in six of 10 drill holes during the first quarter of this year, the best intersections being six metres at 2.34 grams per tonne gold, four at 2.12, four at 1.98 and six at 1.45.

Fifty-two reverse circulation air core holes during the same quarter produced significant gold mineralisation in 25, the best intersections being 16 metres at 2.34 grams per tonne (including six metres at 4.83), 10 at 2.26 and 14 at 3.20 (including two at 7.78).

"Most holes were drilled to depths of 20 to 30 metres, some terminating in mineralisation," says the company's quarterly report to stock exchanges.

"Drilling extended known better grade gold mineralisation from the Newwa zone to the Kweama zone, a horizontal distance of approximately one kilometre," says the report.

"Indications are that this zone will have a higher average grade than that defined in other zones on the prospect, possibly in the range of three grams per tonne gold."

The company reported that other field during the quarter continued to reflect the existence of gold mineralisation intermittently for five kilometres to the west and 10 kilometres to the east of the central resource.

To the west, grid based soil sampling program was completed over a two-kilometre by one-kilometre alluvial area, with grades of up to 0.95 grams per tonne gold in the surface soils.

The joint venture partners have drilled a total of 212 diamond and air core holes on Wapolu since the discovery of

the prospect some 19 months ago.

"It seems that our first estimates of only 1.4 grams per tonne gold in the surface material were very conservative indeed, considering the better grades below the central resource and mineralisation in a number of other areas on the prospect," the company's director Mr John Bailey said.

"Metallurgical testing and pre-feasibility studies have been planned for this quarter and we may well be considering a mining program before the end of this year."

The company also reports further high-grade gold intersections at Wild Dog, on the east coast of New Britain and good results from elsewhere in PNG.

Investors meet in seminars

Major US corporations were expected to take part in the Pacific Islands Association (PIA) investment seminar in San Francisco this month.

Entitled "Investment in Development in the Pacific Islands", the seminar aims to bring together representatives of the private and public sectors.

Corporations such as Star-kist, Bank of America, Peat

Marwick and Mitchell, Pacific Resources Inc, C Brewer and other US heavyweights were expected at the seminar from June 12-14.

Pacific ministers for development, finance, trade and tourism were also expected to be among the 200 attending the seminar.

Some noted observers have predicted that the Pacific islands will attract investment worth

US\$5,000 million over the next 20 years.

In addition the emerging Micronesian entities have reached agreement on their compacts of free association with the US, which will bring an influx of around \$2 billion over the next 15 years.

All this has encouraged US investors and potential investors to take a greater interest in the region.

Since 1981, PIA has provided a forum for dialogue between the island decision makers and the US through these informal seminars.

Council builds a business bridge

Fiji's business relationship with Australia has been strengthened by the formation of the Australia Fiji Business Council.

The council's first meeting in Sydney heard that some 32 companies had indicated positive interest. The same meeting agreed on an interim budget and executive committee.

The council aims to foster friendship and understanding between the two countries as well as trade.

Support for trade, investment, technical and economic co-operation and tourism are also high on the priorities list.

The council also intends to encourage educational and personnel exchanges and private sector training schemes.

It will be a lobby, too, that can ensure that both governments take the needs of the private sector into account when making policy.

There will also be a "mirror" group to be based in Fiji and this will maintain regular contact with the Sydney council — along much the same lines as the PNG Australia Business Co-operation Council which has been operating for the past three years.

An inauguration dinner for the council was held in Sydney on May 1 and was

attended by prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

Fiji's economy is highly trade oriented. Westpac's country report has sugar accounting for between 55 and 60 per cent of export earnings (though the 1985 cyclones badly affected the harvest).

Fiji also exports substantial amounts of gold, timber and canned fish, with tourism also a major export activity.

Fiji's trade with Australia showed a heavy imbalance in Australia's favor in 1984/85.

Australia's exports to Fiji — mainly petroleum and related products and cereals — stood at US\$160.2 million with imports from Fiji — gold and fixed vegetable oils and fats — at US\$40.1 million.

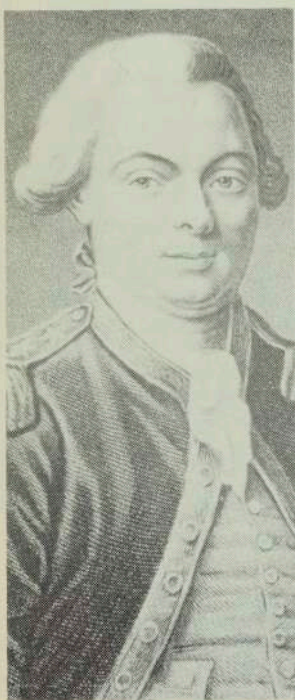
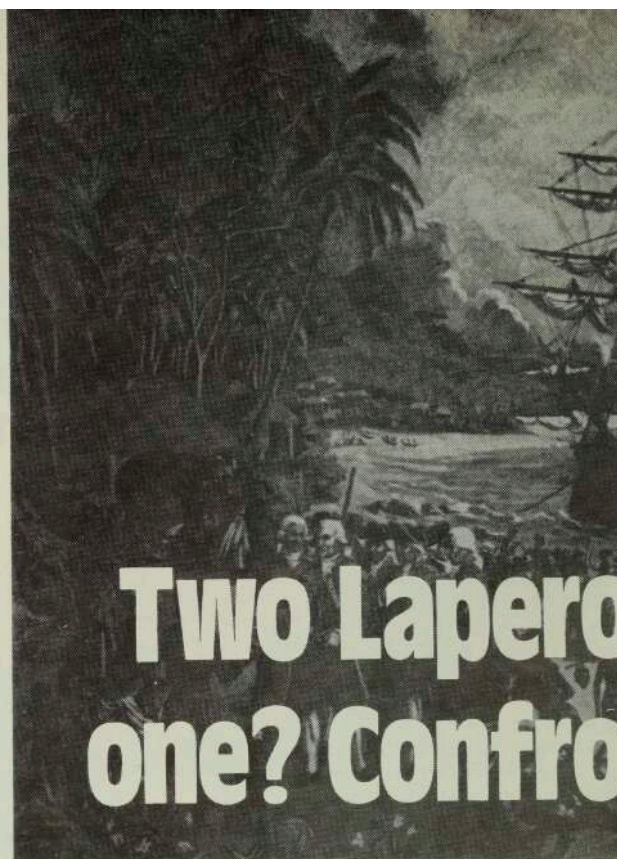
With recently improved access for Fiji's garments, however, a small correction may be expected for 1986.

The UK, on the other hand, is still Fiji's major export destination, taking 29 per cent of output in 1984.

However, this picture is gradually changing with the UK share declining as Australia's slowly increases.

Australia accounted for 13.7 per cent of Fiji's exports in 1984.

A tri-institutional expedition to the Lapérouse wreck sites in Vanikoro, Solomon Islands, was set to take place in April. It involved a team from the Queensland Museum, led by marine archeologist Ron Coleman, members of the Solomon Islands National Museum, and a team from the Association Salomon in Noumea, led by Alain Conan. The aim of the expedition was to evaluate the archeological worth of the sites, and to explore the reefs to the east of the known Lapérouse wreck sites, for oral tradition has it — or at least one version of it — that one of the Lapérouse vessels may have foundered there. Here Australian National University linguistics specialist DARRELL TRYON traces the background to the expedition, and describes the elaborate Lapérouse bicentennial commemorations being organised in France and elsewhere. Dr Tryon last year attended a lively inaugural symposium for the bicentennial celebrations held in Albi, southern France, where he delivered a paper on linguistic evidence for the presence of Lapérouse's expedition at Vanikoro, and acted as interpreter for Vila-based marine salvage expert Reece Discombe. The symposium was marked by a sharp division of opinion between participants on whether in fact both Lapérouse wrecks have been found at Vanikoro, or only one.



Jean-François de Galaup, Comte de Lapérouse, (1741-1788).

As the bicentennial years (1985-1988) approached, interest in Lapérouse was rekindled, especially among the French, both in the Pacific and in metropolitan France.

In 1981 the Noumea-based Association Salomon, led by Alain Conan, mounted an expedition to Vanikoro aboard the *Maël* and the *Parenthèse*, two ketches based in Noumea. The expedition brought up a number of important items from the Lapérouse wrecks, later displayed at an exhibition in Noumea in October 1982 in collaboration with the Société d'Etudes Historiques de la Nouvelle-Calédonie. Part of this same exhibition was later displayed in Sydney and Canberra, in 1983.

In France, the French Government and the Association Lapérouse Albi-France have organised commemorative celebrations worthy of their most illustrious explorer and navigator. These celebrations extend over a four-year period,

from 1985 to 1988.

To launch the celebrations, an international symposium on Lapérouse was held in Albi, Lapérouse's home town in southern France near Toulouse, from March 28-31, 1985. The symposium was organised by the Association Lapérouse Albi-France, whose president, Dr Pierre Amalric, is himself no stranger to Vanikoro. The symposium brought together descendants of the famous explorer, scientists and historians from around the world, and all of the divers and salvage experts who have plumbed the depths of the Vanikoro lagoon where Lapérouse's ships were wrecked two hundred years ago.

The first day's program will give some idea of the tone and the importance accorded to the opening of the Lapérouse bicentennial celebrations.

The symposium was opened by Jean Mistler, permanent secretary of the Académie Française, introduced by Haroun Tazieff, secretary of state to the

prime minister.

Then followed a galaxy of prestigious personalities, including the pretender to the throne of France. The list of speakers and their topics on that opening morning is worth citing in full:

- Alphonse de Bourbon, Duke of Anjou and Cadix: "My uncle Louis XVI and Lapérouse".

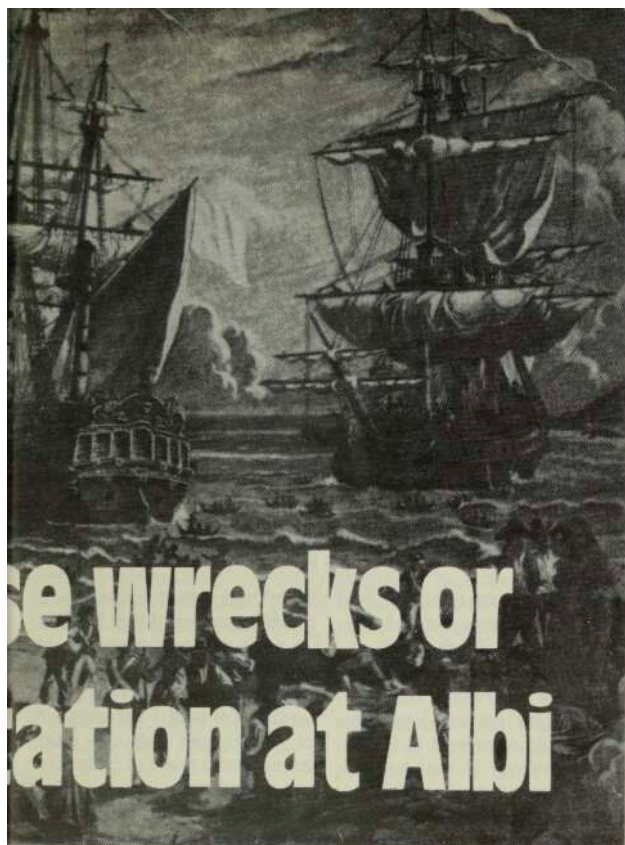
- Duke of Castries, member of the Académie Française: "Marechal de Castries, Minister of the Navy and Lapérouse".

- Baron de Shone: "My ancestor Claret de Fleuriu".

- Marquis Taffanel de la Jonquière: "A famous Tarn family: Taffanel de la Jonquière, Governor of Canada, and their nephew, the lieutenant-general".

- J. Pons and P. Amalric: "Admiral Henri Pascal de Rochemure, friend of the Jesuit College".

- P. Amalric: "J. F. Galaup de Lapérouse: unpublished documents presented by the Dalmas and Barthez de Lapérouse families".



● P. A. Fleuriot de Langle: "My ancestor Fleuriot de Langle".

The family background and personal details of Lapérouse having been established, the symposium moved in procession through the centre of a festooned Albi to the Palais de la Berbie for the opening of the Lapérouse Exhibition by the mayor of this ancient city.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation by Reece Discombe of a quadrant recovered by him from the wreck of the *Astrolabe*.

The first afternoon began with a series of historical papers relating to the voyage, including one on Governor Phillip, by Professor Alan Frost (Melbourne University). Then came what was perhaps the most interesting, certainly the most important, part of the symposium — passionately argued and at times hectic sets of exchanges marked the round table discussion which followed the three key papers delivered in a section of the program

Background above: Poster used to advertise the Lapérouse symposium at Albi. It is a reproduction of a painting by French artist G. Delcausse depicting the landing of Lapérouse on the Hawaiian island of Maui in June, 1786. Lapérouse avoided the island of Hawaii itself because of its association with the death of Captain Cook.

devoted to problems raised by the wrecks of the Lapérouse vessels. The first, by Commandant Bellec, the director of the Naval Museum in Paris, and the second, by Reece Discombe, argued strongly for the presence of two wrecks on the reefs at Vanikoro, those of the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole*.

The third, a joint presentation by Bernard Brou, Alain Conan and Jean-Claude Roux of the Association Salomon/Société d'Etudes Historiques de la Nouvelle-Calédonie in Noumea, maintained that there was absolutely no proof that more than one ship, albeit strewn over several sites, was involved.

The background . . .

Jean Francois Galaup de Lapérouse, perhaps France's most illustrious mariner and explorer, disappeared without trace in the southwest Pacific in 1788. His last known landfall prior to this tragedy was Botany Bay, which he left on March 10, 1788.

Lapérouse had set out on his voyage of discovery from Brest in Brittany on August 1, 1785. After leaving Brest, his expedition sailed round the Horn and out into the Pacific in two ships, *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*. During his historic voyage, Lapérouse visited Easter Island, Hawaii, Alaska and California before heading across to Macao, the Philippines, through the Sea of Japan and up to Petropaulovsk in Siberia, which was reached on September 6, 1787. He then sailed south to Tutuila in what is now American Samoa, where he lost 11 men, including his second-in-command de Langle, during a watering expedition. During the affray the expedition lost a long boat, and it was with the object of replacing it that Lapérouse sailed for Botany Bay.

Once this had been achieved, Lapérouse sent an officer to Governor Phillip at Port Jackson with his despatches up to that time. Phillip undertook to see that they reached France safely. Among the despatches was Lapérouse's proposed course for his eventual return trip to France — he had intended to visit Tonga, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and the Louisiade Archipelago of Papua New Guinea before passing through Torres Strait and home via Mauritius.

However, Lapérouse's plans were not to be realised — all that is known with certainty after he left Botany Bay is that his ships came to grief on the reefs at Vanikoro in the Solomons. Even this was not known for 38 years afterwards when an Irishman, Captain Peter Dillon, called at Tikopia, an island near Vanikoro, and was sold a silver sword scabbard which Dillon believed might have belonged to Lapérouse. He learned from the Vanikoroans that two large ships had arrived at their island many years previously and that both had been wrecked in a storm shortly afterwards. After returning quickly to mount what he hoped would be a rescue mission, for he was very short of provisions and his ship was leaking, Dillon spent six weeks on Vanikoro in 1827 and established beyond doubt that the two wrecked ships belonged to the ill-fated Lapérouse expedition.

The wreck which the Vanikoroans showed Dillon was presumed to be that of the *Astrolabe* — the location of Lapérouse's flagship the *Boussole* remained a mystery until 1962, when Reece Discombe, a Vila-based marine salvage expert, revealed that he had discovered the location of the wreck while on a salvage assignment on Vanikoro. Since that time there have been many research trips to the island and many relics and artefacts have been brought to the surface and exhibited in museums in Europe and the Pacific. In fact the Lapérouse story seemed to have come to its conclusion. — Darrell Tryon.

Sitting up on stage, chaired by Mr Mollat du Jourdin, a member of the Institut de France, were: Pierre Anthonioz, former French resident commissioner to the New Hebrides (Vanuatu), Admiral de Toulouse-Lautrec, former Navy commander-in-chief (Pacific), Commandant Bellec, Reece Discombe, Bernard Brou, J. Boudriet, John Dunmore and E. Taillemite.

In the opinion of the representatives of the Association Salomon, based in Noumea, the only vessel which can incontrovertibly be shown to lie on the floor of the Vanikoro lagoon is the *Boussole*, Lapérouse's flagship. The proof, according to Alain Conan and Bernard Brou, lies in the fragment of the *Boussole*'s lightning arrester discovered by the Association Salomon expedition to Vanikoro in 1981. The *Astrolabe* was known not to have carried a lightning arrester. For the Noumea-based group, no object yet has been salvaged from the reefs around Vanikoro which can be



Reece Discombe (with microphone, centre) presents a quadrant from the wreck of the *Astrolabe* to the French organisers of the Albi symposium. Second from right is Haroun Tazieff, and second from left Dr. Darrell Tryon. — *La Dépêche de Tarn* photo.

assigned with absolute certainty to the *Astrolabe*, this in spite of a number of expeditions to this island since Discombe's discovery of 1962.

The opinion of the Association Salomon team was diametrically opposed to the remainder of the panel. Discombe and Bellec agreed that objects

opinion, the only ship which raised so far prove beyond any reasonable doubt that the remains of two of Lapérouse's ships, the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole* lie on the Vanikoro reef. Their argument is based on the number of anchors and the number of pumps which the ships were known to have carried and the total so far brought to the surface.

Bellec and Discombe maintained that the *Boussole* and the *Astrolabe* carried four pumps each, according to the official inventory. Seven pumps or parts thereof have so far been brought to the surface. In addition, each ship carried 14 anchors — Admiral de Brossard estimates that 19 have been discovered for the two wreck sites. These figures were more than adequate to satisfy French naval experts that indeed the wrecks of both of Lapérouse's ships have been located on the reef at Vanikoro, since more than four pump bodies and more than 14 anchors have been located.

The Association Salomon/Société d'Etudes Historiques de la Nouvelle-Calédonie argued that the anchors and pumps did not constitute satisfactory evidence as such items were known to have been carried as ballast in ships of the period, and that such is known to have been the case on the Lapérouse expedition, at least as far as anchors are concerned. In their

founded with certainty was the *Boussole*, and that it broke up and came to rest in sections along the reef. They claim, in effect, that the two wrecks lying on the reef near Paiu are parts of the same ship, a claim energetically rejected on technical grounds by all of the other interested parties.

The debate continued to rage throughout the symposium, which presented a total of some 30 papers dealing with aspects of the Lapérouse expedition, the most interesting perhaps dealing with the medical side of the voyage. The symposium closed with an impressive military ceremony at the Labérouse monument in Albi and a promise of further expeditions to Vanikoro to honor the memory of the French Captain Cook.

The Lapérouse bicentennial celebrations are continuing with all the éclat of the Albi gathering. Four commemorative medals are to be struck (two have been struck already) marking different stages in Lapérouse's voyages. Admiral de Brossard and New Zealander John Dunmore have combined to produce an official history of the expedition. There will be a French expedition to the Pacific later this year following the route taken by Lapérouse. And, in 1988, among other things, there will be created in Sydney a Lapérouse Museum, coinciding with the Australian Bicentenary.

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An embarrassment of choice in guidebooks to Fiji

Finding Fiji. By David Stanley. Published 1985 by Moon Publications, P.O. Box 196, Chico, CA 95927, USA. ISBN 0 918373 03 4. Price \$A9.95.

The Fiji Experience. By James Siers. Published 1985 by Milwood Press, Wellington, New Zealand. ISBN 0 908582 73 0. Price \$A9.95. **The Fiji Explorer's Guide.** By Kim Gravelle. Published 1985 by Graphics (Pacific) Ltd, Suva, Fiji. No ISBN provided. Price \$8.95.

"In Fiji alone, of all the South Sea Islands, may be lived that ideal life of the South Seas of which one reads so much and sees so little." So wrote Basil Thomson, Pacific Prime Minister, raconteur, splendid colonialist, and author almost one century ago of what is arguably the first tourist guide to Fiji ever written. Since that time travel writers have been saying pretty much the same thing, whether or not they have ever heard of Thomson or his works.

So many well-intentioned people can't possibly be wrong. The most tourist-oriented island nation in the South Pacific has, not surprisingly, attracted to itself the most tourist-oriented literature, varying from glossy hyperbole to plain common-sense advice.

That range is illustrated by the contents of these three books, all of which, as if by some magical tourism multiplier effect, have appeared within a short time of each other. But no less remarkable than this coincidence is the fact that the three slim volumes could hardly be less alike in content or appearance.

Of the three, James Siers' *The Fiji Experience* is for the serious traveller the most expendable. Siers, long known for

his pictorial studies of most Pacific countries, has tackled Fiji before, in larger format. This "Fiji experience" is a minor one, pretty to look at — as are all of his books — but largely lacking in hard travel information. In fact, it looks for most of its 144-page length like a promotional glossy, a nod in the direction of all his buddies in Fiji. This could well be Siers' experience; it is not really likely to be that of most visitors. If it is possible for a small picture book to have too many pictures, then this one has too many; many are simply gratuitous.

The difference between

Siers' book and David Stanley's is the difference between the bourgeois and the backpacker. Stanley's claim to regional fame as a writer rests mainly on his *South Pacific Handbook*, a compendium of travel information which has achieved something of the status of holy writ among the down-market set.

The title *Finding Fiji* is significant especially for North Americans, Stanley's major market, who are just "discovering" the country in any numbers and regard themselves as the region's new wave of explorers, eschewing the predictable comforts and increasingly inflated costs of the Regents and the

Travelodges the better to comprehend Fijian culture via the dormitory accommodation of the Coconut Inn in Suva, or the Old Capital Inn in Levuka. Well ... different strokes for different folks ...

Finding Fiji is, in fact, an expansion of the Fiji section in *South Pacific Handbook*, a point which owners of the latter should perhaps consider before rushing out to buy it. Like all of Stanley's handbooks it is crammed with information and written in a style which forsakes the flowery for the fundamental. The layout makes that information very easy to find, a simple requirement surprisingly over-



Suva ... "a sometimes gaudy, always bustling melting pot of cultures"

looked by many travel guides. Stanley is an established master at digging out details, especially those relating to cheap accommodation, which the average traveller — or travel writer for that matter — fails to notice, although his apparent obsession with living on the cheap gives his occasional observations about Fiji's more expensive facilities a somewhat dyspeptic quality. Resort hotels may achieve salvation in his eyes only if they provide dormitory accommodation.

Despite the self-righteous attitude of most backpackers, I remain unconvinced that one necessarily comes closer to the "true culture" by dossing in a crowded, sometimes airless dorm. One does, however, come a lot closer to others of one's kind. Maybe that is the real aim of budget travellers. If one can ignore Stanley's idiosyncracies, including the desire to spell Fijian words phonetically (why not, in the interests of "authentic experience" encourage one's readers to accept the language on its own terms?) then *Finding Fiji* is a good buy, like all his publications.

But probably the best buy of this trio is Kim Gravelle's *Fiji Explorer's Handbook*. Much of the reason for that lies in the attractive layout. Gravelle, a journalist, graphic designer and photographer long resident in Fiji — a condition which gives him a certain advantage over the others — seems to have achieved in black and white what Siers didn't achieve in full color; the combination of a personalised account of travel in Fiji with usefully detailed description. Gravelle is also a rucksack enthusiast but not a defensive one. As a result his guide encompasses experiences as varied as trekking in Viti Levu's interior, to tantalising his senses at Toberua, one of Fiji's most expensive resorts. The hard-going Sigatoka valley trip, which receives one page in Stanley's book, is given seven in Gravelle's, yet Gravelle has no evident guilt feelings about enjoying a Blue Lagoon cruise rather than getting a village boat to the Yasawas. Elsewhere the reader will find useful tips on self-driving and bussing, village etiquette, caving and white-water rafting.

The chief limitations here are

mainly geographical. Gravelle's explorations are confined to Fiji's main island, Viti Levu, and the easily accessible offshore islands including Ovalau. These are after all where the great majority of Fiji travellers go, but of Fiji's other half — the fascinating islands of Vanua Levu, Taveuni etc. — there is not a word. Maybe the author is saving those for a second volume.

So you make your choice and you pay your money, and all of these, from the shininess

of Siers to the straight-forwardness of Stanley, represented some kind of value for a buck, no small matter in these tough times. But the *Fiji Explorer's Handbook* represents the smallest number of bucks. If you still have some dollars to spare, save them for Pacific Publications' *Fiji Handbook and Guide* due to appear in 1986. The traveller to Fiji — actual or armchair — has never had quite so good a choice. What would Basil Thomson think? — Norman Douglas.



Kim Gravelle, Fiji-based photo-journalist and graphic designer.

Making sure U.S. shoes fit the Northern Marianas

Welcoming America's Newest Commonwealth. *The Second Interim Report of the Northern Mariana Islands Commission on Federal Laws to the Congress of the United States.* Washington, DC, August 1985. Published by U.S. Government Printing Office. 595p, supplement of 422p.

"If the shoe doesn't fit, don't wear it," goes one old adage. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, America's first significant acquisition of territory since the Virgin Islands were purchased just before the United States entered World War 1, is now in the process of trying on a

variety of new shoes. They are metaphoric of U.S. laws which are being applied to the new territory within the U.S. political family.

This is no light-hearted task. A commission has been working on it since 1980 and this present work is their second effort. They have indicated, moreover, that there might be yet another report before their work is really finished.

In 1976 a covenant for the Marianas was approved thus signalling a new relationship for the Marianas, excluding Guam which is a U.S. territory, with the United States. At the time it was expected that the Trusteeship Agreement which the U.S.

has with the United Nations for administering the area would end in 1981. But, it hasn't worked out that way yet and still the end of the trusteeship cannot be clearly seen. The Reagan administration has been shepherding legislation through the Congress which will lead to the termination of the UN Strategic Trust but a variety of difficulties have held things up and it might require considerable more time before the new status is formalised.

In the meantime, the people of the Northern Marianas — for many years desirous of a close relationship with the U.S. — are eager to become more amalgamated and more accommodated into the American political scheme. The American government is also eager for this to happen and the persistent efforts of the Commission on Federal Laws is certainly testimony to this.

When one is on the ground in the Northern Marianas the Americanisation of the place is inescapable. The evident institutions and the flow of everyday life appear familiar and comfortable to the average American visitor. The throngs of Japanese "honeymooners" and other tourists notwithstanding, there is still the convenient availability of counterfeit designer jeans, the latest U.S. rock music, and Kentucky Fried Chicken. The educational sys-



In the Northern Marianas ... "a growing manifestation of American identity".

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JUNE, 1986

The Finest Sound Is All Around



The advertisement features a central stack of five AIWA components: a tuner/amplifier, a graphic equalizer, a double-deck cassette deck, a compact disc player, and a VCR. This stack is flanked by two tall, white, rectangular speakers. A wavy white line flows from the base of the central stack down to a small subwoofer and two satellite speakers. A large, stylized '600 watts' is written in red and black on the right side. The text 'COMPACT disc DIGITAL AUDIO' and 'DIGITAL AUDIO COMPONENT SYSTEM' is on the left, with 'VX-7700' in large black letters below it. A CD and a cassette tape are shown at the bottom center.

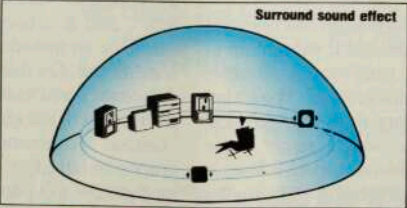
COMPACT disc DIGITAL AUDIO
DIGITAL AUDIO COMPONENT SYSTEM
VX-7700

600 watts

A Great Music Lifestyle

AIWA's Series 7000 systems bring to life the big dynamic sound of digital audio and hi-fi video with huge 600W (PMPO) power, while the Surround Sound system fills your room with stunning acoustic realism. The AFBS speakers assure accurate digital audio reproduction of the DX-770 Compact Disc Player. The exclusive Auto Sorting double deck features auto-reverse recording and playback in both decks, and programmable playback or double speed synchro-dubbing from up to 5 cassettes. AIWA's Series 7000 more than just fine sound, it's a great music lifestyle.

Surround sound effect



The diagram shows a dome-shaped room with a listener in the center. Five speakers are positioned around the perimeter of the dome: two on the front wall, two on the side walls, and one on the back wall. Sound waves are depicted emanating from each speaker, filling the room to create a surround sound effect.

AIWA®

AIWA's NEW REC & PLAY AUTO SORTING SYSTEM



The image shows a close-up of the AIWA double-deck cassette deck, highlighting its internal components and the auto-sorting mechanism.

AIWA Australia Pty., Ltd. 14 Gertrude St., Arncliffe, N.S.W. Australia 2205 AUSTRALIA PHONE: (597) 2388/Oceania Indent Agency (P.N.G.) Pty., Ltd. Ago St., Gordon Box 5518, Boroko, Port Moresby Papua New Guinea PHONE: 256411/The Sound Centre Ltd. P.O. Box 434 Port Vila, Vanuatu PHONE: 2035/P. Hargovind Bros. 190 Renwick Road P.O. Box 490 Suva Fiji PHONE: 24350/Makanjee & Sons Limited P.O. Box 91 Sigatoka Fiji PHONE: 50158/Milaw Trading Co., Ltd. 224-236 Hobson Street, P.O. Box 5919, Wellesley St. Auckland, New Zealand PHONE: (09) 399-175/Hifivox 79, rue de Sebastopol, Noumea, New Caledonia PHONE: 27.24.66/Harvest Pacific Limited P.O. Box 517, Honiara, Solomon Islands PHONE: 131/Fare Hi-Fi Stereo Rue du Marechal Foch—P.O. Box 269, Papeete, Tahiti PHONE: 2-4814/Micropac Audio, Inc. P.O. Box 3478 Agaña, Guam 96910 PHONE: 472-8001, 472-8297/Bartolomea Duty Free Shop P.O. Box 92, Bartolomea, Cook Island

tem is familiar and one can observe many *hoale* youngsters firmly integrated with the local population. The teaching force is mixed and mainlanders also enrol themselves in the tertiary programs for credits which can in large measure be transferred to other American colleges and universities. The public health facilities, though not yet to be compared with those found in Iowa for example, are nonetheless adequate and improving steadily. Where only a few years ago it was considered insensitive for foreign women to appear in short shorts or otherwise scantily-clad, it is now commonplace to observe — often quite agreeably — a myriad of bikini out-decked lovelies from all ethnic groups.

Steadily, through all this process of rapid change has come a growing manifestation of American identity for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and in those areas where custom and law might overlap there has always been the inclination towards the American persuasion. The commission, recognising this, has made an excellent and intelligent effort to ensure, or encourage as appropriate, speedy and smooth accommodation in spite of the frustrating and seemingly complacent efforts of the law-makers and government officials far away in Washington.

Some federal laws will become applicable to the Northern Mariana Islands only after the trusteeship under which the islands are now administered comes to an end. The commission has recommended that a number of these federal laws become applicable to the CNMI as soon as possible rather than only at the end of the trusteeship. Most prominent among these recommendations is a proposal that the United States issue special passports to citizens of the Northern Marianas to eliminate the hassles they have often experienced on entering the United States and to confirm their rights to reside and work in the U.S. before the end of the trusteeship without the visas or other documents required of aliens.

This far in the political experience and interchange between the mainland and the CNMI there have been few obvious

problems. The establishment of banking and economic institutions has brought forth some anomalies and there has also been a certain adjustment necessary with regard to the realities of taxation and the attendant social disciplines and change which are necessary. Some other legal difficulties which have been evident and which will probably continue or increase have to do with the immigrants seen in the commonwealth from other parts of Asia and with the constant importation of labor.

All in all, the progress and change so far are more than satisfactory. Occasionally, there has been a touch of envy from nearby Guam residents who are determined to see an appropriate political change in their own status which will bring them more equally in line with the CNMI. Guam is an unincorporated U.S. territory with an Organic Act. Guam was taken by the U.S. in the Spanish-American war but the Organic Act was only finally approved in 1950. But the political progress and change in the north have prompted Guam also to seek a commonwealth status. While for all practical purposes there is little difference in the opportunities and rights and benefits between the two political entities, the legal and technical differences — not to mention the flow of economic resources and money — make Guam's goals imperative.

The present documents will certainly be useful reading for people planning to come and live in the Northern Mariana Islands and for those who wish to do business there. We might expect a mild "run" on the GPO in Washington to supply them.

The commission has released its staff now but it will remain in existence until one year after the termination of the trusteeship. More than the technical difficulties which might arise from adjustment to U.S. laws is the difficulty being seen in the U.S. Congress in bringing the trusteeship to a just and happy conclusion. This undoubtedly is at present a greater challenge than finding or making the new shoes fit properly. — *Dirk Anthony Ballendorf.*



Northern Marianas . . . a passive relic of yesterday, and an active scene of today.

Marxism minus revolution

Science and Social Theory: A Brief Critical Examination.

By Nii-K. Plange. Published by South Pacific Review Press, Suva, 1984, viii, 105p. Price \$A13.50.

Following Sione Tupouniua's article "Political Independence: an opportunity to create" in *South Pacific Dossier*, and Alexander Mamak's *Race, class and rebellion in the South Pacific*, Nii-K. Plange offers South Pacific readers a brief introduction to "Marxist sociology".

Marxist sociology, for Nii-K. Plange, means humanist Marxism, here labelled "historical materialism". Nii-K. Plange argues that no form of social organisation is natural. Rather, all social formations are historically transient. A sharp distinction is drawn between the concepts "history" and "nature", and it is contended that societies, as historical products, are artificial. On this basis, racial differences and colonial underdevelopment are viewed, not as "natural" outcomes of geography or heredity, but as developments of the domination of a particular class in a particular historical period.

Humanist Marxism is usually, in academic writing, counterposed to the modern French Marxism of Louis Althusser, which analyses different class

societies in terms of the structure of successive historical modes of production. Nii-K. Plange attempts to reconcile these two opposed versions of Marxism by presenting a structuralist analysis of colonial societies side-by-side with the exegesis of a humanist philosophical position.

This small booklet cannot be accused of the harsh rigor of a doctrinaire. Sartre, Althusser, Fanon, Guevara and Mao Tse-tung meet happily in its pages. Jay Narayan's *The Political Economy of Fiji*, recently reviewed in PIM, claimed that "racial exploitation is merely an additional dimension of exploitation of one class by another".

Nii-K. Plange, in contrast, suggests that writings by Marxists "have shown the inability of Marx's model to foresee the importance of race, gender and nationality". Writing immediately before the formation of the Fiji Labour Party, Nii-K. Plange warns that working classes, contrary to Marx's predictions, tend to be conservative and to accept forms of "racism and even fascism". There can be no doubt that such a liberal interpretation of Marxism will find favor among opinion leaders in the South Pacific not ordinarily sympathetic to radicalism. Nii-K. Plange presents historical materialism as a method of academic analysis, not in any sense "revolutionary".

It is unfortunate that the booklet under review is extremely badly edited. It is distributed in Australia through Pacific Publications. — O.G.

Go to the Head of the Class



The image shows the Pioneer X-770 Shelf Component System, which includes a central stack of components: a tuner, a cassette deck, a turntable, and a CD player. This central stack is flanked by two large, black, rectangular speakers, each featuring a Pioneer logo and the model number S-333X. The entire system is set against a background of numerous other Pioneer stereo components, creating a sense of a vast product line.

X-770

NEW!  **Personna Plus**
Shelf Component Systems

Go ahead, move up to Pioneer's New Personna Plus X-770 shelf-component system, and discover peerless perfection.

This super-sophisticated mini-sized sound system offers full-function remote control for amp, tuner, cassette deck, turntable, and the optional CD player. Together, they put cutting edge audio technology at your command as Pioneer alone can.

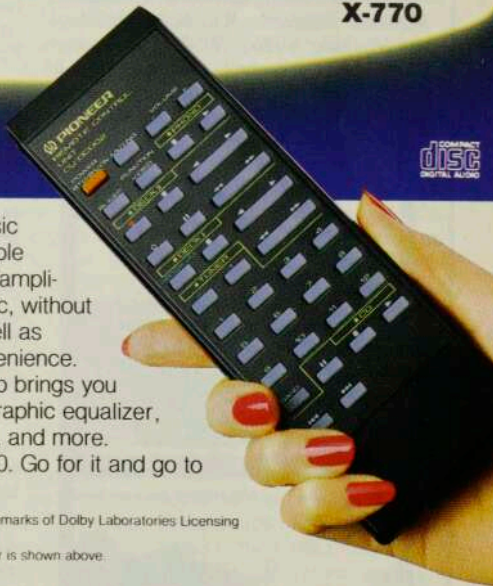
Simulated Stereo lets you enjoy wide, stereo-like signals from mono signals. And Stereo Wide brings you expanded ambience from stereo signals, so you're as turned on as possible no matter what you tune in!

Power? 320W Peak Music Power Output from the double auto-reverse cassette deck/amplifier. You'll flip over the music, without flipping the tape over, as well as enjoy double cassette convenience.

Of course, the X-770 also brings you great features like 5-band graphic equalizer, Mic Mixing, Dolby* B/C NR, and more.

The New Personna X-770. Go for it and go to the head of the class.

* "Dolby" and the double-D symbol are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.
Note: The optional PD-X707(BK) CD player is shown above.



A hand with red-painted nails holds a black Pioneer remote control. The remote has many buttons, including a large 'POWER' button at the top and a 'REVERSE' button. The Pioneer logo is visible at the top of the device.

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Vanuatu: Burns Philp (Vanuatu) Ltd., Vila, Vanuatu

Nauru Island: Jacob Enterprises, P.O. Box No.4, Republic of Nauru
Tahiti: Tahiti Hi-Fi, P.O. Box 848, Papeete, Tahiti
New Caledonia: Menard Pacifique Sarl, B.P. 3899, Noumea, New Caledonia Tel: 27-62-23
American Samoa: Transpac Corporation, P.O. Box 1477, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 Tel: 633-5224
Rarotonga: South Seas International Ltd., P.O. Box 49, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Tel: 2327
Papua New Guinea: Bali Merchants Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 6103, Boroko Tel: 254887

SA MOA SOLOMON ISLANDS Pacific stamp box VANUATU With John Hunter

For those interested in trivial pursuits — Which country has the highest density of motor vehicles per square mile? The answer is Nauru, which is quite a claim to fame.

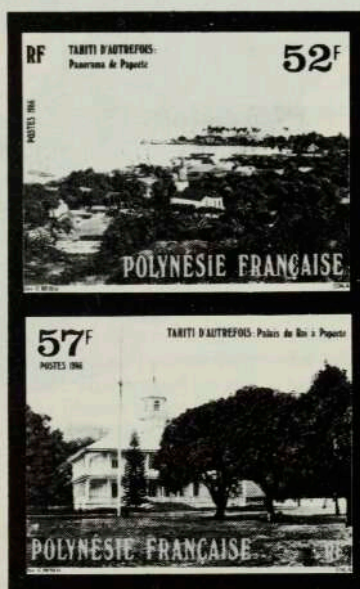
Nauru has issued a set of four stamps featuring early transport in the country. The vehicles featured are from the 1927-33 period and include a motor-bike, a truck, a railway engine and the head chief's "baby Austin."

French Polynesia has issued a stamp commemorating the first Tahitian international billfish tournament in February and March this year. Several countries responded to the invitation so that there were eight international and local teams in the competition.

The same territory in March issued a three stamp set featuring historic photographs of Tahiti. There is a scene from Papeete, harpoon fishing and a view of the king's palace.

The palace, incidentally, took 25 years to complete although the king, Pomare V, never lived in the building which housed administrative departments before its recent demolition.

Many Pacific countries have now issued their stamp sets commemorating Queen Elizabeth II's 60th birthday (PIM, May 1986). While the stamp designs are collectable and interesting, I find the gutter strips just as attractive. I see no investment potential in this omnibus series, however.



As is usual with the Crown Agent's omnibus issues, far too many stamps are issued for each country.

But don't say you weren't advised to collect the stamp labels commonly known as Frama labels.

The first labels were issued in Australia in 1984 and many collectors overlooked these "Cinderella" items.

However, there is now a scramble among collectors and dealers alike to obtain obsolete issues. The key now to the set is the group of 33c barred edge labels from each capital city.

Obtainable at less than \$3 face value a year ago, these are now fetching \$25 a set. Here is an example of demand over supply, sparked by Seven Seas making provision in their albums for this set.

In fact, Seven Seas have now issued a special album specifically for the Australian Frama labels.

Frama collecting is now big business. Already forgers are into the area copying past marks on covers featuring the early release of the Kangaroo paper labels.

A study group for the label collecting has been proposed and Stamp News has put out a special edition of their April News featuring Framas.

Also, all stamp magazines now carry articles and advertisements on Framas.

New Zealand is going through a similar craze.

My advice is to invest in past sets and put aside a couple of each new set appearing.

Of course one can really let go and collect almost anything in the Frama field — covers, values, varieties, the lot. Framas have given stamp collecting a much needed shot in the arm. Other Pacific countries will follow in time.

Ripples were sent through the stamp collecting fraternity recently when Australia Post announced their first philatelic auction.

Lots for the sale will be drawn from the Australia Post archival collection stock held in quantity and classified as surplus. The money raised will be used to fill gaps in the archival collection.

Quantities of items, however, will be strictly limited in order to maintain stability in the market and no further auctions will be held for at least 10 years.



Australia Post's archival collection is considered the best in the world and there is much international interest in the auction.

The Papua New Guinea consulate, 100 Clarence Street, Sydney, has in its video collection two tapes which can be viewed in the consulate or borrowed by stamp clubs.

These are Discovering Papua New Guinea (18 minutes) which uses the 1973 Panorama set, as well as others, to introduce PNG and So The Message Runs (23 minutes). This was produced to celebrate the centenary of the PNG postal service.

The 1988 Sydrex stamp exhibition will be held in late July to coincide with Australia's bicentennial.

The total area will be one and a half times that of the 1980 Sydrex. Although not an international exhibition, it will be a national show of great prestige worth attending if at all possible.

people

A welcome recent visitor to Savusavu, Fiji, was **Mrs Frances Gow** of Florida, USA, who was visiting friends in Australia and Fiji. Her hostess in Savusavu was Mrs **Lema Low**. Mrs Gow, now 84, first went to Fiji in 1942 as an American army nurse. She travelled with the first U.S. Army division to leave the American West Coast for the South Pacific. They travelled in five Liberty ships each built to accommodate 300, but they each carried 3000! The ships followed a zigzag course to Auckland, where they received a tumultuous welcome. Later, Mrs Gow was stationed in Fiji where she met and married her late husband, **Harold Gow**, shipping manager with Burns, Philp. He was transferred to Apia, Western Samoa, where the couple lived for 25 years.

One vivid memory of the war years which Mrs Gow shared with Savusavu's *Coconut Telegraph* was of flying over "the Hump" in a C54 aircraft with a load of casualties from fighting along the Burma Road. After touching down at Khartoum, they took off and flew 12 hours non-stop to Accra, with no food — someone had forgotten the lunchboxes. From Accra they went to Ascension Island, then to Natal (northern Brazil), Trinidad and then Florida. She was fascinated to compare that slow trip with the speed of aircraft today.

Mrs Gow now lives in retirement at the Covenant Village, Jacaranda, Florida, one of many such establishments sponsored by the Evangelical Covenant Church of America over the past 90 years.

While in Sydney Mrs Gow stayed with old friend **Kathleen Costello**.

Mrs Costello, 90, is the widow of **Dan Costello**, mother of prominent Fiji tourism figure **Dan Costello**, and grandmother of singer **Danny Costello**.

President **Lazarus Salii** of Palau has to be one of the most interesting political leaders in the Pacific. Chief executive of



Left: President Lazarus Salii in his office. Right: Since the assassination of President Remeliik, the security around the President has increased.



the new island nation of Belau (Palau), Salii was elected following the tragic assassination of President **Haruo Remeliik** last June. At the recent Asian-Pacific Youth Forum Salii was a big hit with the participants who had gathered in Palau from all around the Pacific and the rimlands. He exhorted them to work hard and to pursue a straight-and-narrow lifestyle in the interests of making the Pacific and the world a better place to live in for the 21st Century.

Salii and his wife live modestly in a small house in the Malakal section of Koror. Their children are away at school, and, as the president puts it, "we do not need a big place." He makes the two-mile trip to his office in Meuns each morning when he is in town. But, this is not as often as he might like these days, as the negotiations with Washington over Palau's billion-dollar free association agreement with the United States takes him frequently to the U.S. capital.

Salii is perhaps the most experienced negotiator with the Americans of all the political leaders in Micronesia. He was on the original future political status committee in the old Congress of Micronesia, and for years chaired that committee until congress was dissolved after the island groups fragmented themselves into four new political entities separate from each other. This separateness of the new states has

prompted many people to refer to the Micronesian areas as "independent nations." Actually, they are independent only from each other, but not really from the United States who will be subsidising them over the coming 15 years under the Compact arrangements.

But Belau and the other states — the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands Republic — are self-governing and autonomous (the fourth state, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, has a closer association with the U.S.), and President Salii is quick, confident, and proud to assert that the Pacific is an exciting place to be and that his nation will make its own decisions in the future. When the Russians recently sent a message decrying U.S. "colonialism" in Palau at the time of the Palau plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association, President Salii took the opportunity of reminding all observers that Palau would be making its own way in the world. "If this was a real attempt on the part of the Russians to help the people of Palau not to be misled," he observed recently, "then we appreciate it. But, everyone... must recognise that Palau can make its own basic decision."

Palau's geographic position places it in a strategic situation athwart the oil routes from the Middle East and Indonesia toward Japan and the Philippines. It will undoubtedly remain a strategic consideration

for many years to come. And its proximity to the Philippines bases suggests that it could be a U.S. fall-back position.

But, Palau's relationship with the Philippines has more practical implications these days. With two flights weekly now between Koror and Manila, and with Palau's current need for trained manpower, there are many Filipinos coming to the small islands to work, and then attempting to remain on a more permanent basis. Some estimates have it that Koror now has over 1000 illegal immigrants from the Philippines. President Salii is not unconcerned about this situation with the alien labor and indicates clearly that his government "will take a hard look" at it. He has taken steps to see that when Filipino workers are finished with their contracts, they leave Palau. However, he adds that "we still need a lot of skilled laborers and the Philippines has traditionally been a source of skilled laborers and we have been glad for their assistance in the past."

While there has been a tendency in the past for the areas of the north Pacific to remain rather isolated from the areas in the south Pacific, President Salii is by no means a promoter of this past history. He looks toward his neighbors appreciatively. "We invite everyone to be our friends," he says. His wide travels around the Pacific have made him many friends and associates, and in the future, there are

bound to be more. There is much that the island nations both north and south of the equator have to learn from each other, and the Palauans are eager for more exchange.

And what does Mr Salii think of the French and their colonial policies in the Pacific. "I think the French policies are way out-dated," he said recently in his office, and he feels that the models which have been used between his country and the United States — free association as a political status — offer much promise and hope for the French and the people of New Caledonia. "I think that is the direction they should move in," he said confidently. As for nuclear testing, Salii is even stronger. "I am totally opposed to that. We've taken a stand . . . (We ask) that such activity be terminated."

President Salii believes that the future of Palau is very bright, and one can sense that he intends to optimise the brightness. There is much activity in Koror these days, and a growing articulation with the greater world beyond the Palauan waters. The recent convention of the Pacific-Asian Youth Forum held in Palau demonstrated that the people there have the organisational ability to accommodate aptly large groups of diverse people in short order. A growing number of hotel rooms and even luxury resorts promise to keep Palau moving ahead toward a living standard for the people which will encourage affluence and make Palau a much larger spot on the Pacific map. — *Dirk Anthony Ballendorf*.

Solomon Islands has a new British High Commissioner, **John Bramble Noss**, who took up duties in Honiara on March 17.

Mr Noss replaces **George Stansfield**, CBE, who left the country in March after a three-year assignment.

Mr Noss has seen service in Lebanon, Denmark, the USSR, Chile, and the USA.

His most recent appointment was in New York, where he served in the British consulate-general for four years.

Chairman of Solomon Islands' Public Service Commission, **Sir Fred Osifelo**, retired on March 31 after 41 years in government

service.

An official reception in his honor was held at Rove Police Club, Honiara, attended by the Prime Minister, **Sir Peter Kenilorea**, and many government officers.

The prime minister expressed gratitude to Sir Fred on behalf of the government and people of the Solomon Islands for the loyal and dedicated service he had rendered to the country during his 41 years of service both as a public servant, Speaker of the Legislative Governing Council, and chairman of the Public Service Commission.

"There is much to thank him for; a colleague, statesman and friend of enormous distinction," Sir Peter said.

Throughout his distinguished career he demonstrated administrative skills of very high and outstanding merit, and with his dedication to duty and continued loyalty should serve as an example to us all, Sir Peter told guests.

Sir Fred was born in October 15, 1928, on Malaita.

Outlining Sir Fred's career, the prime minister said his 41 years' service started on April 22, 1945, under the colonial administration as a so-called Learner Clerk in the then Secretariat.

He continued to receive promotions in various clerical grades until he became Higher Clerical Officer in 1958.

Sir Fred applied to join the Administration Cadre in 1960, and the following year was appointed Assistant Administration Officer (Cadet).

He was appointed a member of the Pidgin English Examination Board in 1962, and in 1964/65 attended an administration course in Britain.

He sat and passed the local law exams in 1966, and in 1967 was promoted to Administrative Officer (District Officer), Class B. In 1970 he was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Lands, and in 1971 became first SI District Commissioner in charge of Eastern District. A year later, he was promoted to Administrative Officer Class A, the highest grade in the Administration Cadre.

He became Commissioner of

Lands in 1974 and was first Senior Secretary to Local Government, equivalent to what is now known as Permanent Secretary.

Sir Fred retired from the Public Service in 1975, and was appointed chairman of the then Public Service Advisory Board and also Speaker of the Legislative Government Council.

In 1978, when the Solomon Islands attained independence and gained its own constitution, he became chairman of the Public Service Commission, a position he held until his retirement.

For his dedicated service to the government, Sir Fred was decorated in 1972 with an MBE. Five years later he became the first Solomon Islander to be knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

As a keen sportsman, he was manager of the Solomon Islands team to the 1975 South Pacific Games in Guam.

A man with no formal education, Sir Fred recently wrote a book, *Kanaka Boy*, which relates his life story (see review in PIM, Nov. '85, p41).

Among other things Sir Fred told the guests at the reception, he encouraged fellow public servants to be serious and stick to whatever jobs they undertake in truly serving their people and the country. He advised them not to be put off easily in their work or despair merely because they were not in a good mood or were unhappy with their boss.

"I am only leaving the service," he said. "But I will still be part of the community."

Officials from the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) and the United Nations Pacific Energy Development Program (UNPEDP), both based in Fiji, were at Honolulu's East-West Center in March to discuss possible collaboration. **Trevor Sofield** and **Murray Ellis** of SPEC, **Peter Johnston** and **George Tavanavanua** of UNPEDP met with Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) Acting director **Te'o Fairbairn** and PIDP staff **Sofield** is deputy director and **Ellis** is senior energy officer at SPEC. **Johnston** is project manager and **Tavanavanua** is petroleum officer at UNPEDP.

Janice Pearson of the Cook Islands joined the East-West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program in February for a six-month internship. She will write a paper on indigenous business policy in the Cook Islands.

The first resident ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to Solomon Islands, **Chi-Kun Ning**, has presented his credentials to the SI Governor-General, **Sir Baddeley Devesi**.

The governor-general told Mr Ning at the ceremony that since Solomon Islands and Taiwan entered a common understanding in upgrading diplomatic relations from consular level to full ambassadorial status, some progress had been achieved in the consolidation of the relationship. Appointment of the first resident ROC ambassador was a part of that process.

Sir Baddeley said: "There are countries whose intention in making friends is to do so simply for support at international forums, or to have support for their ideologies. Solomon Islands believes in ties that result in tangible benefits."

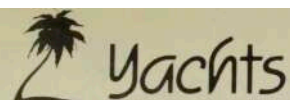
The governor-general added that he was happy that much had already been achieved in co-operation in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, manpower training and sports.

Norfolk Island's oldest resident, Miss **Charlotte Bailey**, celebrated her 101st birthday on March 3.

She is one of the six children of **Emily Wellesley Christian** (born on Pitcairn) and **George Bailey** of Devon, England, who came to Norfolk via New Zealand in the 1870s.

In 1985, for her 100th birthday, 100 palm trees were planted in the Norfolk Island Hospital grounds, and the "Charlotte Bailey Place" — a seat and small garden — was dedicated in her honor opposite the Fletcher Christian Apartments.

On the 101st birthday, a further palm tree — the 101st — was planted in the hospital grounds near the Baby Clinic. The tree was planted by **Charlotte's** youngest grand-nephew, **Edward Christian-Bailey**.



All set for big race

First acceptances are in for the 1986 Foster's Darwin to Ambon race.

First yachts off the rank were *Alanel* from Victoria and *Sundancer III* from Western Australia.

Alanel, an 11 metre fibre glass craft from the Hastings Yacht Club on Westport Bay, is described by her owner Alan Anderson as "not a fast boat."

Built and launched by Alan in

1976 as a cruising yacht *Alanel* was used to explore Tasmanian waters extensively before venturing forth on a Pacific cruise in 1983.

She was expected in Darwin late last month after waiting out the cyclone season in Cairns.

Sundancer III shows Fremantle as her home port but was last month to be found at Groote Eylandt, a remote mining community in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

An 11.6 metre cruising sloop,

her owner Noel Small has been accepted as an affiliated member of the Gove Yacht Club under whose colours he will sail in the Darwin-Ambon event.

Both *Alanel* and *Sundancer III* have indicated that they will go on to cruise Indonesian waters extensively after the race.

Race acceptance includes the issue of an Indonesian sailing clearance permit.

At the end of last month, there had already been 29

expressions of interest from Darwin yachts for the Darwin-Ambon race.

And with a grand total of more than 60 expressions of interest received, the organising committee is now even more confident that it will be a record fleet that sets sail on August 2.

The race administrator can be contacted at GPO Box 1677, Darwin, NT 5794, Australia. (telephone 089 277614, telex AA 84004).

Agents wanted by Clark Aluminium Boats to make waves in the South Pacific ...

Clark Aluminium Boats wish to appoint further distributors throughout the Pacific Islands for their range of boats from 8 - 21 ft.

These craft are particularly suited to the Islands' fishing and transport industries, requiring minimal maintenance and low h.p. propulsion. Light weight, naturally, with fully-welded construction to add to the strength and durability. Clark boats are currently exported as CKD, SKD, or completely built-up.

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For further details contact Neil Bevan, General Manager Marine Division.



CLARK



from the islands press

From the Solomon Nius, Honiara

A sanitation project providing 133 latrines for six villages in New Tenabuti, north-east Guadalcanal, was officially opened by the Minister of Health for Guadalcanal Province, Mr Samuel Topilu, at New Tenabuti last Thursday.

During the opening ceremony, which was attended by nearly 200 people, the Director of Peace Corps volunteers in Solomon Islands, Mr Duane Beard said that finance and Peace Corps assistance was available, but without co-operation there would not be any projects.

From The reporter of the PNG University of Technology, Lae

Staff Amenities Centre News

Due to a communications "bugger up" in our Complicated

Communications network, our add in last week's *Reporter* inadvertently quoted incorrect prices for Pizza.

From a reader's letter in the PNG Post-Courier.

The "Wantok System" is like a disease eating away the body of a healthy mother.

Frequently we hear about corruption in the public service or private sector. But do we understand the very roots of the problem?

I wish to quote a saying from a scholar: "The preservation of traditional social groupings promotes clan and tribal loyalties and divisions which may lead to political instability at sub-national and national levels."

For our nation to achieve true development and unity, the fundamental disease which must be cured or destroyed is "wantok system".



Papua New Guinea Post-Courier cartoonist Grass Roots comments on the escape of five prisoners from Lae's Buimo Jail — the men removed a toilet pipe and used it to smash a hole in the concrete prison wall.

Under instructions from W.J. Wilde and P.G. Jefferson of Messrs. Coopers & Lybrand as Receivers and Managers of Specialty Seafoods Pty Ltd. (Receivers and Managers appointed), Specialty Property Investments Pty Ltd. (Receivers and Managers Appointed) Ebb Tide II (Receivers Appointed) and Mortgagee exercising power of sale.

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Trawler - "Ebb Tide II"

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The Registered Trade Mark "Coral Star" is available.

Offers close 12 Noon on Tuesday July 8 1986 with Peter J Strophair & Associates.

NOTE: Offers will be considered prior to the above date and will be accepted if satisfactory.

For full details and comprehensive brochure contact:-

Wren Bligh



Peter J. Strophair & Associates

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Telephone Brisbane area code (07) 848 8166

shipping schedules

Should any shipping company wish to have its services — cargo and passenger — included in these listings they should contact PIM.

AUSTRALIA — FIJI

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, 432 Kent Street, Sydney (264-8944), Tlx AA 70090; Wiltrans Agency Pty. Ltd., 21st Floor, 60 Market St., Melbourne (614-4788); Tlx 30163 ACTA Pty. Ltd., Brisbane (221-3116); Elders-ANL Pty. Ltd., Port Adelaide, (47-5688); Newcastle, Sofrana Sydney (264-8944); Websters-ANL, 58 Charles St., Launceston, Tasmania (320-555); Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson Street, Suva, Fiji (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

AUSTRALIA — SAMOAS — TONGA

Warner Pacific Lines operates a regular cargo service from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Apia and Vavau. Feeder service available from Apia to Cook, Christmas, Fanning and Washington Islands.

Details from Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney, (27-1671).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA — NZ

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Lyttelton, Sydney, Cargo centralised from Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, P.O. Box 796 Auckland, Union Bulkships, 333 George Street, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, Union Co., Lautoka, Suva, Nuku'alofa, Pacific Forum Line Apia, Polynesia Shipping Pago Pago, SCONZ, Christchurch.

AUSTRALIA — LORD HOWE IS. NORFOLK IS.

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

Details Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

AUSTRALIA — KIRIBATI

K. Asia Pacific operates a 5/6 weekly service from Melbourne and Sydney to Kiribati (Tarawa).

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty. Ltd., Goldfields House, 1 Alfred Street, Circular Quay, Sydney (232-2277), Tlx 122143.

KAP New Guinea Lines call Tarawa after PNG ports on a 35 day basis from Melbourne and Sydney/Brisbane.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty. Ltd., Goldfields House, 1 Alfred Street, Circular Quay, Sydney (232-2277), Tlx 122143.

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA AND/OR VANUATU

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

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 432 Kent Street, Sydney (264-8944), Wiltrans-Agency Pty. Ltd., 21st Floor, 60 Market St., Melbourne (614-4788) Tlx 30163 ACTA Pty. Ltd., Brisbane (221-3116), Elders-ANL Pty. Ltd., Port Adelaide (47-5688), Newcastle, Sofrana Sydney; Websters-ANL, 58 Charles St., Launceston, Tasmania (320-555).

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

Details Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break bulk cargo.

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

AUSTRALIA — NAURU — MARSHALL IS. — KIRIBATI

Nauru Pacific Line operates regular cargo service from Melbourne to Nauru, Majuro and Tarawa, Passenger service to Nauru only.

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

AUSTRALIA — NEW ZEALAND

The Australian National Line and the New Zealand Line operate a 10-day container service (TRANZAS) between Sydney and Melbourne to Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton and Port Chalmers.

The Transz service has been extended to cover Burnie and Fremantle on a direct call monthly basis linking to the main New Zealand ports.

Details from ANL Shipping Agencies, 20 Bond Street, Sydney (232-0444) and ANL Shipping Agencies, "World Trade Centre", cnr Flinders and Spencer Streets, Melbourne (611-2323) or New Zealand Line, Pastoral House, 98 Lambton Quay, Wellington (728-5000).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — TONGA VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA SOLOMONS — NEW GUINEA

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise program from Sydney to include the better-known ports in the above countries, plus a number of unspoilt, and largely unknown, island paradises.

Details from Sitmar Cruises, 39 Martin Place, Sydney (239-9000); NSW, reservations and inquiries (008 42-2277); Rest of Australia, reservations and inquiries (008 22-2277).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — TONGA VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA SOLOMONS — SAMOAS — TAHITI

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

Details from P&O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (237-0333).

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS — VANUATU — NZ

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro from Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Port Vila, Lyttelton, Napier and Auckland.

Details from Union Bulkships, Brisbane Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae; Sullivan's Ltd, Honiara, Vila Agents, Port Vila; SCONZ Christchurch, Napier and Auckland.

AUSTRALIA — MICRONESIA

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

Details: N.P.L. (Australia) Pty Ltd, Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne (653-5709), Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA

Sofrana Unilines operates a 3-4 weekly service from East Coast mainports to Noumea.

Details from Sofrana Unilines 432 Kent Street, Sydney. (Tel. 264-8944), Tlx AA 70090.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

K. Asia Pacific operates a three monthly service from Sydney and Melbourne to Tuvalu (Funafuti). Subject to inducement.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred Street, Circular Quay, Sydney (232-2277), Tlx 122143.

Warner Pacific Line operates a six week containerised/breakbulk service to Funafuti from Melbourne/Brisbane/Sydney and Auckland.

Details from Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671); MacKay Shipping Ltd, Downtown House, Queen Street, Auckland (30-229).

AUSTRALIA — PNG

KAP New Guinea Lines cargo vessels call at Melbourne, Sydney, Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Wewak, Manus, Kimbe, Rabaul, Popondetta.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred Street, Circular Quay, Sydney (232-2277), Tlx 122143, Dalgely Shipping, World Trade Centre, Melbourne (616-6700).

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS

Sofrana Unilines (Aust.) P.L. operates a 3-4 weekly cargo service to PNG, ex-main ports on the east coast of Australia.

Details from Sofrana Unilines, 432 Kent Street, Sydney (264-8944), Tlx AA 70090.

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS VANUATU

A consortium of NGAL/PNGL and CON-PAC/NEL have four vessels operating a joint service from east coast Australian ports to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Madang, Wewak, Rabaul, Kavieng-Kimbe, Kieta, Honiara, Vila, Santo.

Details from Burns Philp & Co. Ltd., P.O. Box R124, Royal Exchange, Sydney, 2000 (2-0547); Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522); New Guinea Express Lines, 37 Pitt Street, Sydney (241-3991); Vila Agents, PO Box 27, Port-Vila (2456), Tlx NH1011.

New Guinea Express Lines operates a weekly container service from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta, Honiara, Kavieng, Madang, Wewak, Santo, Vila.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, P.O. Box R73, Royal Exchange, Sydney (241-3991); New Guinea Express Lines, 127 Creek Street, Brisbane (221-9333); New Guinea Express Lines, 327 Collins Street, Melbourne (602-5544); Niugini Express Lines, Port Moresby (21-4572); Lae (42-1536); Niugini Island Cargo Services Pty. Ltd., Rabaul (922-467); Bougainville Agen-

cies Pty. Ltd., Kieta (956-089); Robert Laurie (PNG) P/L, Madang (82-2157); Garamut Enterprises P/L, Wewak (86-2106); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd., Kavieng (94-2133); Alotau Stevedoring & Transport, Alotau (61-1318); Ngatia Wholesalers Pty. Ltd., Kimbe (93-5102); and Tradco Shipping, Mendana Avenue, Honiara (22588); Vila Agents Ltd., P.O. Box 971, Vila, Vanuatu (2490); John Lum & Associates, P.O. Box 65, Santo, Vanuatu (329).

AUSTRALIA — TAHITI

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Papeete, for containerised and break bulk cargo.

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

Sofrana Unilines (Aust.) P.L. operates a 3/4 weekly cargo service to Papeete ex main ports on the east coast of Australia.

Details from Sofrana Unilines, 432 Kent Street, Sydney (264-8944) Tlx AA 70090.

SINGAPORE — HONGKONG — FIJI ISLANDS PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co. Ltd. operates a monthly containerised and break bulk cargo service from Singapore, Hongkong to Lautoka, Suva and then to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson Street, Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

FAR EAST — FIJI — NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (NZUE) now operates a monthly service accepting containerised and break bulk cargo from Manila, Keelung, Kaohsiung and Hongkong to Lautoka, Suva and thence to New Zealand ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson Street, Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ 2199; Burns Philp, Suva (311-777); P&O S.N. Co. Wellington (736-477) or Nedlloyd Swire Pty. Ltd., Sydney (20-522).

Nedlloyd operates bi-weekly cargo service with four ships from Surabaya, Jakarta, Bangkok, Port Kelang and Singapore to Suva, Lautoka and NZ ports.

Details from Nedlloyd (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., 8 Spring St., Sydney (27-3801), Burns Philp (SS) Co. Ltd., Suva and Lautoka.

FAR EAST — MID-S. PACIFIC

China Navigation's New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container service from Hongkong, Taiwan, Manila, Port Kelang and Singapore to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Honiara monthly and to Wewak, Madang and Kieta every three months. Cargo from the

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same Far Eastern ports to the South Pacific ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Raratonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan on the monthly Bali Hai service.

Details from Steamships Shipping, P.O. Box 634, Port Moresby (22-0289).

Kyowa Shipping Ltd. operates monthly services from Japan to Guam, Saipan, Solomons, New Caledonia, Fiji, Western and American Samoa, Tahiti, Cook Is., Tonga and Vanuatu.

Details: Heterington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

GUAM — NORTHERN MARIANAS

Saipan Shipping Co. Inc. operate a weekly service via barge carrying containers and conventional cargo between Guam and Saipan and Tinian.

Details from Saipan Shipping Co. Inc., P.O. Box 8, Saipan, CM 96950 (Tel. 9707), Tlx 783619; Guam agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

HAWAII — TAHITI — SAMOAS — TONGA — KIRIBATI — FIJI — SOLOMONS — PNG

Star Shipping Associates operates a monthly service originating in Honolulu and destined for Pago Pago, Papeete, Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva, Vila and Port Moresby.

Details from Star Shipping Assoc., P.O. Box 25988, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825, Ph. (808) 396-4256; Polynesia Shipping Services in Pago Pago and Burns Philp Agency in Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Port Moresby.

JAPAN — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co. Ltd. operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva and Lautoka and thence to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson St., Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

Bali Hai service operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Lautoka and Suva and thence to island ports. Details from Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson St., Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199 and Burns Philp, Suva (311-777).

JAPAN — MICRONESIA

The NYK Shipping Line operates a monthly cargo service from Japan to Micronesia, calling at Yoko, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yoko, Nagoya and Kobe.

Details from Burns Philp & Co. Ltd., 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (2-0547).

Saipan Shipping Co. Inc. operates a monthly service from Japan to Saipan, Guam, Truk, Ponape, Majuro (Kosrae and Ebeye on inducement).

Details from Saipan Shipping Co. Inc., P.O. Box 8, Saipan, CM 96950 (Tel. 9707), Tlx 783619; Japan agents Kyowa Shipping Company Ltd.; Guam Agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

JAPAN — PNG

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines operates a monthly service from main ports Japan and Port Moresby, Rabaul, Lae, Madang, Kieta and Kimbe.

Details from Robert Laurie Carpenters Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 1032, Lae PNG (Tel. 42-3642, 42-3811.)

NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — WEST COAST NORTH AMERICA

PAD Line operates an approx. 3-weekly ro-ro service from Noumea and Suva to Honolulu and West Coast USA and Canadian ports.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines SA, BP 1602, Noumea (27-51-91), Tlx NM048; Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson St., Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

PNG — INTER — MAINPORT

Papua New Guinea Line offers scheduled 10-20 day coastal liner services linking all PNG major ports with containerisation, reefer,

heavy lift and transshipment facilities.

Details from PNG Line, Box 543, Port Moresby, PNG (21-1174), Tlx 22269.

PNG — UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint service from Port Moresby, Oro Bay, Kieta, Rabaul, Kimbe, Madang and Lae to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre.

Details from The Bank Line (Asia) Pty. Ltd., 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041); Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE 44171; or lines' local agents.

SOLOMONS — UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Honiara to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre.

Details from the Bank Line (Asia) Pty. Ltd. 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE 44171; Tradco Shipping Ltd., Honiara (22588) Tlx 66313.

NEW ZEALAND — AUSTRALIA — PAPUA NEW GUINEA — SOLOMON ISLANDS — VANUATU

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro service from Lyttelton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara and Port Vila.

Details from SCONZ Christchurch, Napier and Auckland; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae; Sullivan's Ltd., Honiara; Vila Agents, Port Vila.

NZ — COOK IS. — NIUE — TAHITI

New Zealand Line operates cargo services based on pallets and similar units from Auckland to Niue, Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Details from the NZ Shipping Agencies International Ltd., P.O. Box 3420, Auckland (797210); Waterfront Commission, P.O. Box 61, Rarotonga; Cook Islands; Shipping Office, Govt. of Niue, P.O. Box 107, Niue Island;

Compagnie Maritime Polynésienne, P.O. Box 36, Papeete, Tahiti.

NZ — FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18-day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Also passenger accommodation.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies, PO Box 3382, Auckland, NZ (77-1221-3), Tlx 60633; MV Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd. Private Bag, Suva, Fiji (31-1056).

Pacific Line with one ship operates two weekly ro-ro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva. No passengers.

Details: Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs Street, Auckland (773-279) PO Box 3614, Tlx NZ2313. Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson Street, Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

NZ — FIJI — NORTH AMERICA (WC)

Blue Star Line Ltd. Pacific Coast container services. Only direct service to and from New Zealand. Blue Star vessels call at Suva and Honolulu on NZ-U.S.-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), Tlx FJ2168 Burship.

NZ — FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro 21 day service from Auckland to Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago and Nuku'alofa.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, Auckland and Apia, Union Maritime, Lautoka, Suva and Nuku'alofa, Polynesian Shipping, Pago Pago.

NZ — N. CALEDONIA — VANUATU — PNG — SOLOMONS

Sofrana Unilines with three ships operate to Vila and Santo, to Honiara and Papua New Guinea and to Norfolk Island and Noumea (No passengers).

Details from Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs Street, Auckland (773-279), PO Box 3614, Tlx NZ2313.

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Cable "P-320"

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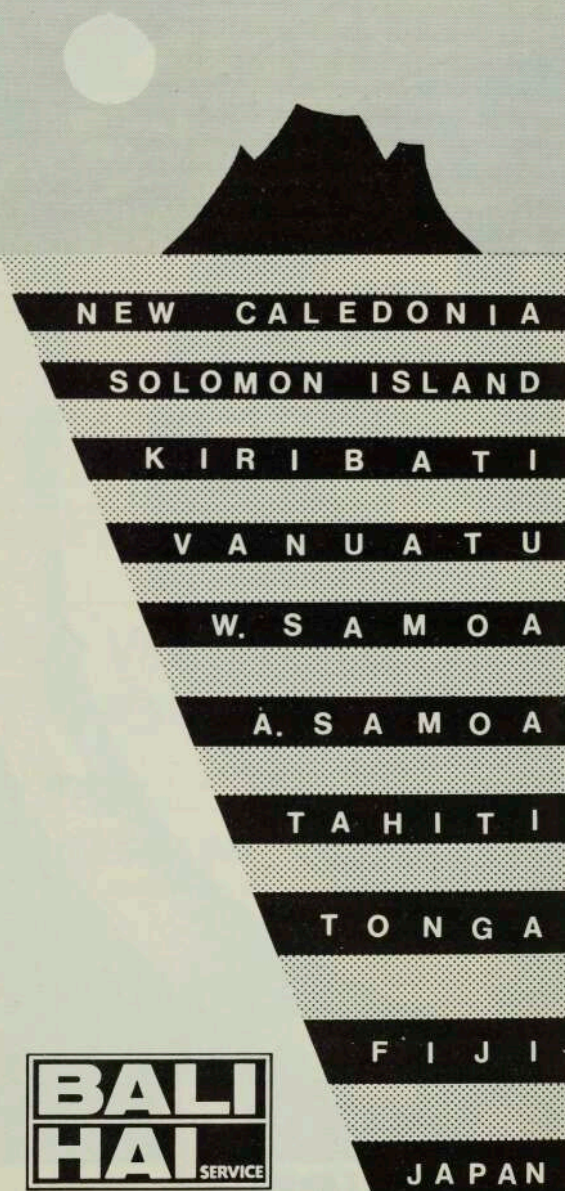
POLISH OCEAN LINES Representatives

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Details from Sofrana Unilines, PO Box 3614, 18 Customs St., Auckland, Tlx NZ2313. CTM-Tahiti Line, PO Box 9012, Papeete (39042), Tlx Tahitin 322 FP Tahiti.

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Warner Pacific Line services Auckland, Nuku'alofa, Vavau, Apia, Pago Pago fortnightly carrying general and freezer cargoes. Details from McKay Shipping Ltd., Downtown House, 21 Queen St., Auckland, PO Box 1372 (30-299), Cables: MACSHIP, Telex NZ2554, Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Mealelei (Western Samoa) Ltd. Private Bag, Apia, Western Samoa, Pacific Maritime Services, PO Box 2617, Pago Pago, American Samoa (633-2728), cables: Pacmar SX205.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JUNE, 1986



Vicente D. Sablan

On Saipan on March 22, aged 62.

Vicente D. Sablan served as mayor of Saipan for 14 consecutive years, from 1962 to 1976.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Governor Pedro P. Tenorio ordered flags of the CNMI to be flown at half mast in honor of Mr Sablan, before a state funeral at Mt Carmel Church, with burial to follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Governor Tenorio said in a message to Sablan's widow Felicidad and the late mayor's family: "As your husband and father was a prominent citizen of our Commonwealth and our previous governmental systems, with his contributions to our political, social and economic development, we feel it is most proper that we offer to accord him a state funeral ceremony. While we strongly feel that such recognition and respect is due to your father, we wish to undertake such a ceremony only on your family's concurrence."

Mr Sablan was vice-president of the Saipan Grand Hotel at the time of his death, a position he had held since 1975.

He was elected to the Saipan Municipal Congress in 1949 and served there until 1957. He was elected mayor in 1962, and never lost an election for that position.

Sablan attended the Japanese technical college on Saipan, and also graduated from the Japanese public school in 1938.

He worked for the naval government from 1945-50; and from 1950-54 he worked as a storekeeper for the Naval Supply Center. From 1954-57 he worked for the 360th Composite Service Company as comptroller and timekeeper. He also worked from 1957-60 as chief guard for the Naval Technical Training Unit (NTTU), and as a storekeeper for the Trust Territory Government from 1960-62.

Mataifale Toeaina

In San Francisco on March 25,

aged 61.

Hundreds of mourners were expected from the South Pacific and Hawaii in San Francisco in early April for three funeral services honoring the Rev Mataifale Toeaina, the founder and guiding spirit of the 34-congregation First Samoan Full Gospel Pentecostal Church.

Mr Toeaina was returning from New Zealand where he had gone to begin a new congregation when he became ill. He was hospitalised in Hawaii but then returned to his home in San Francisco where he died in hospital.

A native of Ofu, Manua, American Samoa, Mr Toeaina came to San Francisco in 1952 and was employed as a steel worker.

In 1962, while attending a church service in Oakland across the bay from San Francisco, he received what his wife called "a call from the Lord". He was directed, she said, "to lead his people as Moses led the people of Israel". From the modest beginning of sharing quarters with an Episcopalian congregation in San Francisco's working class Mission District, the church grew continuously.

The 34 congregations now in existence include churches in American Samoa, Western Samoa, New Zealand, Hawaii, Texas, Oklahoma, California and Stuttgart, West Germany, where a large number of Samoans serve in the United States Army.

Mr Toeaina is survived by his wife, Lefete Tuiasosopo Toeaina; by two natural sons, and eight adopted children, by three sisters and two brothers. The funeral services were all to be held in San Francisco, the city at which the churchman will be buried. — *Ralph Craib in San Francisco.*

Georges Pisier

In Paris on March 13, aged 75.

Mr Pisier at the time of his death was the honorary president of New Caledonia's Historical Studies Society (SEH).

Born in Saigon, he became a graduate of the National School of Overseas France, Paris, and gained degrees in Oriental lan-

guages and law.

In his career in the administration of Overseas France, he served in Indochina from 1933 to 1950, and in New Caledonia from 1950 to 1966. He was for a number of years in charge of the economic affairs section of New Caledonia's administration.

Greatly interested in the history of New Caledonia, he became a foundation member of the SEH in 1969, and served on its administrative council from that time until his return to France a few months before his death.

The SEH published a number of his works on aspects of the history of the territory.

It said in an obituary tribute in its quarterly bulletin (No. 67, March-June, 1986): "In everything he did he showed the qualities of the true historian: careful documentation, rigorous respect for the facts, and probity in their presentation. But with all this, he also had a talent for bringing to life the characters, events and places he was discussing."

The obituary added that Georges Pisier was enamored of the sea ... a love reflected not only in subjects he chose to write about, but also in his frequent voyages in New Caledonian waters aboard his trimaran, *Mareva III*.

PIM last had occasion to quote from Mr Pisier's work in its issue of December 1985 (p39), when it used sections of his admirable essay on the remarkable events of September-October, 1940, when an Australian warship played a key role in keeping New Caledonia on the Allied side in what 14 months later was to become the Pacific War.

Elsie Robinson

In Suva on March 9, aged 91.

Mrs Robinson, formerly of Savusavu, was the widow of Fred Robinson and mother of Mrs Merle Thompson, of Nananu-i-Ra Island.

She was the daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Lepper, of Namawa plantation, Savusavu East, and sister of Mrs Ann

Haynes (Maravu, Savusavu), Mrs Eileen (Bunny) Morgan (Australia), Miss Sarah Lepper (deceased), Alfred Lepper (deceased), and Mrs Narvey Palmer (deceased).

Her funeral was held at the (Anglican) Holy Trinity Cathedral, Suva.

Frank Dig. Aldan

On Saipan on March 17, aged 33.

Saipan's former Fire Division chief, Mr Aldan was found dead at his home by two police officers who went to check on him after he failed to respond to repeated radio calls from the Department of Public Safety.

Fire fighters and a police honor guard escorted the body from Aldan's father's house in Garapan to the Kristo Rai Church before the burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and his wife Sophie also attended the funeral, as did members of the Fifth Legislature, government officials, family and friends.

Department of Public Safety Director Felix Cabrera said in a eulogy: "Frank only saw the best in everyone. He provided a wonderful balance in my life, which I will miss. And so I will keep a special place in my heart for him."

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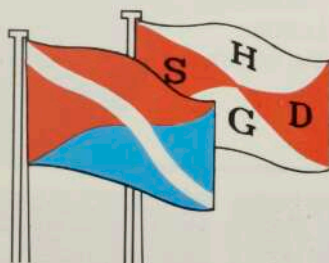
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