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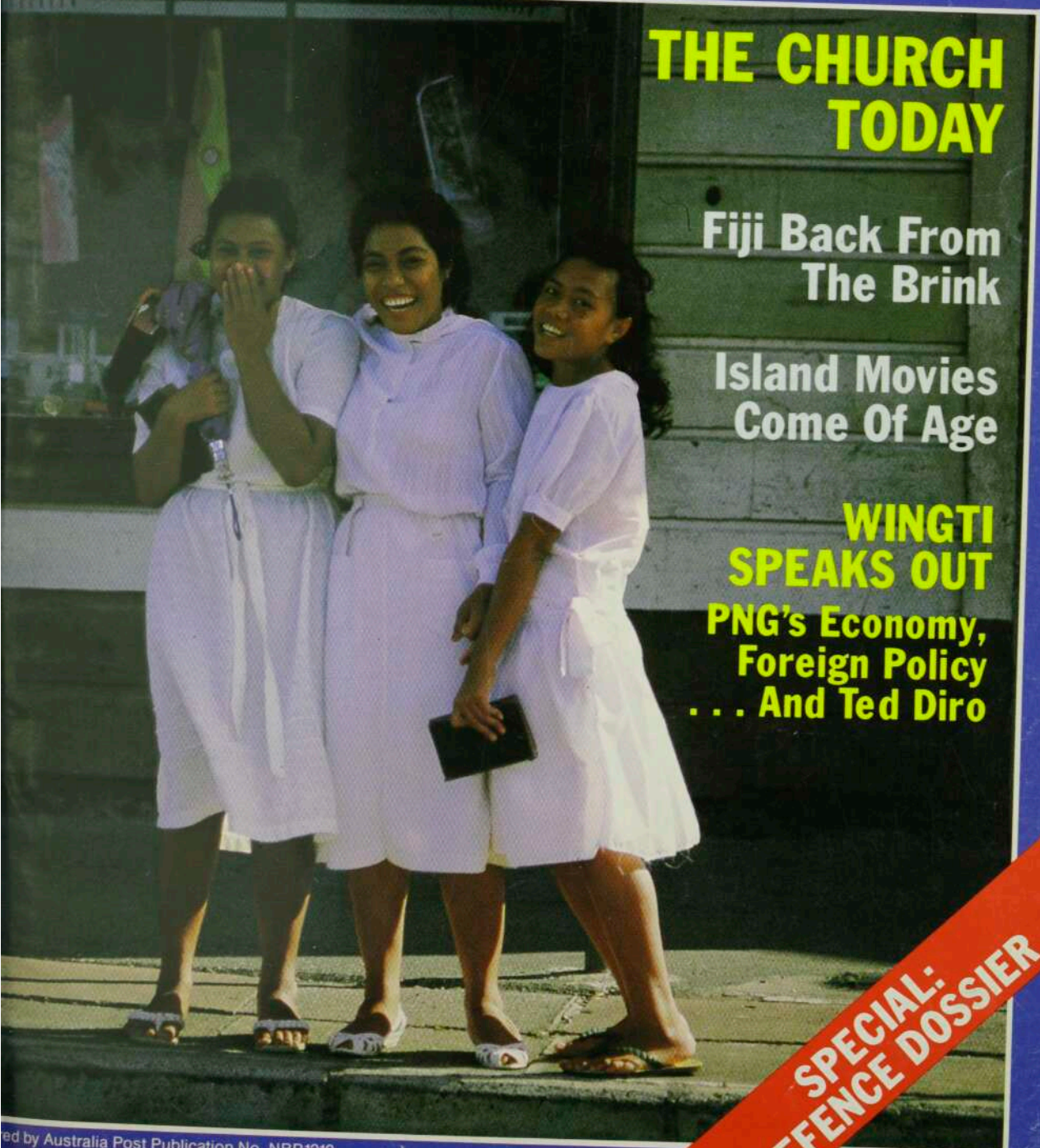
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JANUARY 1988



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WINGTI SPEAKS OUT

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25
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 59, No. 1

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

January, '88



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ALL THE HELP
YOU NEED...

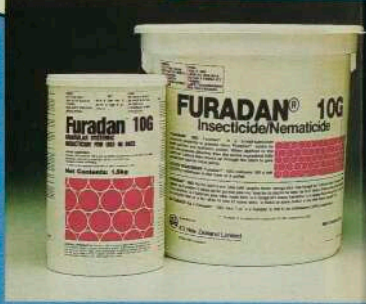
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No Cause For Confidence

An ailing leader and a shaky victory signal a need for the newly elected Vanua'aku Party to put an end to its internecine struggles.

WITH THE ruling Vanua'aku Party returned to power and Father Walter Lini named Prime Minister once again, Vanuatu's post-election politics might seem unchanged — but beneath this still surface, dramatic shifts are under way. The leadership of the VP Government remains in question, despite Father Lini's successful defence of his post against an unprecedented challenge from his party's secretary-general, Barak Sope. The Government itself, as it prepares for four more years shaping the nation, must be aware that its support is declining quickly; on present trends it could well lose the next election.

Father Lini and Barak Sope waged an extraordinary contest for the leadership of party and country in the early days of December, before reaching a consensus settlement as disarmingly traditional as it is unsatisfactory. Rivalry gives way to amity.

The opposition Union of Moderate Parties has a clearer picture of its needs; Vincent Boulekone, the leader in three unsuccessful election campaigns, was quickly replaced by the articulate Maxime Carlot. The UMP can afford to be pleased with its performance in the November 30 elections. It won 19 seats in the newly expanded 46-seat parliament and received 42 per cent of the popular vote, as against 33 per cent in 1983, while the VP saw its share drop below 50 per cent for the first time.

The allure that has long been attached to the VP as the party of the independence struggle may be wearing down, and the nine per cent swing away from the party is a warning signal that it must change or die. Some of this swing went to the UMP; some was absorbed by the group of small new parties that have emerged in the past year, such as Labour and the New Peoples Party.

While these parties may not yet have a voice in parliament, their creation spells the end of the VP's traditional map of Vanuatu politics — which often amounts to a simple (and simplistic) Anglophone prescription of us versus them, VP versus UMP, progressive versus conservative. The pattern of the election result was pervasive; in all

but one of the constituencies, the VP's vote was on the decline.

Against this background, the retention of Father Lini as Prime Minister, with an expanded role going to Mr Sope, is arguably the worst of all possible outcomes for the VP and for the nation. Father Lini has not recovered his health and may soon take medical leave of absence. His deputy will wield limited authority at a time when the nation needs concerted action — on both diplomatic and economic fronts — to regain a growth-path.

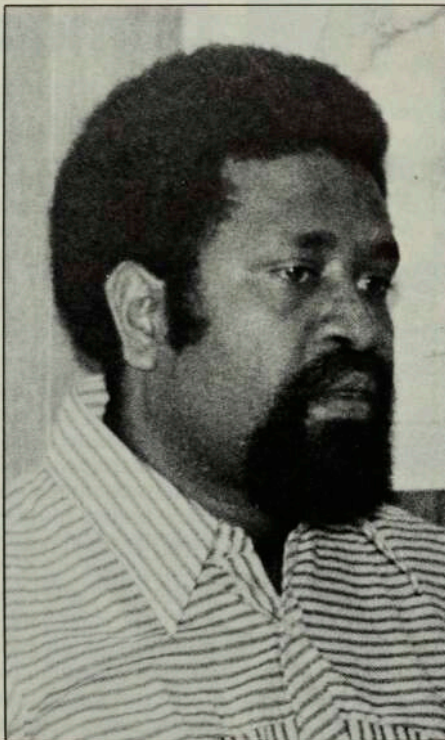
Mr Sope, a man with an instinctive and deep appreciation of and appetite for power, may not be the answer to a fledgling democracy's prayer either, despite his promises to run the country more "on business lines".

Regional powers have serious doubts about his controversial "Libyan initiative" and his intriguing combination of fiercely non-aligned foreign policies with a taste for free enterprise. But even if this elusive figure reinforces his role as party and Government strongman, a power vacuum remains at the top.

Vanuatu's priorities, as the nation continues the difficult transition from independence to development, should be clear: it needs more education, more foreign aid, more investment and a careful meshing of traditional and modern values. Seen in this light, the VP Government's running diplomatic war with the French is a quixotic struggle, covertly and ruinously directed at Vanuatu's own large Francophone minority and the UMP.

This election over, the time has come for the VP (long a party of revolution and struggle) to reshape itself into a force capable of leading all ni-Vanuatu — whatever their religion, island, ideology or language — forward. This

was the challenge the UMP's Mr Carlot offered the Government on the first day of the new parliament in Port Vila, when he pledged his party's efforts as a determined, but constructive, opposition. If the VP does not accept this challenge, devise and implement strong policies marshalled by a strong leader, its days as Vanuatu's dominant party could well be numbered.



Lini: fending off threats from within the VP.

History Lessons

AMID CALLS from FLNKS leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou for kanaks to arm themselves — in open defiance of New Caledonian law — and from RPCR loyalists that virtually every member of the FLNKS be jailed for inciting revolution — in gleeful adherence to New Caledonian law — pro-independence Melanesians are recognising the essentially long-term nature of their struggle and are working toward economic, social and education strategies that will build a base from which an independent Kanaky can move to true nationhood.

These strategies are vital to the creation of meaningful



FLNKS leader Tjibaou: chilling warning to French.

“kanakhood”, and likewise to the birth of an educated, experienced group that may one day steer Kanaky through the increasingly dangerous waters of the political Pacific. But today, the fact that opportunities are denied to Melanesians is a matter of record. And the denial of those opportunities, in the light of Mr Tjibaou’s call to arms, is a danger to every inhabitant of New Caledonia.

FLNKS spokesman Yeiwene Yeiwene points to statutory inequalities that place kanaks at a disadvantage in virtually every area of regional and individual betterment, as potential fuel for unrest: fuel that, in addition to proposed changes to New Caledonia’s internal administration, could well kindle the kanak revolution the French would seem to desire.

Such a revolution would cost lives needlessly, and would serve only to further erode France’s already shaky prestige in the Pacific. It would make a mockery of French

claims to philosophical and moral superiority, and would lead to condemnation of the most damning kind: sanctions that could topple an economy worryingly dependent on European Economic Community trading advantages, and sanctions that would certainly topple whichever metropolitan government was responsible.

France is not alone in its apparent inability to learn from history, yet its tragic recapitulation of the past need not continue. Indochina need not have led to Algeria; Tahiti and New Caledonia are not inevitable consequences of Algeria. Even the FLNKS has entreated France to cover itself in glory, not ashes, by devising and implementing policies that reflect a true appreciation of other nations’ bitter colonial heritage. Kanak independence would be greatly to France’s advantage, both on a domestic level and in the eyes of Pacific nations, watching and hoping that the “Pacific century” will be ushered in by a gesture worthy of the republic that sent the words *liberté, égalité, fraternité* echoing around the world.

Democracy Bound

ANOTHER MONTH, another chapter in the Fiji Republic saga. But this time, the situation is brighter. Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau and Ratu Sir Kamiseva Mara are back at the helm as President and Prime Minister of the Republic and making plans to restore democracy and to revive the economy of the battered nation. Notwithstanding the damage done to the country’s vital institutions by the Rabuka coups, the two statesmen’s chances of success seem good. Recovery will not be easy, it will not be quick, but it will come — so long as the spirit of co-operation that has flooded the country since Brigadier Rabuka’s decision to institute civilian Government can be maintained.

The President and Prime Minister have the support of many of the people of Fiji (though their refusal to include Dr Bavadra in their plans at any level will inevitably cost them Indian co-operation). Brigadier Rabuka, striving these days to appear as a paragon of moderation, will deliver the backing of the armed forces. Even a number of influential Taukei leaders have pledged support.

And it is probable that the civilian Government can count on regaining the backing of such recently estranged allies as Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Great Britain . . . though re-entry to the Commonwealth may be a long way away, as Fiji’s situation will not be considered again until the next CHOGM conference in 1991. To come back to the fold Fiji would need the vote of all members, including that of India — a remote prospect. But it is likely that most of the old partners will (like old friends who fall out often do), make up, shake hands and go on to enjoy a friendship made even stronger by the breach.

Before Ratu Sir Penaia and Ratu Mara lies a historic and monumental challenge. The future of Fiji, no less, depends upon their success. □

Letters

PNG'S EDUCATION CRISIS

PAPUA NEW Guinea, a "late developer" when it comes to formal education, has in the past 20 years expanded tertiary education dramatically. Today, there are more than 68 institutions: many of these are small and inefficient, but cater to regional, provincial and parochial interests.

The recent cuts at the University of PNG have demoralised staff: "there by the grace of God go I" is the prevailing attitude. Staff associations have threatened legal action over breach of contract, and are demanding compensation of at least one year's salary (instead of the three months' notice the university has offered). But this clause is not in the contracts of citizens with tenure or five-year contracts.

Many Papua New Guinean staff have worked at the university for up to a decade, and the university has invested considerable sums in their further education — only now to dump them.

Papua New Guinea is a major Pacific power with tremendous fisheries resources. To abolish the Department of Fisheries at the University is both counterproductive and against the stated goal of developing primary industry. All dental training has recently been amalgamated; the abolition of the Department of Dentistry will mean the Health Department has to begin over again its programs for training technicians. The Educational Research Unit has gained a reputation for effective applied research that has benefited the nation over the past 15 years. It will not be easy to start up such institutions after they have been closed — when and if the Government changes its mind.

There is also a major bottleneck in the number of students completing Science Foundation Year. Medicine, Fisheries, Dentistry, Biology and so on are all competing for this limited pool of students. Moves to add Foundation Year to the National High Schools might further undermine the university. What is needed is more Grade 12 leavers — there are only four National High Schools — to increase the pool of available science students.

Perhaps the real tragedy for PNG will be that if the university is unable to honour its contracts it undermines its ability to recruit expatriate and national staff in the future. People will not want to work in PNG if their contracts can be cancelled at short notice with minimal compensation. Anyone considering a job in PNG should check with someone already there as to the security of their contract.

Sheldon Weeks
Educational Research Unit
University of PNG
Port Moresby, PNG

A NUCLEAR-FREE PACIFIC

WE, THE National Executive Council of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) share our prayerful support for the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone. We are committed to work and witness any way we can for a nuclear-free Pacific. We believe that stockpiling, testing, transporting, or disposing the waste of nuclear material, fuel or weaponry is a present danger to the wholeness and health of all Pacific peoples, as well as a threat to the security and integrity of their territories.

Now we understand that our own nation is preparing a new "Pacific Initiative". First reports indicate this proposed alliance will allow and safeguard greater US presence — therefore, greater US pressure — throughout the Pacific Basin. This in turn may well foreshadow an even greater political aggrandisement, with military, nuclear acceptance and accessibility required of all our partners in the Pacific region.

The Rt Rev William Davidson
and the Rev Layton P Zimmer
Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Washington, DC
United States

FIJI COUP QUESTIONS

BETWEEN them in their two separate articles your October correspondents Dr Brij Lal (*Letters*) and Joann Wypijewski (*The Fiji Coup: Was America to Blame?*) locate the two key factors to understanding the May coup in Fiji.

Wypijewski's tightly argued case is obviously the more contentious of the two statements, but for the interest of open-minded readers may I just invite them to re-examine the much-circulated photo of Rabuka with the soldier in the balaclava on the day of the coup. If they have had any prolonged experience of living in Fiji I think they will have serious doubts as to whether the balaclava'd soldier pictured alongside Rabuka is either ethnic Fijian or (less likely anyway) a part-European. For myself I have little doubt the man is neither.

Closer examination of all of the photos taken of the coup on May 14 might therefore prove interesting. So, incidentally, might examination of the social composition of soldiers (conveniently?) out of the country at the time, such as those on courses in New Zealand.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JANUARY 1988 9

FIJI

Back From The Brink

Democracy and economic recovery are at last in sight.

FIJI HAS a civilian government once more, after the military, which seized power in May, decided to hand back power to former Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau who becomes the first President of the Republic of Fiji.

The change was the last link in a dramatic chain of events and top level discussions between military leader and head of the military government Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, Ratu Sir Penaia and former Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

Ratu Sir Penaia had earlier expressed his willingness to accept the President's position — provided he was satisfied that the new Constitution, which will replace the 1970 Independence Constitution, adequately protected the rights of all people in Fiji. Brigadier Rabuka had officially offered the post to Ratu Sir Penaia; Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara had also accepted the Prime Ministership provided he had a free hand to select his own ministers and to set a time frame of two years to get the country back to parliamentary democracy.

On December 5 — the very day the executive council of the military Government was to meet to discuss the two drafts of the new Constitution — Brigadier Rabuka announced that he was abdicating and handing power back to the Governor General, whom he had now appointed as the first President of the Republic of Fiji. The surprise announcement shocked most ministers, and the brigadier was reportedly almost persuaded to change his mind.

All 22 ministers in the military administration have been given 10 months' salary in compensation. The four newly appointed supreme court judges have also had their appointments terminated and have been paid three months' salary in compensation. This is designed to give Ratu Sir Kamisese a free hand in putting in place an independent judiciary; the magistracy is also likely to be reorganised.

Brigadier Rabuka and Ratu Sir Penaia both addressed the nation in a radio

broadcast that night, outlining their reasons for stepping down and for accepting new positions.

Brigadier Rabuka explained that from the very beginning he had made it clear he had no intention of keeping political power himself: he said his men and officers had supported him to "prevent what we had seen over the past few years; the gradual erosion of the Fijian way of life with threats to the customs and traditions of the Fijian people."

In his address, the Brigadier also made it clear that the Bavadra win in the April election was not the beginning but "the moment when the threats became intolerable". He said the 1970 Constitution was "inadequate to protect the values and principles and way of life of the Fijian people", particularly when a political party not predominantly Fijian was in power.

Ratu Sir Penaia said he and the Brigadier had agreed that Fiji should have the best Constitution that could be devised. They were also in agreement on the maximum requirements that will be needed to protect the interests of indigenous Fijians: requirements that may eventually be reflected "in a number of ways". The leaders of Fiji, he said, desired a return to

parliamentary democracy and the re-establishment of links with the Crown.

Reaction locally was positive, and was hailed as a move in the right direction. However, foreign governments, especially those of Australia and New Zealand, were reserved in their initial responses. New Zealand Foreign Minister Russell Marshall said the changes were a substantial step forward and could lead to an increase in his country's level of recognition of Fiji. Australia also said it looked forward to seeing details of the new Constitution. Australia's acting Foreign Minister, Michael Duffy, said the appointments of Ratu Sir Penaia and Ratu Sir Kamisese indicated an early return to a truly civilian government was now possible.

In a national radio broadcast, the newly appointed Prime Minister pleaded with

the people of Fiji to cast aside enmity and hatred and to put the past behind them. He appealed for co-operation and promised in turn to do "everything possible" to put Fiji back on a sound footing as soon as possible.

Ratu Mara emphasised that his Government was only an interim government and asked for everyone's support to pave the way for general elections as soon as possible. He also took the opportunity of once again categorically denying that he was in any way involved in the two military coups. "I say in all honesty and sincerity that I was not a party to them, either prior to or after," he said. "My action in becoming an adviser in previous administrations was motivated solely by my desire to help my country in a time of need; a country for which I have sacrificed the greater part of my life."

In his address to his cabinet ministers, Ratu Mara called on them to build bridges of understanding and co-operation between the people and the Government. "The people of this country are looking to us for help and the world is looking at us with interest," he said. "We cannot fail; we should not fail. If we do, we ourselves are failures."

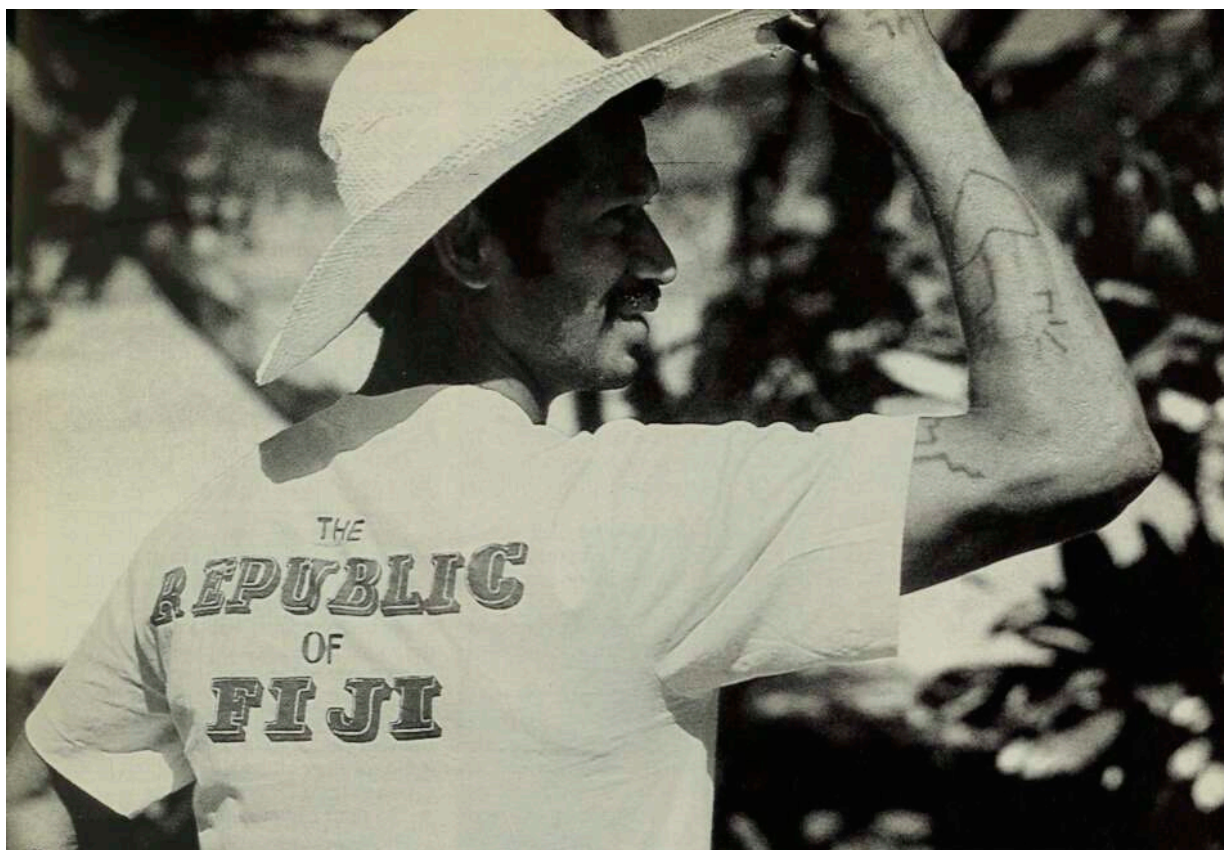
Observers in Fiji say the change was necessary to save the country from economic ruin. Investor confidence has eroded to a level where even the most attractive packages are not having the desired effect of luring foreign investors. Locally, no new investment is being made and the building and construction industry has almost come to a halt. Indians in both professions and business are leaving the country, inflation is on the increase and unemployment is also rising. To restore confidence and win back the goodwill of the business community (and particularly of its Indian members), it was necessary to put in command a leader who has the image of a "saviour".

The NFP/Labour coalition, deposed Government of Dr Timoci Bavadra, has made no official comment on the changes in leadership and the handing of power from a military to a civilian government.

In a letter to the *Fiji Times*, Dr Bavadra explained that he was monitoring the situation closely and said "the public can accurately judge things for themselves." However, he made it clear that "neither I nor my party were consulted about the composition of the interim government and have not to date been invited to discuss any aspects of the new



Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau: back in charge.



◀ Constitution which, I understand, is to be promulgated some time soon."

The deposed Prime Minister also said that while he was glad to note that the President and the Prime Minister in their statements had said they were not subjected to military pressure in choosing the new civilian administration, he was puzzled, "if that was the case, that neither of them attempted to get in touch with me even to discuss the future, especially after the goodwill that seemed to be present at the conclusion of the Deuba Accord on September 23."

The Taukei movement, which backed the military Government of Brigadier Rabuka, is reported to be split on the change of government. One faction led by Ratu Meli Vesikula, Minister for Fijian Affairs in the military Government, is critical of the changes and says Taukei does not support any decision outside the mandate of the Great Council of Chiefs.

However, another faction led by Reverend Tomasi Raikivi, Minister for Social Welfare in the military Government, has pledged its support to the new Government. Both Ratu Meli and Mr Raikivi have been dropped from the cabinet. Reverend Raikivi led a delegation of about 100 people to Government House and made a traditional offering pledging their full support for the new leadership. The group thanked Ratu Sir Penaia and Ratu Sir Kamisese for accepting the positions and sought forgiveness for insulting and abus-

ing Ratu Sir Penaia during the Great Council of Chiefs meeting at the Civic Centre in July. Spokesmen said they were happy the leadership of the country had gone back to the chiefs.

Accepting their support, Ratu Sir Penaia acknowledged that there were some who did not support the new Government; in his first nationwide broadcast as President, he warned those who "may seek to cause unrest in the future" that "we must

set ourselves firmly against violence, hatred and disorder". Later, a petition signed by some 1000 Taukei supporters affirming their support for the new Government was delivered to Government House. However, the faction led by Ratu Meli claimed that the group led by Reverend Raikivi had no mandate to act on behalf of the Taukei movement.

Ratu Meli's faction has joined forces with the Fijian Nationalist Party in con-



Top: Public support for the new team. Above: Taukei's Rev Raikivi.

demning the way the President and Prime Minister have been appointed to run the new Government. Leader of the Fijian Nationalists, Sakeasi Butadroka, was Minister for Lands and Energy in the military Government but has been dropped from the Mara cabinet. The two sides are also critical of the manner in which the ministers of the military Government were "got rid of".

They have announced plans to form a

joint political front to represent what they call the "true aspirations of the Fijian people". Ratu Meli said it was necessary to act now to safeguard the interests of the Fijian people.

A spokesman for the Taukei faction opposing the changes said the struggle to achieve the aims of the movement was not over yet. However, Ratu Meli has admitted that provincialism and tribalism were likely to surface again. □

Ratu Mara's Cabinet

Fiji's veteran politician and statesman Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara has appointed a 21-member cabinet, with himself taking the portfolios of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Service.

Ten of the ministers were in the military Government of Brigadier Rabuka, and three army colonels besides Brigadier Rabuka have been allocated cabinet portfolios.

Of the 12 Taukei supporters in the military Government, five have retained cabinet positions and seven have been dropped.

Of the 21 cabinet ministers, all except the four army officers and four others are either former Alliance ministers or Alliance parliamentarians.

Ratu Josaia Tavaqia: Minister for Forestry. Held the same position in the Alliance Government and in the military Government.

Dr Apenisa Kurisaqila: Minister for Health. Held this portfolio in the Alliance Government and in the dissolved military Government.

Charles Walker: Minister for Information. Minister for Primary Industries in the Alliance Government.

Tomasi Vakatora: Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Speaker of the House in the Alliance Government.

Ishwari Bajpai: Minister for Co-Operatives and the National Marketing Authority. Served in the Alliance Government as Minister of State for Co-Operatives.

Ratu William Toganivalu: Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources. Served in various portfolios in the Alliance Government.

Taniela Veitata: Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. Held the same portfolio in the military Government.

Viliame Gonelevu: Minister for Primary Industries. Held the same position in the military Government.

David Pickering: Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation and Energy. Served as Minister for Tourism in the military Government.

Irene Jai Narayan: Minister for Indian Affairs, a new portfolio created by the military Government.

Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka: Minister for Home Affairs, National Youth Service and Auxiliary Army Services.

Colonel Ilaisa Kacisolomone: Minister for Youth and Sports. Held the same post in the military Government.

Colonel Vatiliyai Navunisaravi: Minister for Fijian Affairs. Immediate past commissioner of Native Lands and Fisheries.

Lt Col Apolosi Biuvakaloloma: Minister for Rural Development and Rural Housing. Was in charge of the Army's Trade Training School and its Rural Unit.

Sailosi Kepa: Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. Fiji's High Commissioner in London and before that, Director of Public Prosecutions.

Beredado Vunibobo: Minister for Trade and Commerce. Currently UNDP representative in Pakistan, he will resign to take his Fiji appointment. Mr Vunibobo was Fiji's representative at the United Nations and has also served as Permanent Secretary in the Civil Service.

Josefa Kamikamica: Minister for Finance and Economic Planning. Was manager of the Native Lands Trust Board and is an experienced civil servant and economist.

Finau Tabakaucoro: Minister for Women's Affairs and Social Welfare. Previously lecturer in social and administrative studies at the University of the South Pacific.

Of the 21 cabinet ministers, two are Indians and two are part-Europeans.

Soon after the new cabinet was announced, a joint statement from the President and the Prime Minister categorically denied that the cabinet appointments were made in accordance with conditions under which Brigadier Rabuka had agreed to hand power to the new Government.

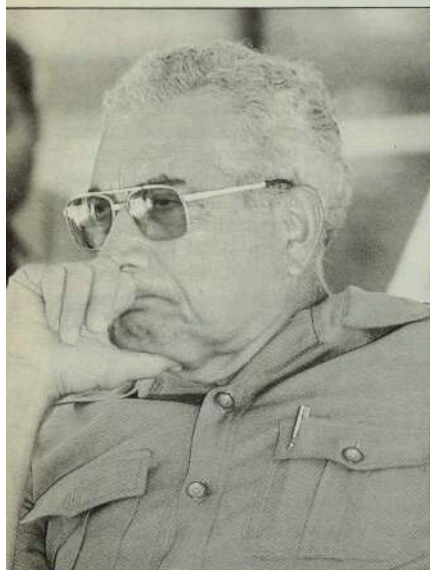
The Fiji Times had said that the appointments were based on a set of conditions forwarded to the two leaders:

- No member of the NFP/Labour Coalition to be in the new cabinet.
- The draft constitution prepared by the military be accepted and any amendments to go through the forces advisers.
- Two army officers to be included in any constitutional review committee and any committee formed for this purpose in the future.
- At least two officers other than the Commander to be part of the interim Government.
- No non-Fijian who was a former member of the colonial administration to be engaged in any advisory capacity.
- There be meetings between the President, the Prime Minister and the Commander and senior army officers at least once a month.
- Operation Yavato, an anti-corruption investigation, to be continued.
- The Public Service Commission portfolio to be included in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

However, the joint statement from Ratu Sir Penaia and Ratu Mara stated that "the President and the Prime Minister consider they should take the unusual step of publicly refuting the accuracy of the two reports since they relate to such an important event of political change in Fiji."

"The eight points as reported were brought to the notice of both the President and the Prime Minister. Neither the President nor the Prime Minister agreed to treat the points as conditions as part of their acceptance of office. Such suggestion was categorically refused.

"It was stated that the points could be treated as discussion points, and achieved no other status." □



Ratu Mara: a hard road ahead.

Fiji's civilian Government cabinet members are:

Filipe Bole: Minister for Education, a portfolio he held in the Alliance Government. He was Foreign Minister in the military Government.

Apisai Tora: Minister for Communications, Works and Transport. He held the same portfolio in the Alliance Government and in the military Government.

VANUATU

Lini Blocks Sope's Power Bid

Vanuatu's leader is still a force to be reckoned with. By John Dunn

VANUATU'S future role in the South Pacific will be one of the area's greatest question marks, and one of its most fascinating studies, as the new year gets underway.

Until his stroke in Washington last February, 44-year-old Prime Minister Father Walter Lini had led his 130,000 people along an independent, non-aligned (or, as some would describe it, a relatively radical) road. There had been the connection with the Soviet Union in the form of the one-year, \$A2 million fishing agreement signed last January.

Then there had been the flirtation with Libya, in the form of training in Tripoli, in "journalism" and as bodyguards, of some 30 or 40 young party men. To this was added an attempt, albeit clumsy, by two Libyan agents to set up a bureau in Port Vila: a move that was wisely cancelled by the Vanuatu Government. Throughout all this has been the contretemps with the French over Vanuatu's support for the independence-seeking kanaks in New Caledonia.

Father Lini's illness and his recuperation have taken him and his country out of the political limelight over recent months, though some issues kept simmering.

As the country's election campaign geared up, difficulties with the French flared again. Vanuatu expelled French ambassador Henri Crepin-Leblond, claiming France was funding the Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) opposition, led by 43-year-old lawyer Vincent Boulekone. A furious France denied the charges and withdrew almost all its diplomatic staff in Port Vila.

The election is now over and Lini's Vanua'aku Party has retained government, winning 26 of the 46 seats in the expanded parliament. But instead of solving the arguments and settling the issues the election has opened a whole new set of possibilities, producing a situation that makes Vanuatu an even greater enigma. Normally it would have been safe to assume that Lini's return to power would have meant a continuation of the country's previous policies. But the situation became suddenly both cloudy and complicated with the bid for power of Barak Sope, 36, secretary-general since 1976 of the Vanua'aku Party and the man long considered to be the power behind the nation's throne.

It has been generally accepted that Vanuatu's independence has been the strategy of some who, from behind the



Above: Father Walter Lini, fighting ill health and an increasingly precarious political position. Left: Lini and VP secretary-general Barak Sope — at odds on Vanuatu's regional relationships.

COMMODITY PRICES

	Dec. 8, 1987	Month Ago	Year Ago
Gold (USD/oz) (Comex, Spot)	483.50	461.90	390.30
Silver (USD/oz) (Spot)	6.72	6.51	5.37
Copper (US cents/lb) (wirebars seller)	128.00	106.00	66.50
Nickel (£/tonne)	3845.00	3200.00	2545.00
Cocoa (USD/tonne)	1736.00	1834.00	1807.00
Coffee (US cents/lb) (Spot)	124.50	127.10	138.75
Copra (USD/tonne)	345.00	315.00	265.00
Rubber (US cents/lb) (Spot)	49.75	49.00	44.25
Sugar (US cents/lb) (Spot)	7.58	7.27	6.30
Palm oil (USD/tonne)	405.00	365.00	293.00
Skipjack (USD/tonne) (A/Samoa)	917.00	990.00	615.00
Dakua (USD/cub. mtr) (kiln dried, rough sawn, fob)	361.00	365.00	331.00

EXCHANGE RATES

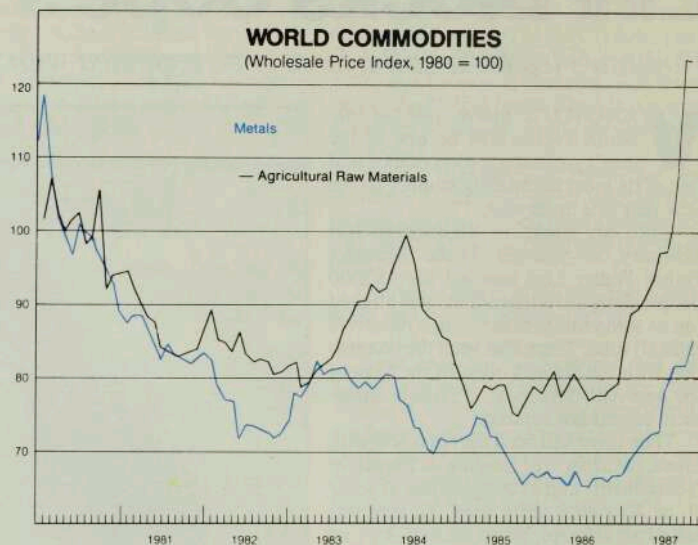
USDI buys:		Dec. 8, 1987	Month Ago	Year Ago
Australia	dollar	1.43	1.46	1.53
New Zealand	dollar	1.56	1.59	1.98
Fiji	dollar	1.49	1.51	1.18
New Caledonia and Tahiti	franc	103.77	102.57	120.05
Papua New Guinea	kina	0.89	0.89	0.98
Solomon Islands	dollar	1.99	2.00	1.97
Tonga	pa'anga	1.43	1.46	1.53
Vanuatu	vatu	105.54	105.73	119.09
Western Samoa	talā	2.09	2.12	2.29

INTEREST RATES

	Short Term			Long Term		
	Dec. 8 1987	Month Ago	Year 1987	Dec. 8 1987	Month Ago	Year 1987
Australia	11.60	13.00	15.85	13.18	13.53	13.60
New Zealand	16.20	18.40	16.50	14.05	15.50	16.00
USA	7.88	7.35	5.79	8.88	8.75	7.69
Japan	3.91	3.96	4.43	5.10	4.30	4.77

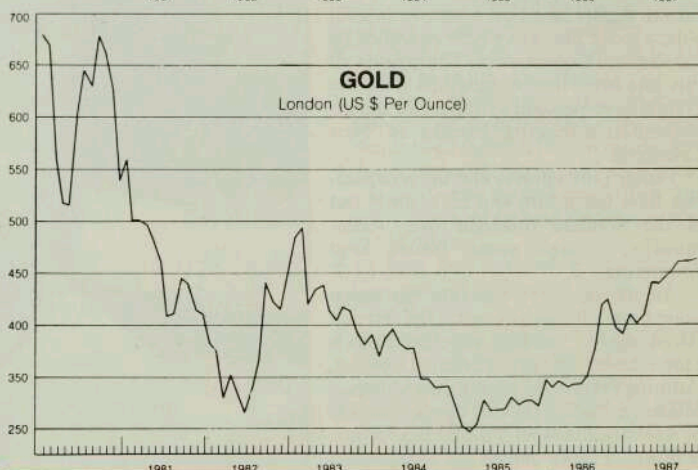
WORLD COMMODITIES

(Wholesale Price Index, 1980 = 100)



GOLD

London (US \$ Per Ounce)



INDUSTRIAL WORLD DEMAND

Industrial Output (per cent change)				
		In Latest month	In Previous month	From Year Ago
Belgium	(Jul)	-2.7	-2.5	+1.2
Canada	(Sept)	+1.2	+1.4	+7.4
France	(Sept)	+1.0	-1.0	+0.7
Italy	(Sept)	+1.2	-5.9	+2.4
Japan	(Oct)	+1.2	+3.1	+8.1
Netherlands	(Aug)	0.0	+0.1	+0.1
Switzerland	(Q2)	+4.0	-12.0	-3.0
UK	(Sept)	+0.8	+0.8	+3.6
USA	(Oct)	+0.6	+0.0	+5.1
West Germany	(Sept)	-3.6	+4.1	-1.3
TOTAL OECD	(Aug)	+0.3	+0.5	+4.0

Sources: AAP Reuters, FFA Honiara, Fiji Forest Industries IMF (IFS). Compiled by ANZ International Economics, Melbourne.

"Sope moved his bid into top gear, claiming Lini's health was not up to the Prime Ministership and that he himself was best fitted for the job"



AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

The secretary generalship is the classic backbench position from which palace revolutions are launched . . .

scenes, has moulded the bullets for Lini to fire. So when it became clear that Sope was after the top job, it was assumed that if he were successful, Vanuatu would move even further from the pro-Western stance of most new nations in the South Pacific.

It was always Sope who pushed hardest for stronger ties with Libya, who visited there and who obviously saw value in establishing a connection. This, of course, suited colonel Gaddafi, keen to embarrass the French simply because they are his chief European adversary.

There was some surprise when Sope, in outlining his ideas after the election, made it clear that as leader he would attempt to improve relations with France and would seek an early restoration of full diplomatic links with Paris. One of his first actions, he said, would be to reopen negotiations on aid, which the French had cut as the gap between the countries widened.

Such a policy, if it were to be accepted by France, must surely include a substantially lower profile in the New Caledonia situation and certainly a far less supportive role for the kanaks. How else could acceptance of French support on one hand, and criticism of their actions on the other, be reconciled?

Sope is obviously a pragmatist as well as a politician. He knows the country's

fragile economy needs the aid France has been supplying and, presumably, was clearly prepared to give as well as to take — assuming he could get away with both.

Diplomats and governments pondered this potential contradiction as Sope moved his bid into top gear, claiming Lini's health was not up to the Prime Ministership and that he himself was the person best fitted for the job. He had other plans, too: he would open up Vanuatu to international investment and build a world-class airport capable of functioning as a regional crossroads for flights to and from Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and Southeast Asia.

At the regional level he underlined the importance he placed on the establishment of a Melanesian Federation involving Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Fiji as well as the pro-independence movements in Irian Jaya and New Caledonia — surely another puzzle if the French are to be wooed back.

But just when most observers, swayed by Sope's confidence and argument, were speculating on just where and how he might lead his land, Lini made it perfectly clear he was by no means to be dismissed. "Any move to oust me would require a lot of involvement by all party members, right down to the village level," he declared.

And so it proved. In the end, Lini retained the leadership, which presumably will mean a continuation of present policies. Or will it? Lini will be absent from Vila for long periods in 1988 when he travels to New Zealand for medical treatment. In fact, it's believed he may seek more than a year's leave so he can give himself every chance of a return to health. In view of that possibility, will he be able to continue to exert the necessary influence on his Government?

Can he continue to push the anti-nuclear and New Caledonian independence policies that have so angered the French in the past? Or will, as Sope realised, some sort of compromise be necessary in the interests of the economy?

And what of Sope? Will he be content to accept defeat and to support policies with which he may not entirely agree? Will he be content to serve as he has done in the past, or will the political ambitions that came so clearly to the surface in the aftermath of the election, re-appear? If Father Lini is absent for long periods, will Sope be tempted to exercise his own preferences?

The situation has been made even more fragile by Sope's refusal to accept the position of Deputy Prime Minister: he says he would rather continue running the party as secretary-general if he cannot have the top job. In Western politics, the secretary-generalship is the classic backbench position from which palace revolutions are launched. But perhaps the Melanesian way is different . . .

Adding to this somewhat unsettled situation is the analysis of the election's final voting figures. Polling officials reported a record 83 per cent turnout, with 56,600 of Vanuatu's registered 70,000 voters casting a ballot.

However, for the first time in three victorious elections, the Vanua'aku vote dropped below half, drawing just 47 per cent compared with 56 per cent in 1983 and 63 per cent in 1979. The UNP, though unsuccessful, increased its share significantly from 33 per cent to 42 per cent with small parties and independents making up the balance.

Looking at the situation from afar, Australia's national daily *The Australian* editorialised that Sope's challenge "had the potential to destabilise further the South Pacific and erode the diminishing support for democratic values in our region."

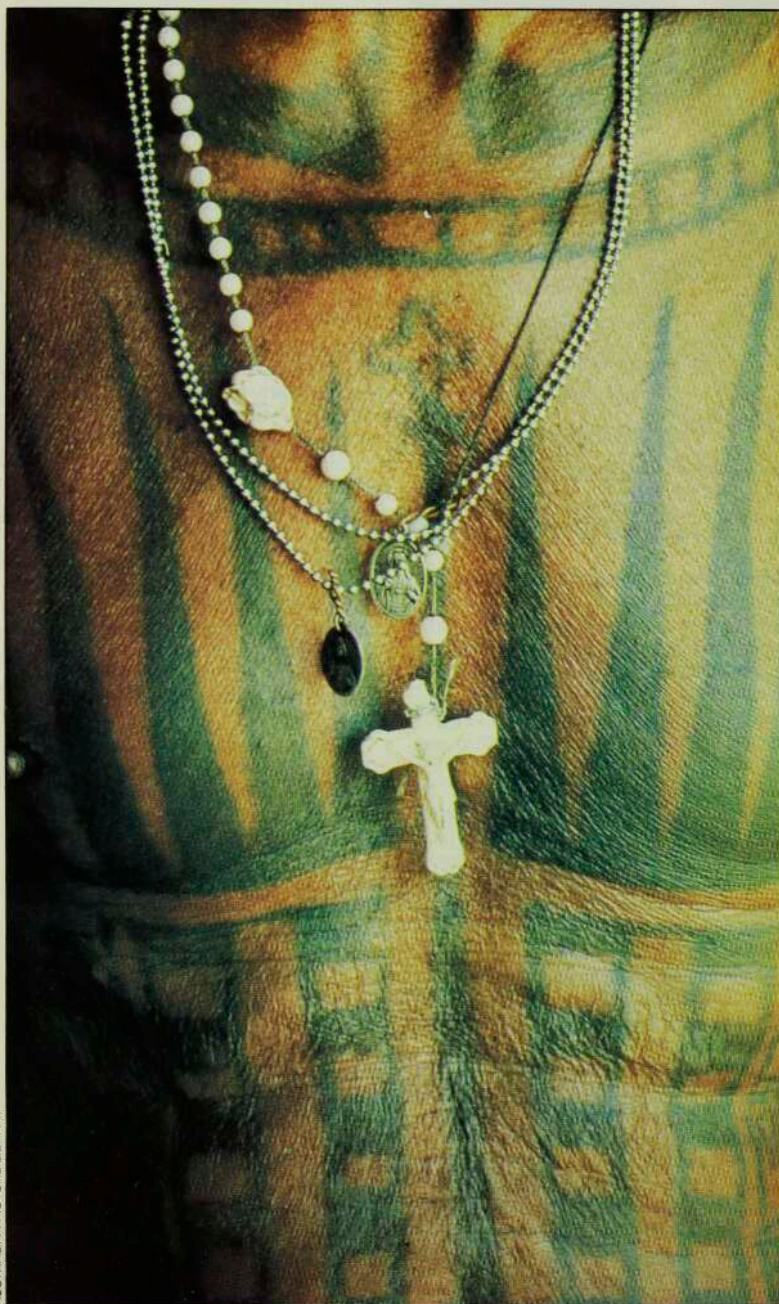
That may well be an unduly pessimistic view, but the situation in Vanuatu adds a further element of apprehension to the area's increasing volatility. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JANUARY 1988 15

FORUM

The Church Today

The Pacific hosts a variety of religions — some traditional, some radical. Yet there are few regions in the world where worship offers so strong a chance for unity and progress. By James S Murray



AUSTRALIAN PICTURE LIBRARY

The peoples of the Pacific have inherited, for the most part, forms of Christianity derived from colonial backgrounds and while independence has largely brought about a severance of former colonial ties, with a few notable exceptions the Christian inheritance has been retained.

There are now signs of restiveness, especially in New Caledonia, where Catholicism tends to be the faith of the governing and Evangelical Christianity the inspiration of the kanak independence movement.

In Papua New Guinea, too, there are signs of irritation (to put it at its mildest) with colonial vestiges attached to church organisation, though the word "missionary" does not seem as dirty as it has become in parts of Africa and Asia and its synonym with "imperialist" remains unused by most Pacific peoples.

But if the ocean is "pacific", there is a new mood these days among the region's Christians that could lead to more energetic articulations of a Christianity distinctively local, as the churches' leadership and expertise have been increasingly indigenised.

Indeed, there is a growing appreciation by European clergy, theologians and teachers that Pacific Christianity has many insights to teach to traditional Western Christianity. The old fear of syncretism — the assimilation of "pagan" culture into Christian forms — has been overcome to a certain degree by the encouragement of what is called "inculturation".

Yet inherited fears abound, and the presence of Asians of alien faiths within the Pacific can still arouse fears that belong more to traditional European prejudices. This has become apparent since the Rabuka coups in Fiji, where the Taukei movement has embraced not only an incipient indigenous nationalism (which is understandable enough) but a detestation of the Hinduism and Islam the majority of Indians honour (though such honour seems as nominal as it is among most Western Christians).

It has seen the imposition of Christian norms over an actual majority, and the introduction of a "sabbath" observance no longer in place in any developed country.

If the Fijian model seems unlikely to be



Opposite page, above, right: Symbols of Pacific religion — a worshipper in Yap; Mormon preacher in Tonga; Catholicism in Fiji.

imitated elsewhere in the Pacific, the steady inroads of more arbitrary Protestantism from the United States should not be underestimated. The increasingly successful evangelism of the Seventh Day Adventists in the Pacific could bring with it social practices and taboos as alien to Pacific cultures as those imposed in Fiji.

One constraint on the process has been the indigenisation of the leadership and pastorate of the churches. Nonetheless, the social ills brought by European intervention have not only dismayed many church leaders but turned some to patriarchal roles that were not their original prerogative. The condemnation of alcohol, and of gambling and smoking — an evangelistic plank of the Adventists and other fundamental Christians — has attracted rather than repelled many Pacific Christians who have seen their cultures and societies under moral threat.

It is interesting that much of the early evangelism of the Pacific was carried out not by foreign missionaries but by local converts: there was also pressure from paramount and high chiefs who carried their people with them into Christian allegiance, though the material inducements foreign missionaries could offer played no small part in deciding which denomination would win the day.

The Catholic Church was often the poor relation in such loyalty competitions, and the Protestant missionaries not the least chary in developing convenient European-derived prejudices to further the work of salvation. A resort to fear was not unknown, and the ignorance of Christian differences often employed to gain ascendancy.

Pacific cultures, too, found the disci-

pline of celibacy extraordinary, and even if nuns and brothers showed compassion and lifelong devotion to their work, they seemed somewhat idiosyncratic on islands where family and tribal concepts were already in place. In general, apart from those areas where French influence has been predominant, Catholicism has made slow progress and its numerical presence is small.

Anglican missionary activity, however, was often vigorous and was conducted by men and women with some charisma. The majority of these missionaries came from Australia or New Zealand, and had the early enthusiasm of the Reverend Samuel Marsden, whose honour as an apostle of distinction is legendary in New Zealand.

The London Missionary Society was also a prime mover, and along with the Wesleyans, showed remarkable influence and power. But their rivalry was often unseemly, and at times dangerously divisive in native societies. It was not surprising that a day would come when missionaries of the same colour as the indigenous peoples would be more readily accepted.

World War II saw influences from the US arriving with some subtlety, and the more traditional churches were soon confronted by well-financed incursions from missionaries of a more aggressive kind, whose funding was often aided by tithing and was dependent on scalps being collected in conversion statistics that would

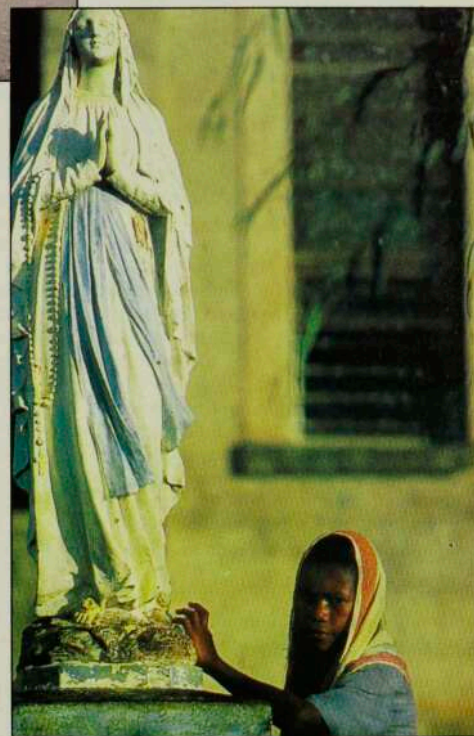
impress the folks back home in the USA.

In Papua New Guinea such appearances became a threat to the Christian bodies already settled there, which were soon faced by sizable challenges of reconstruction after the ravages of war.

ANGAU — the Australian-New Guinea Administration Unit — was said by some older missionaries to turn an oblivious post-war eye to the former mutually workable arrangement that had seen regions of missionary activity assigned to the London Missionary Society, the Anglican Church or the Catholic Church.

Now others, seen as sheep-stealers, arrived on the scene and were neither rebuked by authorities nor sent packing.

Cargo-cultism also offered Messianic expectations of plenty to those who had observed the profligacy of war, and the new cults and often livelier churches of American origin seemed to offer a sur-



AUSTRAL INTERNATIONAL

prising largesse both in spiritual stimuli and material rewards: the "Old Firm" was in rather depressed competitiveness.

Legends had meanwhile developed in the minds of the church supporters back home, both in Australia and those countries of Europe where converting the "noble savage" was still a challenge; and if Father Damien, the leper saint of the Hawaiian island of Molokai, brought tears to the eyes of Catholic memory, Anglicans had more recent martyrs at the hands of the Japanese; these they canonised in annual memory, if they had no mechanism by which they could become "saints" in the calendar of the church.

Yet it is in the favour of the major ►

churches of the Pacific — the Anglican, Wesleyan-cum-Methodist and Catholic Church — that there was positive encouragement that the leadership and the ordained ministry of their respective bodies should be eventually and properly indigenous. Nonetheless, it is only very recently that the superior position of leadership in any one church has been indigenous, and expatriates often still rule the roost.

It is interesting, too, that both Polynesian and Melanesian clergy have found no necessary conflict between religious vocation and political activity, even in party arenas. Father John Momis is notable in PNG, as leader of the Melanesian Alliance; and while he has no troops at his command, he shares with Brigadier Rabuka similar perceptions about Melanesian rights and was among the strongest critics of the Indonesian annexation of West Irian and East Timor. New Caledonia's Jean-Marie Tjibaou, while a man of immense charisma and intelligence, also trained as a priest and has the same ability not only to stir an audience but to apply analysis and logic to the consideration of political, philosophical and social ideas.

The higher echelons of government in the Pacific islands are filled by those educated in mission schools, and the right to rule is implicit among many of them. If their Christian conviction has not always remained entirely explicit, they still appeal to its norms as the benchmark against which even legislation and social developments are to be judged: even tourism often has to be disciplined to meet religious sensitivities.

Both the constitutions of the Solomon Islands and of PNG assert a "combined heritage". That for the Solomons declares pride in "the wisdom and the worthy customs of our ancestors" and commits the country to "the guiding hand of God". Papua New Guinea also pays homage to "the memory of our ancestors" and also pledges "to guard and pass on to those who come after us our noble traditions and Christian principles that are ours now".

If the Rabuka coup in Fiji seemed unpredictable, there should have been no astonishment that the Fijian and Indian communities were split not only on social lines but decisively on religious differences.

It is true that both had lived together for more than 100 years, yet the Hindu majority and Muslim minority (about 20 per cent of Indians are adherents of Islam) were considered by Christian Fijians to be beyond dialogue and to hold not only inferior but pagan beliefs.

The kingdom of Tonga is the most extreme in Sabbath observance, and the Methodist allegiance of the monarchy is enshrined in the constitution, with the king the titular head of the church. The police band accompanies hymns and there is a total ban on sports and on driving.

Two thorns in his side irritate the King. The incursion of the Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons); and the secularist protests of his own son, the Crown Prince, who no longer goes to church, and who retires on Sundays to an adjacent island to break all the traditional bans with his friends. According to Mormon statistics, one third of Tonga's population now belongs to their church and there is said to be a widespread Mormon belief that the Tongans are one of the "lost tribes of Israel". The King sees his spiritual authority being impugned by a church that offers higher education, and even territory training, in Hawaii.

In an attempt to head off the Mormons' growing influence, he imported a fiery evangelist from the United States but had little success in reclaiming adherents for the state church. His one victory was his refusal to renew the lease of a building the Mormons used as a temple . . . and transform it into a Chinese restaurant!

Others find the royal fiat rather oppressive; even Catholic activity is opposed. Bishop Finau, the local Catholic shepherd, is progressive and anxious about the social implications of the very Victorian Methodist current, as well as the traditional land tenure in Tonga.

Western Samoa follows a strict sabbatarian rule though it is not quite as closed as Tonga, where neither planes can land, nor ships tie up and unload on Sunday. If Tonga's 46,000 Mormons seem strong, American and Western Samoan Mormons have numbers as impressive, with less than 34,800 in Western Samoa alone.

Indeed, the spread of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints alarms many of the older churches, who often see their own flocks decimated by an idiosyncratic body which still expects tithes — a tenth of annual income — often from many whose earnings are minimal.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church, also sabbatarian but adhering to the Jewish sabbath, has also made inroads into establishing Christian church allegiance in the South Pacific, with 23,497 members in the Central Pacific area and 97,365 in the PNG union, as well as 21,578 in the Western Pacific.

It is admitted that the ban on alcohol appeals to many church members who see the depredations of Western influence harmful to indigenous societies. And both Mormons and Seventh Day Adventists offer a style of church government not so socially dissimilar from local custom. In the Pacific area alone, the Adventists have 993 pastors at work and more than 1000 teachers. With a hospital in PNG and two in the Solomons, they are undoubtedly important in the infrastructure of those countries; but if they eschew politics, their very presence has an influence.

This does not alter the fact that the institutional churches that first evangelised the Pacific are not still the major counselors to what are now independent countries. They have allowed increasing

exploration of past religious practices within local communities, and made honest confrontations with problems of sorcery and animism.

It is now generally admitted that there are major problems in church discipline, and the very Victorian ethos of much church activity ill prepares the present generation for a world approaching the 21st century. Marriage breakdown has hit the islands, and the universality of some kind of Christian belief — in the 1978 census in Kiribati, only 21 members of the population of some 60,000 did not admit to religious allegiance — has meant tension over such customs as arranged marriages, and taboos over the sexual consummation of such marriages.

Reverence for ancestors has also posed a problem, and the use of sacrifice in the old religions sometimes has defied Christian interpretation. On such matters there is a new openness among the churches, and the ecumenical movement has been an important lubricant in softening the earlier sectarian competition.

Nonetheless, a veneer religiosity continues to be a danger and as Sir John Guise, former Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, puts it: "As Christians, our greatest weakness is our failure to enter deep down into the people's traditional faith and religious insight, understanding and convictions, and then begin to build from there, the point at which the people have their inner life and being, the great truths of the Christian gospel."

"I am sure that the Christian teacher who is not blinded by Western ideology will find in an investigation of the traditional religious life and beliefs (of the people) . . . very large area which, far from being incompatible with the Christian faith, is a rich and fertile ground ready and prepared to receive the Christian gospel."

The "rich and fertile ground", of course, may have other than Christian seeds sown in it and it is the suspicion of some that leaders such as Father Walter Lini, an Anglican priest and Vanuatu's Prime Minister, have more revolutionary than pastoral zeal. Yet there are few areas on earth at present where religion offers so strong an imperative for unity and progress.

If the Rabuka coup unleashed some rather unworthy interpretations of Christian teaching, with some members of the Taukei movement even threatening a crusade against Indians as a "lower form of life", it is still a matter for some thanksgiving that other, more temperate Christian voices spoke up for reconciliation.

With liturgies as remarkable as one in Vanuatu, where the coconut has replaced the bread and wine in the Eucharist, we may yet see a melding between what seems to be antipathetic traditions and Christianity itself, as indigenous as its populations desire and as useful to Western Christians as they have always claimed to be to everyone else in the world. □

NEW CALEDONIA

A Sporting Smokescreen

Politics mars the spirit of the South Pacific Games. By Carson Creagh

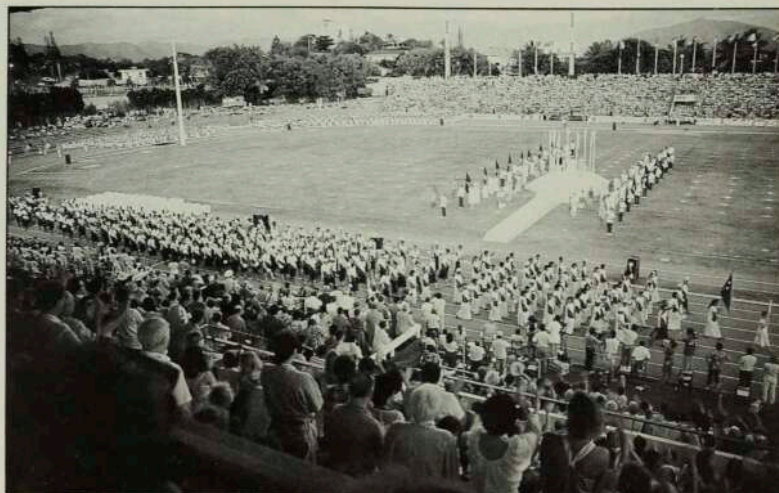
FIRST IMPRESSIONS of New Caledonia reveal the bitter irony and contradiction inherent in this troubled corner of French influence. The public address system at Tontouta Airport, greeting competitors and visitors for the VIII South Pacific Games, interspersed airline announcements with *The Impossible Dream* and *I Did It My Way* ... potent reminders of France's ambitions and its determination to ignore criticism in the region.

The Games' opening ceremony on December 8 seemed, however, to contradict any sense of self-deprecatory humour. It revealed a deep passion for kitsch; like a Nuremberg rally choreographed by Libera. The ceremony began with massed young women, dressed alike in yellow-trimmed black outfits, performing a slow and intricate dance with umbrellas — and went downhill from there. Hundreds of children waved banners in synchrony, then released balloons; representatives of New Caledonia's ethnic minorities performed traditional dances ... while at the stadium's main entrance, CRS riot police and soldiers dispersed 300 or so kanak demonstrators with teargas and flailing batons.

The size of the demonstration prompted cynical remarks of an absence of FLNKS support, yet its apparent failure was itself a result of a cynical exploitation of sport in the service of politics. Buses carrying demonstrators from the FLNKS' rural support base were stopped 100 kilometres outside Noumea, searched, and any passengers not carrying passes that allowed them to travel to the city were photographed and required to sign an undertaking that (on pain of imprisonment) they would not take part in any illegal gatherings. All rural buses were then directed to a terminus seven kilometres from Magenta Stadium, the main Games venue ... thus ensuring the demonstration would be seen as unsuccessful.

After the entrance of the 11 official/national teams and the eight-member Vanuatu Amateur Sports Association group (Ravel's *Bohéro* provided the music, seven times from its opening notes to its blaring crescendo), welcoming speeches drove home a message of the South Pacific Games as a manifestation of amity and regional identity, as a manifestation of the freedom of sport from politics, and as a symbol of New Caledonia's emergence from the "problems" of recent months.

The euphemism passed without comment, just as descriptions of the demonstration spoke of the opening ceremony



PNG's 235-strong team salutes officials at the opening of last December's South Pacific Games.

being "troubled" — but not interrupted — by a "gathering".

The bathos of the Games' opening was followed by intense and highly skilled competition, matched by comparable organisation: hardly surprising, given the tight efficiency with which civil order is maintained among New Caledonia's 160,000 inhabitants. There are police and soldiers everywhere, even billeted among the luxury hotels of Anse-Vata, Noumea's tourist nexus. Yet the military and paramilitary presence goes largely unnoticed; it is merely part of the otherwise compelling scenery.

Outside Noumea, the economic and social inequality of village life continues to preoccupy both *caldoches* and Melanesians: the absence of meaningful development and educational opportunity generates frustration that more often than not expresses itself in depression. Statistics attesting to the territory's economic health abound, yet they throw little light on the realities of life away from the First World ambience of the capital. Extractive industries export money along with raw materials, and the vast majority of businesses with potential impact on the internal economy are owned and run by Europeans — who see their heritage, present allegiances and future well outside a possibly independent New Caledonia.

The Pons statute is set to entrench those attitudes and the imbalances they have created, placing budgetary and decision-making power even more firmly in the hands of the non-Melanesian elite. With-

out an economic base, all the kanaks can do is demonstrate and promote disobedience — which would have no other effect than to inspire a further breakdown in their already limited opportunities for advancement. The South Pacific Games of 1987 owe more to public relations (and the distraction of attention from domestic French problems in the leadup to this April's French Presidential elections) than to the manifestation of any regional or sporting accord.

Despite the overwhelming numerical superiority of the New Caledonian and French Polynesian teams, with 391 and 254 members respectively in comparison with Papua New Guinea's 235 — or Tonga's 27 — and their athletes' international stature, events have been closely contested and have presented the best in sport to a wide audience. Papua New Guinea's cricketers were triumphant, humbling all comers in a display of skill that reportedly surprised even the team's own members; New Caledonian Alain Lazare sped to victory after victory in athletics events, breaking his own record in the 10,000 metres; and entrants from a range of nations upset predictions in swimming, basketball, rugby and weightlifting. Yet their efforts were tainted by the host country's determination to use the Games to less honourable advantage.

No-one would criticise sporting bodies' attempts to ensure clean, amicable competition: but to take part in a blatant exploitation of that desire is to approve of it, however tacitly. □

THE ARTS

The Sounds Of Paradise

Composer David Fanshawe's quest to capture for posterity the vanishing music and natural sounds of the Pacific. By Laurie Strachan

Paradise, says David Fanshawe, (pictured at right) is a small island in the Pacific. Don't ask him where it is though, because he won't tell you. He isn't even game to look at the pictures he took of it himself. "I took 80 reels of this one island and I've never opened the film parcel," he says.

But what made him think it was Paradise? "It was right at the time," says Fanshawe. "The question is — what is Paradise? And Paradise is always changing. As one develops, as one goes through life, it is going to change."

And will he be going back? "Never!" he says emphatically. "No. Never go back, always go on."

That might be David Fanshawe's credo — always go on. For Fanshawe is an explorer. He has a bust of himself on the back window of his lounge room that says so: David Fanshawe, composer and explorer.

Of course, the word composer gives the game away, for David Fanshawe isn't your standard explorer. He does draw maps, but they're not the kind of maps you'd care to navigate with.

The world Fanshawe explores is the world of sound. Armed with two precision-built Swiss tape recorders, a bagful of expensive microphones, crates of tapes and the bare necessities of life, he sets out in pursuit of the noise of the world with the aim of bringing it back alive.

Mostly Fanshawe, an Englishman, records music — a sing-sing in the Sepik, a ceremony in Tahiti; but sometimes he tapes the sounds of nature itself, from the singing of the birds to the howling of a hurricane.

When he gets back home to Australia, he files these sounds away in his enormous collection where they wait to be called out — if they are among the very few chosen ones — to take their place in one of his compositions. That was how he created his famous and consistently popular "African Sanctus", a strange, naive, powerful and passionate fusion of primitive African music with the rites and sounds of Western Christianity.

A year or so ago Fanshawe emigrated with his wife Jane to Australia from England to be closer to what is now the consuming passion of his life, the Pacific. He is working on a major new composition, "Pacific Odyssey", which he hopes will eventually be performed by the Sydney Philharmonia Society. Originally he had intended having the piece ready for Aus-

tralia's Bicentennial but the death of the Philharmonia's director Peter Seymour and his own serious illness halted that plan.

Now he thinks it may be ready in 1990 or 1991 but, he stresses, there's no deadline. He still has some research to do — when I spoke to him he was about to set off for New Zealand — and a substantial libretto to write.

His home in Sydney is dominated by his enormous collection of recordings of the sounds of the Pacific — more than 1,000 hours of high quality stereo. Fanshawe spent six years compiling this unmatched collection of recordings all over the Pacific and there are copies in the National Archives in Canberra and Fiji.

And in fact, though he is a successful composer with an ability to attract the general public, he sees his role as an archivist as his most important contribution to music. "I'm very aware that what I am recording is fast disappearing," he says. "Traditional forms of music in all the islands are dying out or changing. The custom music they have had for centuries no longer has any valid reason for being there. People are watching television seven hours a night and are not discussing their folklore; oral traditions are not being handed down. "I wanted to collect this music and try to preserve it as best I could in its un-influenced state — and also to record the change in times.

"I collect very intuitively," he adds. "I believe I have a talent for it. I get feelings about places and about people. I am led, often, by forces quite beyond my control. I was led to all these places."

Led he may be, but there is a lot of work to be done before he can get to his destination. He estimates that pre-planning takes up 90 per cent of his time, and recording, "the fun part for me", a mere 10 per cent.

And when he gets there, he is not content just to plonk down a microphone and switch the power on. He is proud of his techniques and, considering that these field recordings can be fed into high-powered amplification systems and commercial recordings without any noticeable drop in quality, justly so.

"I use four microphones and I attempt to obtain a mix on the spot," he says. "Where I put the microphones is another reason why I think this collection is good. The clarity and definition of the recordings, I like to feel, is good."

He has every reason to believe that, for

a film documentary he co-produced about his travels, entitled "The Musical Mariner", won an Australian Film Institute award for Best Achievement in Sound, thanks to his work. The film is in two parts, the first of which was shown on Australia's ABC last year. The whole thing is booked for Britain's BBC in April this year.

Fanshawe is determined to get the best recording possible, whether it involves stalking backwards across the Mt Hagen Showground before feather-bedecked highlanders or sitting quietly with a couple of microphones recording the chuckle of a mountain stream.

Fanshawe learnt composition at the Royal College of Music, and the basics of recording working as a trainee film editor in England in the late '50s and early '60s. In 1966, he made his first visit to Africa. That was the genesis of "African Sanctus". In 1969, he hitched-hiked down the Nile and in the following years travelled around much of eastern Africa. "Sanctus" was first performed in 1972.

He first came to the Pacific in 1978 on a reconnaissance trip and was immediately captivated by the sheer size and variety of the region and its music. Since 1980 he has spent long periods travelling around the islands accumulating his 2000 tapes in a carefully-planned sweep through Polynesia, Micronesia then Melanesia.

The tapes are his basic research material for "Pacific Odyssey" which, he says, will be — a "choral, orchestral and archival work which will be a celebration of the Pacific, the islands as seen through my eyes as a composer who has travelled and has spent six years now recording in the islands.

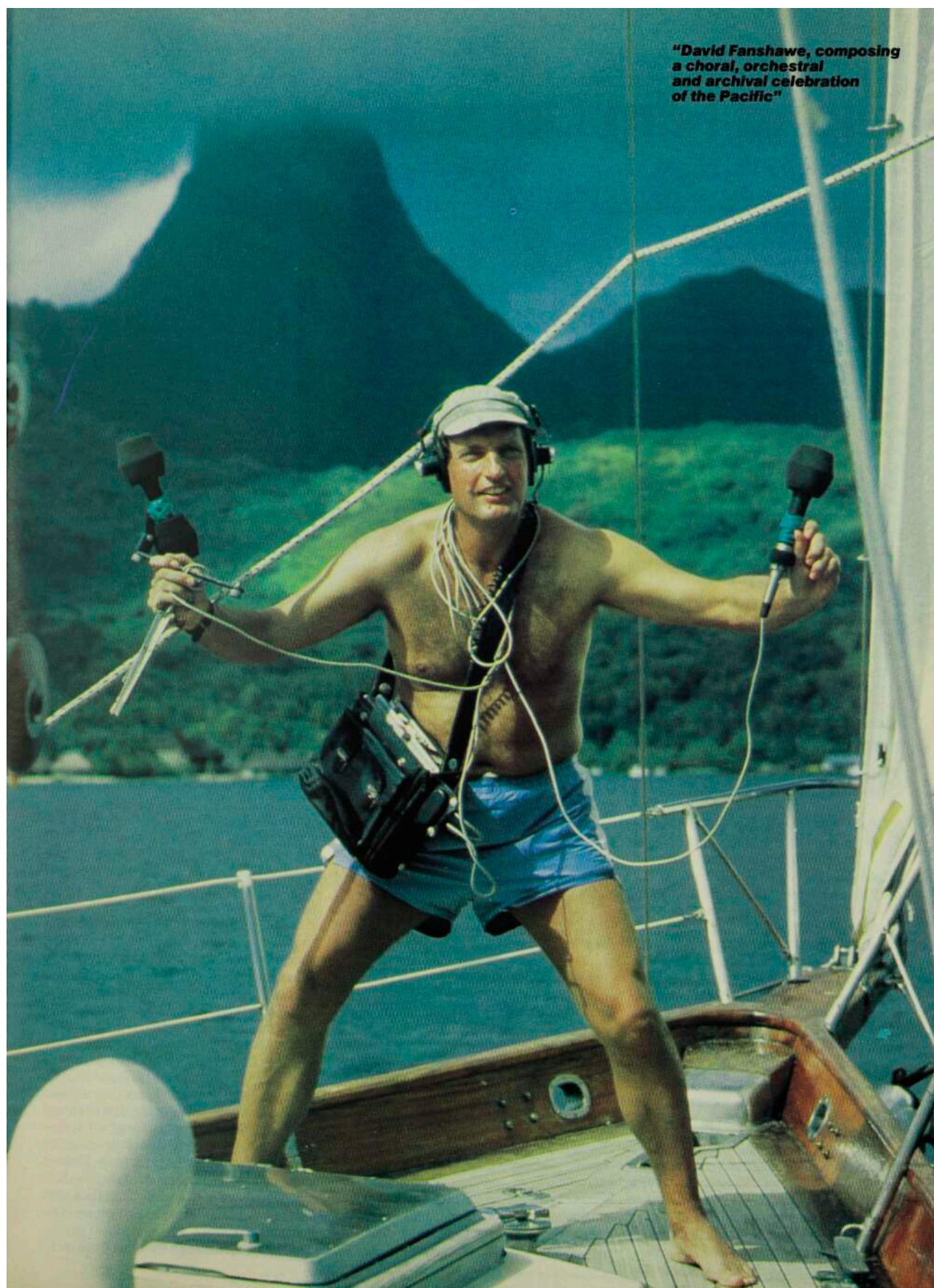
"I felt it necessary to have that background knowledge before I could compose anything."

The work will be scored for a large choir with soloists, mixed children's choir and an instrumental ensemble of 21 featuring six french horns, trumpets, trombones, flutes, keyboards and a synthesiser — plus highlights from the Pacific tapes.

The text, he says, will come from a variety of sources. "It's probably going to be taken from a biblical text allied with Pacific writings — English translations of traditional legends of the Pacific.

"This composition," says David Fanshawe, "is ultimately a song of the universe; and if it isn't good fun to sing and if it isn't jolly good fun to listen to, then it isn't worth the effort." □

CLAIRE LEIMBACH



THE ARTS

Island Film Comes Of Age

The Hawaii Film Festival in focus. By Ed Rampell

"THE Hawaii International Film Festival is perhaps the only one that's suitable to the Pacific perspective... The concept is terrific... The desperate thing island filmmakers need is a chance to meet," declares Barry Barclay, the director of *Ngati*, first feature film to be directed by a Maori.

The East-West Centre's Seventh Annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) may not have the glitz of the Cannes gala or the glamour of Hollywood's Academy Awards, but it certainly has a unique diversity all of its own. The HIFF is one of the rare film fetes to be hosted by an academic institution and, more importantly, to bring moviemakers together from Oceania, Asia and America. With its recurring theme of "When Strangers Meet", the festival's greatest significance for islanders is its distinction as the only major global forum zooming in on South Seas cinema.

With numerous motion pictures about, and made by, Pacific islanders, the HIFF put Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia in close up. Films and videos depicting New Zealand, Hawaii, Samoa, the Cooks, French Polynesia, Palau, the Marshalls, West Papua (Irian Jaya), Australia, and more were screened extensively. A total of



Festival highlights, clockwise from above: *Ngati*; *Kingpin*; *Radio Bikini*; *How Do You Spell Gorbato?*; *Molokal Solo*.

150 films were seen by 60,000 cinema goers during the free festival. However, it was the Maoris, who stole the show.

This could be because although native

filmmakers have shot documentaries before, the premiere of *Ngati* marks the debut of what may not only be the first Maori movie directed by an indigenous islander, but perhaps the first full-length fictional film to be directed by a Polynesian, Micronesian, or Melanesian. Barry Barclay directed from a script by fellow Maori Tama Poata.

Ngati portrays life in a remote, post-war Aotearoa village from a distinctly Pacific perspective. In the film, South Seas celluloid stereotypes are gone with the trade winds, as Polynesians are portrayed as real people with dignity and humanity. *Ngati* stresses the Pacific values of tribal collectivism, as villagers unite and take over the operation of a factory previously owned by Pakehas.

The Maoris also made a big impression with another feature called *Kingpin* and the New Zealand Film Archives' presentation of the McDonald Films, the most extensive movie record of traditional Maori culture. Filmed between 1919 and 1923 by museum staffers with Maori assistance, the rare footage reveals the disappearing daily life and customs of aboriginal Aotearoa. The documentaries were presented by the archives' director Jonathan Dennis and Maori elder Witarini Harris, who herself starred in a Hollywood silent flick shot back in the late '20s on location in New Zealand.

Hawaii's offerings were all documen-

PNG Courts Foreign Investors

PPRIVATE investment had a vital role to play in the development of Papua New Guinea's agriculture, the Prime Minister Mr Wingti said in Port Moresby. He added that foreign expertise and technology would be welcome in the country for many years to come.

Mr Wingti was clarifying his Government's position in relation to foreign investment in the agricultural sector. In November, the Agriculture and Livestock Minister, Mr Duwabane, told foreign companies involved in the coffee and cocoa industries they must be localised by the end of 1988 or face forfeiture of licences or expulsion from the country.

It is understood Mr Wingti was angered by the Minister's remarks and reprimanded Mr Duwabane.

The Prime Minister said that increased local ownership of businesses and enterprises in all sectors was an "understandable aspiration". However, there was a limit on the amount on local capital available for investment in existing companies.

Mr Wingti said foreign investment had an important role to play in the rehabilitation and redevelopment of many run-down plantations.

Meanwhile Mr Wingti said also that his Government had granted a 10-year tax holiday to any new business established in a rural area of the country. Mr Wingti said rural development was his Government's top priority (see feature, page 32) and that in the past two years Government expenditure in this sector had risen from 18 per cent to 27 per cent.

Mr Wingti said gold production was expected to more than double by 1991, and could outstrip Australia's by the turn of the century. He said despite a preconception by many Australian businesses that Papua New Guinea was a "high risk" country, it was rated number 48 in international credit ratings, above most other developing nations.

Mr Wingti said the country was rich in resources, and was committed to encouraging foreign investment, but lacked capital, technology and expertise. □



painter Charlie Gibbons, *Kle Belau*, and Robert Stone's compilation film *Radio Bikini*, a very moving indictment of American nuclear testing in the Marshalls. The 1947 docu-drama *Royal Boy of Sanda* was shot in Manu'a by George Tahara and based on a story idea by a Samoan high chief.

Although *Ngati* was nominated for the East-West Centre's award for the film best promoting cross-cultural understanding, India's *Spices* won, while China's *Old Well* received a special commendation. However, what the Hawaii International Film Festival reveals most dramatically is that South Seas cinema is developing, and with the breakthrough film, *Ngati*, a new wave of Pacific pictures has emerged.

Islanders, who have long been depicted by outsiders — as typified by Dorothy Lamour's stereotypical *Sarong Girl* — are finally taking the cameras into their own hands and making movies with an Oceanic perspective and dimension about themselves. □



"The film festival is the only major global forum that zooms in on the cinema of the South Seas"



tary videos dedicated to the "Year of the Hawaiian". *West Beach Story* is a propaganda attack on the proposed Waikiki-style development of Waianae Coast, a Polynesian preserve at Oahu. The powerful video is militant Hawaiian in content, and the point of view of the Japanese and other developers is never presented. Hawaiian co-director Puhipau, who was evicted in the early '80s for illegally "squatting" on state land, said: "I have found a gun to shoot back with. And this gun is my camera." Other Hawaii entries include *Voyage of Rediscovery*, about the Hokule'a, and *The Hawaiians*, a historical documentary directed by non-natives.

One of the Festival's strangest films was

Japan's *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*, a documentary about a guilt-obsessed former soldier who tried to assassinate Emperor Hirohito in 1969. Kenzo Okuzaki is an avenging angel seeking to unravel mysterious war crimes committed by the Imperial army during World War II at West Papua. These atrocities include Japanese cannibalism of Melanesians. However, the entire film is shot in Japan and Melanesians never appear on screen, because director Kazuo Hara's West Papuan footage was all confiscated at the airport by the Indonesian colonial authorities.

Other Pacific pictures included Dan Baker's documentary about Palauan

Solomons PM Stirs Media

NEWSPAPERS and broadcasting can make or break South Pacific development efforts, according to Solomon Islands PM Mr Ezekial Alebua. But, he says, media coverage of the region still leaves much to be desired.

The Prime Minister was speaking in Honiara in December, at the opening of a conference on media reporting of Pacific affairs. The conference was sponsored by Pacbroad, which runs the news exchange system among the Pacific countries.

Mr Alebua said freedom of the press was a principle for healthy, democratic societies. In Solomon Islands, he said, this freedom was actively practiced and, in some instances, over-practiced. "The freedom of the press should always carry with it the responsibility to inform, educate and entertain, but not to confront and confuse," he said.

Meanwhile, Solomon Islands will not send any new students to the University of the South Pacific in Suva this year. The Minister for Education, Mr Joini Tutua, said that foreign assistance would enable the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education to provide more advanced studies.

The Solomons will also stop sending students to the Fiji School of Medicine. The Government, Mr Tutua said, was now looking to Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand for the training of its doctors. However, students currently at the University of the South Pacific and the Fiji School of Medicine would be able to continue their studies there. □

THE REGION

Expats To The Polls

The Pacific votes for a President. By David S North

A HANDFUL of United States island politicians — but about 100,000 French citizens in the Pacific — will participate in this year's Presidential elections in those two nations.

Only about 30 or so people from Guam and American Samoa will help select the Republican and Democratic candidates for President in the November election; but no one from the American islands can vote in the contest between the candidates.

In New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna, all registered voters can vote directly for their choice for President. In the 1981 contest Francois Mitterrand was swamped in the islands by his conservative opponent, Giscard d'Estaing, with the latter ahead by a margin of about 77,000 to 29,000.

The United States has complex, three-step Presidential elections. In the first phase, during summer conventions, thousands of party delegates choose the nominees for President. All states, the District of Columbia and most territories send delegates. The second phase is in November, when voters choose members of the Electoral College; all states and the District of Columbia participate in this process, but the territories do not. Finally, during December of the election year, in a normally *pro forma* procedure, the Electoral College chooses the President.

During the nomination phase Guam has more to say than Samoa: Guam will have four delegate votes at the 2277-vote Republican convention in New Orleans; similarly, it will have four delegate votes among 4157 at the Democratic convention in Atlanta.

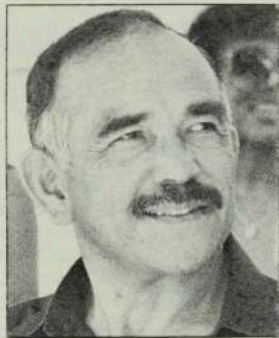
American Samoa will not be represented at the Republican convention, despite earlier efforts to obtain delegates by former Governor Peter Tali Coleman, and the territory's Democrats will have between four and six votes at the Democratic convention.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands might have been able to secure delegate seats, now that the Marianas (like Puerto Rico) has Commonwealth status, but no efforts have been made to secure recognition from either party. The three other former trust terri-

ories, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshalls, are completely outside the Mainland political system.

In all, 30 Guamanian and Samoan politicians will help choose their parties' candidates for President, and some of these delegates are in effect already selected. Most delegates, however, cast only a fractional vote: a quarter for Democratic National Committee members and half for some others.

Certain to be among Samoan delegates is Governor Lutali, a Democrat. However, the Democratic National Committee did not know about the presence of a Democrat governor in American Samoa until asked about it. Likely selections among Guam's Republicans are Congressman Ben Blaz and Governor Joseph F Ada, who defeated the convicted Democratic incumbent, Richard Bordallo, in November, 1986; among those expected to attend the Democratic convention is Democratic national committeewoman Madeline Bordallo, spouse of the ex-Governor, who was recently



Guam's Congressman Blaz.

elected to the island Senate. Blaz is one of a handful of Republican congressmen who have already announced their choice for President. Blaz was on the platform when Congressman Jack Kemp of New York announced his candidacy. The other major candidates for the Republican nomination are Vice-President George Bush (who was a fighter pilot in the Pacific during World War II, and who has visited Guam at least twice in the past six years) and Senator Robert Dole of Kansas.

In terms of Pacific issues, Bush and other Republican candidates are more likely to support the Reagan Administration's stand on nuclear issues — including its attitude to New Zealand's stance — while most of the Democrats are likely to be warmer to David Lange.

Scandals unrelated to presidential politics will play a role in determining who will vote at the conventions. A few months ago it seemed certain American Samoa's Congressman Fofu Sunia would go to the Democratic convention, but his payroll troubles cast doubts about his selection as a delegate.

Meanwhile, on Guam, Republican State Senator and party leader Marilyn Manibusan was similarly regarded as a likely delegate but the fact that she and her husband have been hauled into court on charges of failing to file income tax returns casts a shadow over her.

While the United States nominates a President next summer and has its general election in November, the French political calendar calls for the first round of its Presidential elections in March, and the second round (for the two top contenders) about a month later: exact dates are yet to be announced.

Incumbent Socialist President Mitterrand may well run for another seven-year term, probably against conservative Premier Jacques Chirac. The two differ sharply about what should be done in New Caledonia, with Mitterrand sympathetic to the kanak position.

Other candidates already announced are conservative former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, and the "lone ranger" of French politics, the moderately conservative former Agriculture Minister, Michael Rocard. The islands will probably vote conservative again, with lightly populated Wallis and Futuna probably leading the way. □

Kiribati Airport Hit By Vandals

SECURITY measures at Kiribati's Bonriki International airport have been threatened by acts of vandalism, according to Secretary of Communications Mr John Ikakeau. "A large portion of the wire fence surrounding the runway is missing," Mr Ikakeau said, "and a windsock has been cut to pieces. The gaps in the fence would allow straying dogs and pigs to cross the runway at any time."

Blaming local people for the damage, the Secretary said removal of the wire netting — "maybe for pig pens or gardens" — posed a danger to passengers and aircraft. "The cost of a fatal accident runs into millions of dollars," he warned, adding that a breakdown in security and safety could result in a cut in services from overseas airlines landing at Bonriki.

Air Nauru, one of the two airlines servicing Kiribati (Air Marshall is the other), alerted the Government when a stray dog crossed the runway as one of its Boeing aircraft was about to land. Fencing the airport costs the Government of Kiribati as much as \$A30,000 dollars, Mr Ikakeau said, and despite quick action from civil aviation authorities, the threat persists due to police and security personnel shortages at the airport. □

Batiri T Batua

Pacific Report

□ FIJI, CHINA IN TALKS

FIJI's then Foreign Minister, Mr Bole, held talks in Beijing with China's Government leaders on strengthening diplomatic relations between the two countries and to discuss new trade contracts. It was the first visit to China by a member of the Suva Government since the second military coup in September. Mr Bole held talks with China's Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, but Beijing's recognition of the Suva Government did not arise; it is believed China is trying to establish economic relations with Fiji while remaining wary about recognising it.

□ NZ SATELLITE PLAN

NEW ZEALAND is to build its own defence satellite communications station. The Prime Minister, Mr Lange, said the station would be built on a remote site near Blenheim at the northern tip of the South Island. The station will be operational by 1989 and will allow New Zealand to gather intelligence independently.

New Zealand has been excluded from the ANZUS defence treaty with the US and Australia since 1986 because of Wellington's anti-nuclear policies and, as a result, has received much less defence intelligence from other ANZUS members.

□ HIGH SPIRITS QUELLED

IN THE southern highlands of Papua New Guinea a liquor ban was imposed at Tari in December following an attack on the district police station by angry villagers. The three-month ban was imposed as a result of a meeting of concerned citizens who complained that the looting of the police station was the climax to a worsening law and order problem among the Huli people. After the attack a police riot squad made more than 50 arrests.

□ VETERANS REWARDED

THE PNG Government is to provide a further K1 million for compensation payments for ex-servicemen and World War II carriers. The scheme provides payments to those who served either the Japanese or the Allies. The system of payments is to be altered in 1988 to reduce the high cost of administering the scheme.

□ MILITARY EXCHANGE

AUSTRALIA'S Defence Minister, Mr Beazley, welcomed the report that the United States would be sending a Special Forces contingent to Papua New Guinea for training purposes. He said the move would not infringe on Australia's stronger and more long-standing defence relationship with PNG.

The Special Forces team will take part

in a 20-day training exercise at Wewak early this year.

□ MURUROA'S 90th TEST

FRANCE detonated eight nuclear devices at its South Pacific underground test site at Mururoa Atoll in 1987, according to New Zealand scientists who monitored the blasts. The last test, of a three-kilotonne "device", was the 90th since underground tests began in 1975.



□ PNG MEDIA CONTROL

PAPUA New Guinea's Communications Minister, Mr Gabriel Ramoi, said increased opposition to plans to control the media was being "stirred up by foreigners". The Minister defended his proposal to set up a Mass Media Tribunal, saying its role was not to control the media, but to ensure increased ownership by Papua New Guineans.

The tribunal would have wide powers of regulation and direction over radio, television and the print media. The Prime Minister, Mr Wingti, distanced himself from the proposal by describing it as "an idea for public discussion".

□ THE WRONG DAY

THE CRUISE ship *Fairstar* arrived in Lautoka, Fiji, on November 29 last year, carrying 1439 tourists, but duty free shops in the town were unable to open because of the strict ban on any kind of Sunday trading. A spokesman for the Sitmar Line said every attempt would be made to avoid Fiji on Sundays while the Sunday rules applied.

□ POLICE DOG REWARDED

A PNG POLICE dog, stabbed repeatedly while tracking a suspected criminal, is to receive a bravery medal from the British Royal Society for the Prevention of Cru-

elty to Animals. The Police Commissioner, Mr David Tasion, said the dog, Marcus, was stabbed 15 times but held on to the suspected criminal, enabling an arrest to be made. Marcus has made a full recovery.

□ AUTONOMY PLAN ADOPTED

THE FRENCH National Assembly narrowly adopted a statute granting autonomy for New Caledonia. The governing Conservative coalition voted 289 in favour of the statute with the Socialists, Communists and extreme right National Front combining 283 votes against it.

If the statute is passed by the Senate it will automatically take effect following territorial elections early this year.

The plan, the fourth drafted for New Caledonia in three years, is opposed by most Melanesians in New Caledonia. Power now held by the French High Commissioner will be entrusted to a 10-member executive in which the pro-independence minority will be represented. However, the French President, Mr Mitterrand, has advised against the statute.

□ TIDAL WAVES, CYCLONES STUDIED

THE PACIFIC Marine Environmental Laboratory released details of an electronic system capable of warning oceanfront communities of the approach of tidal waves.

Although a centre in Hawaii tracks such waves over long distances to provide international warnings, the new system is intended to alert officials in communities close to the origin of the waves. The Pacific Marine Laboratory claims the new system can detect significant quakes within 97 kilometres of the coast.

LEONTIEFF FP PRESIDENT

FRENCH Polynesia's Territorial Assembly elected Mr Alexandre Leontieff President of the Government after a successful rebellion against the previous administration. However, a legal battle is looming, after the outgoing caretaking Cabinet, led by Mr Jacques Teuira dissolved the assembly and called new elections shortly before Mr Leontieff was chosen as President by 28 of the Assembly's 41 members.

Many observers have doubts about how long Mr Leontieff can hold together his supporters — including backers of independence for French Polynesia — against the powerful Tahoeraa Uiraatira party, headed by the French Secretary of State for Pacific Affairs, Mr Gaston Flosse. That party, which formed the last territorial Government, boycotted the vote.

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Pacific Report

□ FRENCH CLAIMS SLAMMED

NEW ZEALAND's Foreign Minister, Russell Marshall, reacted angrily to allegations by the French Secretary of State for South Pacific Affairs, Mr Gaston Flosse, that New Zealand and Australia are financing the region's destabilisation.

Saying he was "outraged" by the claims, Mr Marshall challenged Mr Flosse to prove that French authorities had "proof" Canberra and Wellington were behind those groups seeking independence from France.

The Foreign Minister said France had made no representations to New Zealand over the issue, and that the only proven act of terrorism in the region had been perpetrated by the French secret service against the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior* in New Zealand.

Mr Marshall added that France would be putting on blinkers if it believed recent troubles in Tahiti had been caused by others.

□ NINA DEVASTATES TRUK

IN THE Federated States of Micronesia, Tropical Storm Nina smashed into Truk Lagoon on November 24, leaving five people dead, 19 injured and thousands homeless. According to a joint statement from the Truk Governor's office and the Federated States' President's office, the State of Truk was immediately declared a major disaster area: 60 per cent of housing in Truk was destroyed or damaged, most crops destroyed, and health problems were a danger due to clogged sewer lines and lack of fresh water.

□ KANAKS "INCITED REVOLUTION"

FRANCE'S PUBLIC prosecutor ordered a judicial inquiry into speeches made in New Caledonia last November by two kanak separatist leaders. A statement from the prosecutor's office described the speeches by Mr Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Mr Yeiwene Yeiwene as an incitement to commit offences.

Mr Tjibaou is leader and Mr Yeiwene the spokesman for the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) which advocates New Caledonian independence from France.

During the annual conference of his Caledonian Union party, the largest group in the FLNKS, Mr Tjibaou called on kanaks to arm themselves for protection against pro-French loyalists. He said a jury's acquittal in October of seven loyalists who shot dead 10 kanaks — including two of Mr Tjibaou's brothers — in 1984, amounted to a licence to kill New Caledonia's indigenous people.

Mr Yiewene said that to survive, kanaks must reorganise their own means of

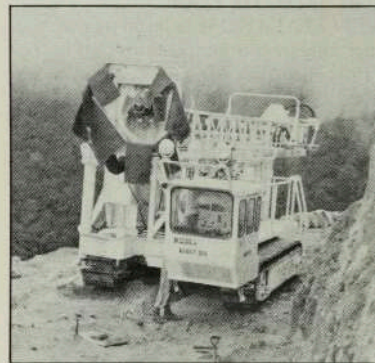
self-defence, and compare their situation with that of the French who resisted the German occupation in World War II.

Under French law, an investigating magistrate will decide whether to charge the two FLNKS leaders with instigating violence — a criminal offence.

□ PNG BOOM UNDER THREAT

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S potential gold and oil boom may be in danger because of unreasonable compensation demands and allegedly outrageous statements by political leaders.

In his 1988 Budget speech, Papua New Guinea's Minerals and Energy Minister,



Chip sampling operations underway at PNG's Ok Tedi mine.

Mr John Kaputin, said he was increasingly concerned over the number of "outrageous statements" by political leaders. Mr Kaputin further warned his fellow parliamentarians that it was time they learned the "hard facts of life". Papua New Guinea was still dependent on the outside world for finance, investment and expertise, he said. The investment community must be convinced PNG was worth investing in, but outlandish statements and ridiculous demands made potential investors understandably very nervous.

□ W. SAMOA WARNS SOVIETS

WESTERN Samoa told the Soviet Union it remained strongly opposed to a Soviet military presence in the South Pacific. The Prime Minister Vaai Kolone delivered the message to the new Soviet Ambassador, Yuri Sokilov, who was visiting Apia to present credentials. Mr Sokilov is based in New Zealand. Vaai Kolone told the Ambassador any form of Soviet military presence in the Pacific would increase tensions in the region.

However, Western Samoa welcomed Soviet involvement in economic co-operation with South Pacific nations. □



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Trade Winds

□ TRANS-TASMAN SHIPPING MERGER?

THE NEW ZEALAND Shipping Corporation is considering a merger with its Australian counterpart, the Australian National Line. Merger discussions between the two Government-owned shipping companies were revealed in a speech yesterday to a Chartered Institute of Transport conference by the Corporation's head of research and development, Tim MacKay.

In an address on deregulation in sea transport, Mr MacKay said close integration of New Zealand and Australian trade should be welcomed. Both countries were at the same end of the longest trade lanes in the world, had comparable commodity trade and depended heavily on favourable maritime transport services and rates.

The Australian National Line and the Corporation (which trades as the New Zealand Line) already run a joint Trans-Tasman service, Trans Tas. Mr MacKay said the merger was one of a number of rationalisation options being studied by the Corporation.

□ SINGAPORE OUT IN THE COLD

SINGAPORE AIRLINES says it is "disappointed" that the New Zealand Government hasn't granted it a fourth service to New Zealand, but the airline welcomes Wellington's decision to consider a proposed formula that would permit flights to increase automatically between the two countries to match demand. Further discussions on the proposal have been set down for early this year.

In a statement released in Wellington, Chew Tai Lu, general manager of Singapore Airlines, said it was hoped an agreement could be reached that would enable the airline to route a fourth service to New Zealand: further services could be added when needed.

According to Mr Chew, there is a "huge backlog" of up to 18,000 tourists over the peak period until February 28. New Zealand's decision not to grant a fourth service, he says, has "effectively stopped thousands of potential tourists".

□ RAN TO SURVEY NEW TRADE ROUTE

A ROYAL AUSTRALIAN Navy ship will survey a new commercial shipping route between two of Papua New Guinea's provincial capitals this year. HMAS *Flinnders* will survey a new, faster route between Port Moresby and Lae via the Star Reefs.

The survey is part of a five-year program requested by the PNG Government to update and extend coverage of the country's navigational charts. It is to be funded under Australia's K14 million per

year defence co-operation program with PNG.

□ BOUGAINVILLE MINE BAN LIFTED

A 17-YEAR-OLD moratorium on mineral and oil exploration in Papua New Guinea's richest province could soon be lifted. The moratorium, imposed in 1971 following trouble on Bougainville Island with traditional landowners over the opening up of the Bougainville copper mine, should be lifted, according to Papua New Guinea's Minerals and Energy Minister, John Kaputin.

However, he is "extremely sensitive" to the concerns of the Bougainville people that led to the original moratorium being imposed and intends to hold talks with the province's leaders before taking any action.

Bougainville Copper Limited's Panguna mine has only 10 to 15 years of operation left and it is critical that the company be allowed to explore outside its present mine if it is to have time to develop another mine.

□ JOINT CLOTHING VENTURE IN FIJI

AN AUSTRALIAN firm is launching a multi-million dollar joint venture in Fiji to manufacture men's clothing for Australian and international markets. The project is the first of its kind to be announced in Fiji since the economic slump after two military coups and the proclamation of a Republic.

Chairman of the Stafford Group, Mr Maurice Lubansky, says his company and the Kelton Group in Fiji will acquire Nartam Garments of Suva and use it as a base for the planned development. He predicts that the venture, costing around \$A6.6 million, will become a world-class internationally competitive enterprise.

Plants are planned for the urban centres of Lautoka, Nadi, Da and Nausoir, eventually employing more than 2500.

□ FIJI ECONOMY FLUCTUATING

FIJI WILL record a deficit of \$US69 million this year. According to the Minister for Economic Planning, Mr Isimeli Bose, the situation has been caused by a "down-turn" in the country's economy. The deficit will be \$15 million more than last year's overall deficit of \$54 million.

Officials say the gross domestic product this year is expected to be 12 per cent lower than 1986 because of low sugar production and a decline in tourist arrivals. Sugar production is estimated at around 370,000 tonnes, with visitor arrivals estimated at 190,000. Receipts from exports have increased from \$218 million to \$238 million, but this is mainly because of the devaluation of the Fiji dollar.

Meanwhile, Fiji's all-items industrial production index has increased by 63 per cent in the September quarter of 1987 in a rise largely linked to the resumption of sugar production.

A protest by sugar planters after the first military coup in May resulted in sugar production for the June quarter reaching only 403 tonnes.

The September quarter's production figure was 187,000 tonnes, still well down on the record 239,000 tonnes produced in the third quarter of 1986.

Meanwhile, inflation in Fiji more than trebled in the 12 months to December. The Fiji Bureau of Statistics reported that a 1.2 per cent rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for November set the annual inflation rate 5.1 per cent. In November, 1986, it was 1.6 per cent. The CPI now stands at 112.4 on a base of 100 for average prices during 1985. Both inflation and the CPI have soared since the May coup.

The two devaluations of the \$F since the first coup, totalling 33 per cent, have made imported goods much more expensive. Lighting, food and clothing rose by 6.6 per cent, 1.5 per cent and 1.9 per cent, respectively.

□ LOME CONVENTION DISCUSSIONS

LEADERS FROM developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific have met in the European Community headquarters, Brussels, to review trade and assistance between Europe and the developing world. Ministers from 66 countries met under the chairmanship of Western Samoa's Finance Minister, Mr Faasoo-auloa St Sali, to discuss criticisms of the newly revised Lome Convention, the agreement under which economic relationships is set out between the European Community and African, Caribbean and Pacific States — the ACP.

Most observers describe the latest version of the accord as an improvement in the level of trade concessions, but the accord has been criticised as not going far enough, especially in the area of stimulating large-scale industry in the ACP.

□ PNG CORPORATION INVESTIGATED

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S Finance Minister has set up a committee to investigate allegations of malpractice in the operations of PNG's semi-government Investment Corporation. The Minister, Mr Galeva Kwarara, suspended the Investment Corporation's managing director, Mr Leo Hannet, and another senior officer in November, 1987, claiming the corporation had exceeded its authority by entering into contracts worth more than \$A100,000 without his approval.

The investigating committee is to be headed by the managing director of the Papua New Guinea Banking Corporation, Mr Mekere Morauta, while the other members will be the Governor of the Bank of Papua New Guinea, Sir Henry Torbert, and a lawyer with the Law Reform Commission.

The committee's terms of reference include questions relating to Mr Hanne's recent sacking of two senior staff as well as the terms and conditions of certain expatriate officers of the corporation. A report is expected shortly.

□ CHINA-FIJI TRADE LINKS

CHINA says it will continue to maintain economic, scientific and technological agreements with Fiji. China's acting Premier, Mr Li Peng, gave the undertaking during talks in Beijing with Fiji's Foreign Minister, Mr Filipe M'Bole. Mr Peng said China was willing to develop friendly and co-operative relations with Fiji because they shared much in common as developing countries.

□ NEW EXCHANGE FOR PNG

PAPUA New Guinea is to build a new international telecommunications exchange to replace the one destroyed in Lae by a fire last September. The new exchange will cost about K1.6 million and be built next to the country's satellite earth station in Port Moresby. The international communications firm, L M Ericsson, told PNG's Post and Telecommunications Board it would be cheaper to build a new exchange than to repair the old one, because all the equipment in the exchange would need to be replaced.

□ NZ-AUSTRALIA TRADE MERGER

NEW ZEALAND foreshadowed a possible merging of markets with Australia during a conference between the business councils of the two countries in Sydney. New Zealand's Minister for Trade, Mr Aygill, said he wanted an examination of the possibility of taking the trans-Tasman relationship beyond the free trade area.

Australia's Minister for Trade Negotiations, Mr Duffy, called for the removal of the few remaining areas of disagreement and cumbersome rules that were hampering free trade between Australia and New Zealand.

□ COCONUT SMEAR

COCONUT PLANTERS in the Pacific and Asian region condemned what they call a smear campaign against coconut oil by the American Soya Bean Association. A meeting of growers in Apia endorsed a campaign to lobby for keeping coconut oil markets open. Coconut oil is Western Samoa's main foreign exchange earner and plays a major role in the exports of other small Pacific islands.

□ PNG CIGARETTE SPONSORSHIP

THE Papua New Guinea Government and executives of cigarette companies made a breakthrough in their negotiations on sponsorship. Health Minister Tim Ward said it had been agreed that cigarette companies would continue to sponsor sporting and cultural events in PNG. But the companies had been told to use "brand names" only and not specifically the names of the cigarettes.

The PNG Government has been criticised by sporting bodies following the passage of the Tobacco Product health control law in Parliament in November, prohibiting all forms of tobacco advertising and promotion in PNG.

Mr Ward said agreement had been reached by both parties about restrictions on advertising, government health warnings on cigarette packets and related matters. The cigarette companies were given 12 months to comply with the law.

□ FARMING SKILLS IN W. SAMOA

WESTERN Samoa's Prime Minister, Vaai Kolone, called for agriculture to be taught at the country's schools. Agriculture is not in the present curriculum and the Prime Minister said this could be one reason for a recent decline in farm production and a rise in unemployment. He said land development was the backbone of Western Samoa's economy and agricultural exports earned about 80 per cent of its revenue each year. The slump in agricultural production is a major worry for the Government, especially with an election due early this year.

□ KIRIBATI BANK SHOWS PROFIT

THE Bank of Kiribati, in which Australia's Westpac Banking Corporation has a 51 per cent interest, recorded a profit of more than \$A53,000 for the year ending last September.

Westpac's chief manager for the Pacific Islands, Mr Jim Huey, said the figure is a reduction of 6.8 per cent over the previous year. But, despite the profit drop, deposits for the year rose by three-point-five per cent to nearly \$22 million.

□ PNG COFFEE EDICT

THE PNG Government approved a regulation limiting foreign shareholding in coffee exporting companies and agencies. Agriculture and Livestock Minister Mr Gai Duwabane told the National Parliament that they must be 90 per cent nationally owned by next October 31. Penalties for non-compliance could include a reduction in coffee quotas. Of the 10 coffee exporters, one, Kumul Kopi, is 100 per cent owned by Papua New Guineans.

□ FIJI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ABOUT 120 Fijian businessmen, meeting in Suva, formed the Fijian Chamber of Commerce, with the aim, according to

Suva lawyer Mr Qoriniasi Bale, head of the interim committee, of supporting and helping Fijian participation in business. He said Fijians had a bad record of business management, and the chamber hoped to do something about it.

□ POST COURIER PROFIT

POST Courier Ltd, of Papua New Guinea, has announced a consolidated after-tax profit of K589,949 for the nine months ended June 30. The financial year ending, following the takeover by News Corporation Limited in February, was changed from September 30 to June 30 to satisfy the requirements of the Companies Code.

□ SOLOMONS PS SHAKE-UP

SOLOMONS Islands' Cabinet approved plans to create a "cost-saving" public service by "critical internal reform" and a change in status of certain privatisations considered suitable either for privatisation or a transformation to statutory authority.

□ TUVALU POULTRY PROGRESS

SINCE A British-funded poultry farming project began in Tuvalu in January, 1985, with a nucleus of 50 imported birds, more than 4500 layer chicks have been sold to local farmers.

Progress is also reported from the broiler unit, and there is a growing interest in backyard poultry farming.

□ WINGTI'S BUSINESS MESSAGE

PRIVATE investment had a vital role to play in the development of Papua New Guinea's agriculture, the Prime Minister Mr Wingti said in Port Moresby. He added that foreign expertise and technology would be welcome in the country for many years to come.

Mr Wingti was clarifying his government's position in relation to foreign investment in the agricultural sector. In November, the Agriculture and Livestock Minister, Mr Duwabane, told foreign companies involved in the coffee and cocoa industries they must be localised by the end of 1988 or face forfeiture of licences or expulsion from the country.

It is understood Mr Wingti was angered by the Minister's remarks and reprimanded Mr Dewabane.

The Prime Minister said that increased local ownership of businesses and enterprises in all sectors was an "understandable aspiration". However, there was a limit on the amount of local capital available for investment in existing companies.

Mr Wingti said foreign investment had an important role to play in the rehabilitation and redevelopment of many run-down plantations. He said the smallholder and the plantation sectors had existed side by side for a long time and he wanted this relationship to continue. □

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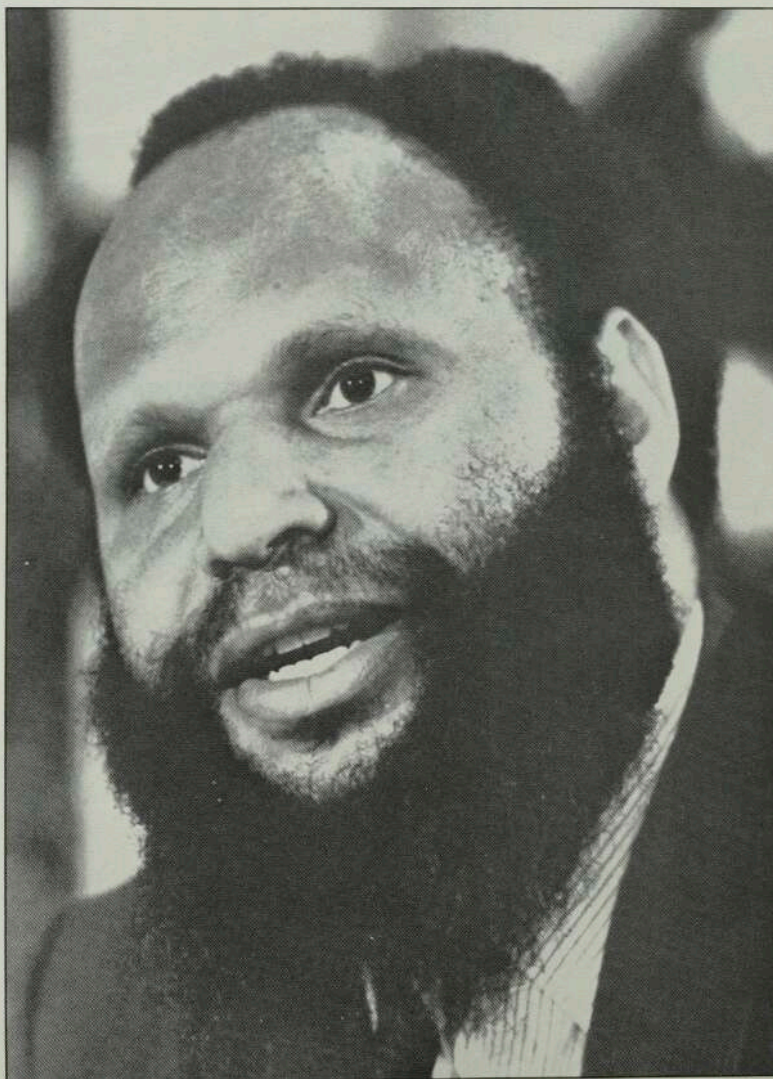
Paias Wingti Practical Visionary

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea is the Pacific's man of destiny, facing momentous challenges with intelligence, energy and self-confidence. In an exclusive interview with Pacific Islands Monthly editor Larry Writer, he speaks out on his rural development revolution, the machinations of holding office, law and order, foreign policy, the Diro scandal, and more.

INSPIRATIONAL leader, idealist, political strongman, deft manipulator of the numbers game: Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Paias Wingti is all of these. He is, according to his vanquished opponent and one-time hero Michael Somare, "a man in a hurry". And no one is disagreeing with the Chief's embittered assessment as the young Prime Minister sets about redressing the problems that beset the troubled, impossibly fragmented, potentially wealthy emerging nation that is PNG. Increasingly too, the Pacific itself, with all its complexities, is becoming Paias Wingti's domain.

Wingti's track record and personal style have stamped the former economics student, university activist and peanut farmer as a natural leader of both his country and all Melanesian people. Charismatic and imposing, he is nevertheless soft in manner and voice; he wears the mantle of power easily, even happily, only occasionally lapsing into a bemused exasperation. At one stage during the interview he laughed: "It's a bloody hard job, being Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea."

Since taking office last August with a precarious three-seat majority he has confounded those who predicted that his intricately constructed, though fragile, coalition would soon disintegrate like a house of cards in the wind. Wingti has played his numbers well. His majority in December had grown to 25, Somare was in exile on the opposition backbenches and the opposition was in disarray. The Prime Minister is in control. In Parliament he dominates without browbeating. Assured and understated and one of the few politicians sufficiently secure to compliment the opposition from the floor, he keeps his head when all around others are losing theirs, as they do frequently. He quells outbursts with a gentle admonishment, delivered from a slouch in his seat at the



Speaker's end of the Government frontbench.

Such self-possession is remarkable when the challenges that face him are counted: urban drift and unemployment; political scandal and instability; lawlessness; a disaffected media; and unprecedented complexities in the Pacific. All these shape as a giant compound migraine for the 38-year-old leader. But Wingti is his country's best hope for a solution. He is as secure as a PNG Prime Minister can be, is healthy, intelligent and has a driving energy for the task, working regular 18-hour days and perplexing his staff, which likes to try to pack him off as often as possible to his home province, the place he is able to unwind best.

AT the rambling bougainvillea-covered bungalow that is his official residence in Boroko, near Port Moresby, the Prime Minister discussed his achievements and the challenges of office. For the interview he was dressed in sports shirt, slacks and patterned socks. His father, a tiny white-haired and bearded replica of his son, introduced himself and gently hovered throughout the interview. The furniture was simple, functional. An airconditioner rumbled nearby. A picture of the PM with Pope John Paul II was prominently displayed.

"I've tried to change our people's thinking," said Prime Minister Wingti when asked his major achievement since taking office. "I've let them see they have good reason to be confident about themselves, to achieve for themselves, and not to depend on the Government to do everything for them." Though the country had gained independence, he said, it could not be truly self-reliant until the people realised they had a responsibility to contribute. "In a nation where most people cannot read and write and so many languages are spoken, this is not an easy concept to get across," he said.

This advocating of self-reliance dovetails with Mr Wingti's masterplan to develop PNG's rural sector and to create a viable agricultural base. For him, the key to prosperity is agricultural development. In PNG, 87 per cent of people live in a rural area, many on arable land, but few have the knowledge or equipment to farm it. The Government has allocated funds from the Budget and poured taxes imposed on foreign mining companies into an agricultural bank set up to lend money to village people wishing to involve themselves in agriculture. "All we ask of the recipient is that he wants to work and shows he is doing something for himself," said the PM. Every kina invested in agricultural development, he said, had a multiple effect: providing employment; generating income; earning foreign exchange for the country; and stemming urban migration.

It is fitting that his dream of a thriving farm economy is fuelled by taxes levied on

mining companies tapping the nation's vast mineral wealth. At present, they pay a minimum of 36 per cent tax, which pays at least 40 per cent of PNG's internal revenue. Said Mr Wingti: "Mining is exhaustible, so money earned from mining must be invested very carefully to benefit the country in the long term." The Government has set up a Mining Stabilisation Fund from which money is drawn and al-

Utopia anywhere" — but feels his country's wild and woolly reputation is unjustified. He blames the foreign press, particularly, for highlighting a problem he claims is no greater than in other Pacific nations. "The outside media make you think our law and order situation is getting worse. In fact it's getting better. We have to face it that from time to time there will be theft, murder, rape. But I'd like to see



**With Australian PM Bob Hawke:
"Determined to maintain
existing ties but reduce
traditional aid dependence"**

located to such projects. For Mr Wingti, the most important investment is rural development.

Urban drift is a particular bogey of the PM. Stop that, he says, get the people back to the provinces, and you'll staunch the problem of lawlessness in the cities that gives PNG the reputation of a dangerous place. Unemployment, the accessibility of liquor and the absence of a village code of propriety translate directly to headlines around the world giving the impression that assault, theft, revenge killings and rape are national sports. Too many headlines are sensationalised, but the high barbed wire fences, steel and bamboo clubs carried for protection in cars, the palpable air of violence that exists in some parts of Port Moresby, are undeniable.

Mr Wingti concedes PNG has problems in this regard — "You won't find

a regular page in our newspapers comparing crime statistics in PNG with other countries in the Pacific. The degree to which violence is blown out of proportion is damaging."

MR Wingti's sensitivity to the media contributed in November to the Communications Minister, Mr Gabriel Ramoi, proposing control of the media. The announcement came when the woes of sacked Ministers Ted Diro and Aruru Matiabe, the question mark over Sir Julius Chan, and reports on a series of violent crimes were filling the newspapers and the airwaves. The Government's proposal, drawn up by Australian legal consultant Mr Stuart Littlemore, advocated a tribunal that would be a semi-judicial body with wide powers of regulation and control. The intention, said Mr Ramoi, was to

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JANUARY 1988 33



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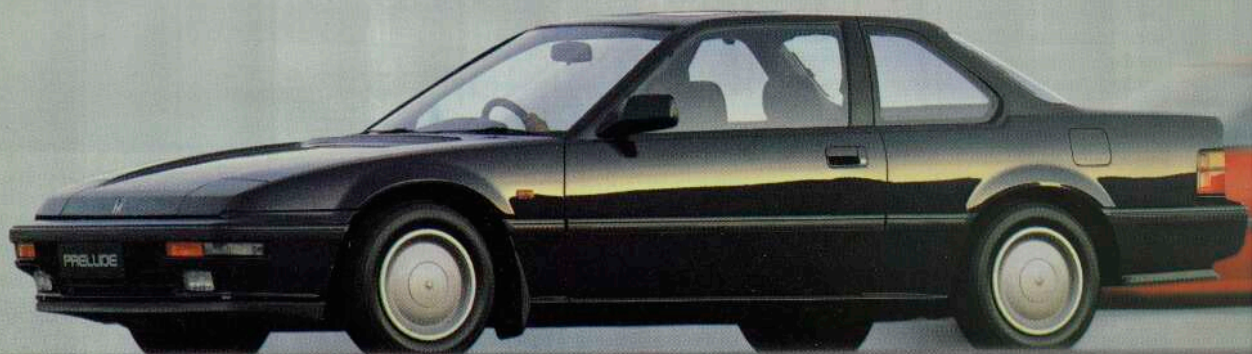
*The wheel angles are exaggerated for illustrative purposes. Honda's 4WS is fitted to the 2.0i-16 as a standard feature.

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"He is making his mark as an influential spokesman for the region and guiding light of the Melanesian Spearhead Group"

Make the media "sensitive to PNG's national mood" and answerable to the people. The media responded angrily. "This is the sort of legislation you would expect to find under a dictatorship, and not in a democratic country like PNG," said *Papua New Guinea Post Courier* general manager, Mr Don Kennedy.

Nevertheless Mr Wingti plans to press on with the controls. "There has been an over-reaction from the press and a lack of understanding of our aims by the private sector." Everybody loudly opposing the plan, he says is, was doing so without ever discussing with him ways of working together. "Our aim was to involve the media, the church, the unions and the opposition members of parliament in discussions about the legislation. I hope we still can."

Paia Wingti is more comfortable with the ordinary people than the highfliers of the private sector: "I'm still not sure what they (business leaders) think of me but I'd like to sit down with them soon and exchange ideas." He agreed that often what is best for big business was not best for Papua New Guineans. A forthright, down-to-earth man with crystal vision and simple tastes (he reportedly dislikes socialising and eats canned meat and rice), Mr Wingti prefers to leave the business of business to his deputy, Sir Julius Chan.

TV, soon to be available outside cities and large towns, will, under the media control proposal, come under strict government scrutiny. Mr Wingti is concerned by the diet of aged American series and cartoons served up by the stations. He feels, strongly, that TV has a major role to play in helping to preserve a unique culture. "A major function of the mass media tribunal will be to ensure that PNG culture, languages and performing arts are seen on TV. Television is such a good communicator, especially in a country such as ours where people are often far-flung and in inaccessible regions," he says. This perceived loss of traditional identity, exacerbated, he believes, by the drift away from the rich life in villages to the anonymous cities, is a preoccupation of the Prime Minister. "A majority of TV programs should be in line with what we consider Papua New Guinea goals and principles."

ONE of the main challenges every PNG leader must face is staying in power. The inherent instability of the system makes playing the numbers game an essential daily routine. In Papua New Guinea, it seems, government is as much about rewarding supporters as formulating policies and principles. The Constitution allows only 28 ministries, so



A ceremonial welcome during his December visit to Australia.

other supporters are rewarded with appointments to statutory posts and boards or are given perquisites. A PM needs the support of all regions and gives them his patronage in return. This can lead to charges of patch-up solutions, corruption and graft. Vote-buying is an integral part of the system, but often those people bought off choose to stay loyal only until a more generous benefactor comes along. Some candidates openly auction their support. All of this switching of allegiance puts any government at the whim of the wheelers and dealers.

Playing the numbers takes up too much of the PM's time, he admits. (But he does it masterfully, having increased his majority from three to 25 since August.) However, he sees no easy alternative. He is lukewarm to the proposal of Melanesian Alliance leader Father John Momis, for a "recall" bill requiring members to face re-election every time they deviate from the platform on which they won office. "In some ways it could help," says the Prime Minister. "But we do not want to take away the right of a citizen to make a decision according to his conscience. We have to be sure, though, that when a member of parliament changes direction he is doing it for legitimate purposes and in the interests of the people."

The major crisis faced so far by Mr Wingti has been the scandal involving Mr Ted Diro, former Defence Forces Commander, Forests Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, Minister Without Portfolio. He

resigned after the Commission of Inquiry into the PNG timber industry approved applications to change him on three counts of perjury. Handing down his ruling, Mr Justice Barrett said Mr Diro had knowingly lied in sworn testimony about his knowledge of a request for donations from Santa Investments, totalling \$US127,500, to entertain government officers and politicians; that Mr Diro gave false information regarding gifts and benefits he allegedly received from Angus (PNG) Pty Ltd; that he lied about Angus shares held by persons on his behalf. Mr Diro also alleged that Indonesia's armed forces chief, General Benny Murdani, supplied the bulk of his People's Action Party funds for last year's general election.

The revelations rocked the country, inevitably destabilising the Government coalition — though Mr Diro assured the Prime Minister that his supporters would stay with Mr Wingti "for the time being". That Mr Wingti's reputation as a man above corruption has not been tainted by allegations against his friend and colleague is testimony to his standing. Mr Wingti recalls with genuine sorrow the days when the chain of revelations about Mr Diro broke. "Ted is a great Papua New Guinean, a good man and a friend. He has done a lot for our country. He has made some mistakes. I am disappointed because we spoke together often throughout the period under investigation and never did he mention a word about his problems."

"Wingti feels strongly that television has a role to play in helping to preserve a unique culture in Papua New Guinea"

BUT Mr Wingti has risen above the Diro issue and others, such as his deputy Sir Julius Chan's controversial involvement with Placer shares and the tribulations of Mr Aruru Matiabe, sacked as Foreign Minister after claiming that political loans from overseas countries, such as that alleged from Murdani to Diro, were commonplace and who is now embroiled in a university funding controversy as Education Minister.

Recently, too, Mr Legu Vagi, the Police Minister and the deputy to Mr Wingti in the Prime Minister's People's Democratic Movement Party, lost his seat over election irregularities.

Such internal problems were once the PM's major concern. But since CHOGM and his open declaration of support for the Fiji Republic, he has made his mark as an influential spokesman for the region and the guiding light and conscience of the Melanesian Spearhead group, which includes PNG, Vanuatu and The Solomons and has the support of Fiji and the kanaks of New Caledonia.

Mr Wingti said the group was formed to preserve the identity of the Melanesian people. "Excluding Australia and New Zealand, Melanesians comprise 80 per cent of the people of the Pacific," he said. "We felt it was important for Melanesian leaders to gather each year to discuss bilateral issues and decide things we can do together instead of spending resources doing things on our own."

So far there were plans to pursue trade agreements, aircraft landing rights and sign cultural, legal and educational agreements. The leaders of Vanuatu and The Solomons were soon to join Mr Wingti in signing a Joint Set of Principles to formalise the group.

The Melanesian Spearhead group is firmly in favour of the Fiji Republic. While not condoning Brigadier Ranbuka's method of winning power, Mr Wingti insists on the right of Melanesians, such as indigenous Fijians, to make their own decisions: "We recognise Fiji as an independent state and, by extension, we recognise whoever is in authority there. We cannot change events. What has taken place has taken place. We have a responsibility to the friendly countries in the region which have done so much to provide stability here."

Mr Wingti does not want to see a situation where independent states are isolated by former friends and begin looking for alternative partners, so causing long-term problems. "As Melanesians we understand the difficulties involved in Fiji, the social and political problems the in-

digenous Fijians and the Indians are facing."

Mr Wingti, no admirer of the French, is equally hardline on New Caledonia, calling for full independence for the kanaks. "But such independence can only come when the indigenous kanaks, New Caledonians and others living in New Caledonia are united, not divided as they are today by outside interests."

The Prime Minister visited Australia in December to sign with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke a Joint Declaration of Principles, a document comprehensively covering all agreements — aid, trade, defence — between the two countries. His Government is determined to reduce PNG's reliance on Australian aid and replace it with mutually beneficial trade agreements. His aim is to reduce Australian aid from its present level of 19 per cent of PNG's national Budget to less than 5 per cent by the end of the current five-year term.

While he feels it is important to maintain existing ties with Australia, Mr Wingti is keen to develop links with the US, Japan, Soviet Union, China and Indonesia. The pact of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Respect with Indonesia has helped, he says, to defuse the problem on the Irian Jaya border. The treaty has so far curbed Indonesian intrusions across the border into PNG. The whole issue is now in the hands of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "We have a very firm understanding with the Indonesian Government. We see no threat from the Indonesians; rather friendship and co-operation. We gain a lot from their technology, food production and rural development schemes."

The PM hopes Indonesia's financial institutions will invest in PNG's tourism and cottage industries. With its position in the region stabilised, Mr Wingti is courting other countries further afield: the United States (a team of military advisers will be sent to the Irian Jaya border this year), Canada, where a double tax treaty has been signed, "and we are looking at the ASEAN countries where there is a big market for the things we produce."

This year should be a momentous one for Papua New Guinea. Mr Wingti is fond

of calling 1988 the "year for national building".

"For the first time," he says, "We have increased our budget in real terms by five per cent or K1 billion. We'll mobilise the manpower in the country and look at ways of utilising the defence force and prisoners, though the UN and others will complain. Fifty new roads will be built.



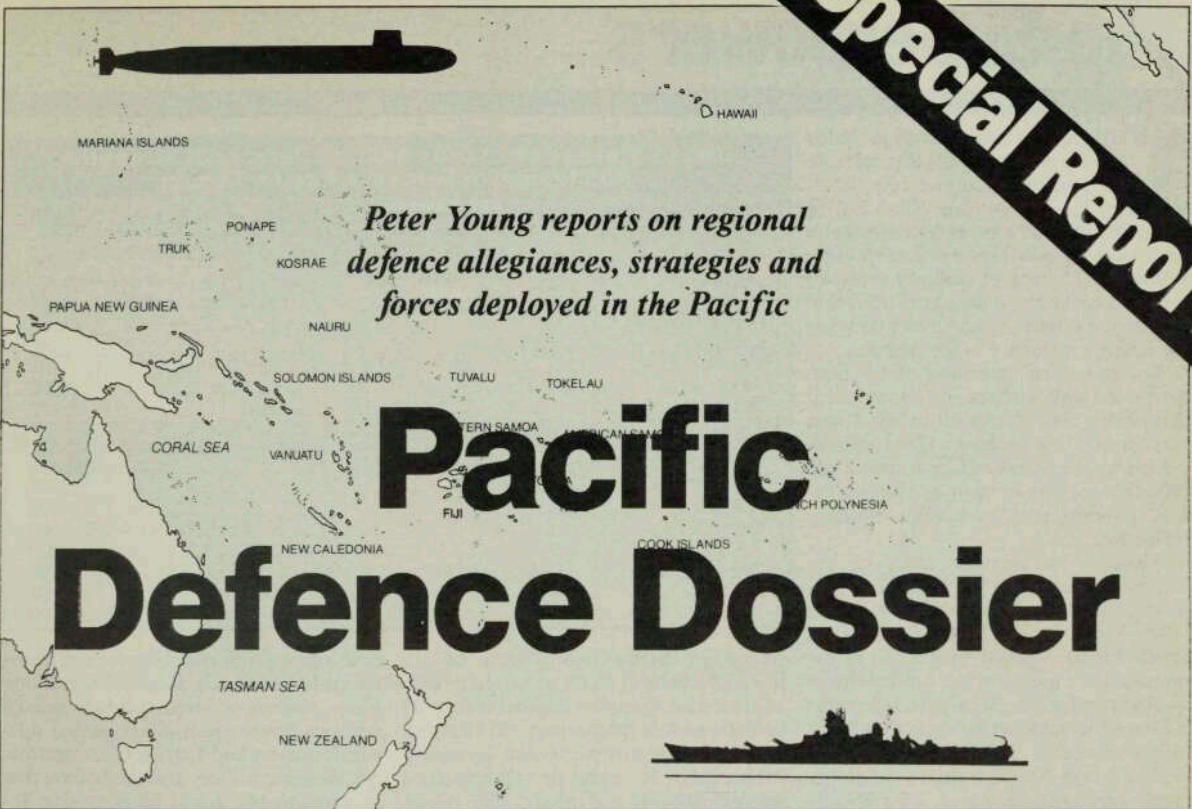
Statesmanship comes easy for the Prime Minister.

There'll be more funds for the agricultural sector and we'll make it easier for people in the provinces to take land titles and borrow money from the bank for mortgages. We hope to spend less money on law and order, social services and administration."

When he is not running the country, Mr Wingti, who is not married, relaxes by reading, swimming and watching sport. He enjoys big rugby league games. He was a keen jogger until suffering a knee injury. But mostly he likes to spend time with close friends and return to the more peaceful concerns of his native Mt Hagen.

"The province is a place where the issues you discuss are quite different from the running of the country," he says. "Here, I'm surrounded by advisers, concerned with the complicated business of running the nation. In the village it's different. I turn my mind to simple things and this slows my mind, relaxes me."

There would, however, be no relaxing for Mr Wingti this day. After the interview, as he escorted me to the gate of the residence, we negotiated a holding pattern of politicians and public servants milling in the driveway, seeking an audience. Some had been waiting in 40 degree heat for hours. It was midday Saturday and there was work to do. Rustic contemplation at Mt Hagen was out. Being Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea can, indeed, be a bloody hard job. □



MARIANA ISLANDS
HAWAII
PONAPE
TRUK
KOSRAE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
NAURU
SOLOMON ISLANDS
TUVALU
TOKELAU
CORAL SEA
VANUATU
NEW CALEDONIA
FIJI
NEW ZEALAND
TASMAN SEA
COOK ISLANDS
FRENCH POLYNESIA

Special Report

Peter Young reports on regional defence allegiances, strategies and forces deployed in the Pacific

Pacific Defence Dossier

IN THE space of less than two years there have been dramatic changes in security arrangements in the South Pacific — changes that have seen the region grow from a strategic backwater into a focus of superpower rivalry.

We have also seen the beginning of a re-casting of traditional spheres of influence as island nations have woken to a new sense of identity and nationalism. Much of this dates from the breach between New Zealand and the United States that led to the break-up of the ANZUS alliance in February, 1985. But events since then have led to an increasingly volatile situation.

It was only as late as June, 1986, that Paul Dibb, in his review of Australia's defence capabilities, saw Australia as the major South Pacific power in what he described as "a benign strategic environment".

Since then, however, the Soviet Union has spelt out a claim on the Pacific, there has been a realignment toward a more independent posture in Vanuatu, growing problems of decolonisation in New Caledonia and a sudden change of government in Fiji. A pan-Melanesian movement has emerged and there have been calls for self-determination in international relations as a new generation comes to power in the region.

There are problems of law and order in PNG, while the situation on the Irian Jaya border ticks away like a time-bomb: allegations of Indonesia's recent involvement in PNG's internal politics gives credence to claims that Jakarta may be moving to challenge Australia's pre-eminence in the South Pacific.

Japan has announced a "new deal" in its relations with the island states and Australia and New Zealand have moved to buttress their failing positions through increased security arrangements. The deployment of US Special Forces in Papua New Guinea, in response to PNG Defence Minister Pokasui's September call for wider defence co-operation measures with "trusted friendly nations" — no matter how small the contingent or how well-intentioned the gesture — must also be accepted as evidence of change.

The dramatic coup in Fiji in May has highlighted the potential for further political instability within the region, but the three most important areas of concern must remain as the PNG/Irian Jaya border, the struggle for independence in New Caledonia and the threat of superpower confrontation.



USS Vinson on Pacific manoeuvres.

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JANUARY 1988 37

The Superpowers

THE growing Soviet naval presence and the projection of that power into the South and Southwest Pacific afforded by the base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam must be seen as a challenge to what has long been an American military influence. The Soviet military presence has been backed by a matching trade and diplomatic offensive aimed at extending the USSR's influence in the region.

Soviet fishing agreements have been concluded with Kiribati and Vanuatu and approaches have been made to Fiji, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. These are defended by the Soviets as legitimate trade offers but are seen by some as efforts to extend political and, eventually, military influence.

Moscow has further muddled the waters by supporting the Lange Government's anti-nuclear stand and by acceding to the South Pacific Forum's calls for a South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone at the propaganda expense of the United States — albeit under careful caveats. It has also expressed its support for New Caledonia independence.

The Soviet Pacific military capability is awesome, and has grown dramatically over the past decade. The Far Eastern "Red Flag" Fleet is now the largest of the four

United States Active Duty Military Personnel Strengths Positioning of Forces in Pacific Region	
Regional Area/Country	Total
East Asia and Pacific.....	
Australia.....	746
Japan.....	48,104
Philippines.....	16,068
Republic of Korea.....	43,133
Thailand.....	146
Other.....	246
Afloat.....	20,180
TOTAL.....	128,623
U.S. Territory and Special Locations	
Continental U.S., Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands.....	1,475,055
Alaska.....	20,777
Hawaii.....	46,122
Guam.....	8,989
Johnston Atoll.....	150
Other.....	92
Afloat.....	168,808
TOTAL.....	1,719,993

Source: U.S. Department of Defense

fleets: The Pacific Ocean Theatre of Military Operations (TVDO) consisted in 1986 of more than 80 surface combat vessels, 32 ballistic missile submarines and 90 attack submarines (almost all nuclear-powered), supported by 500 naval aircraft, one naval infantry division and around 7000 troops and special forces units.

Since November, 1985, three new prin-

cipal surface combatants have been transferred to the Pacific Ocean Fleet: Kirov Class nuclear-powered guided missile cruisers, Sovremenny Class guided missile destroyers and Udaloy Class destroyers. Western military analysts believe that as many as two Kirov cruisers, five Sovremenny and four Udaloy may eventually be assigned to the fleet.

According to senior American sources, the size, lethal potential, mobility, range and diversity of these forces are aimed at the intimidation of weaker countries and the realisation of strategic aims in the Pacific. These forces, they warn, are now capable of threatening the interests and values of states from Burma to Japan and Australia.

This assessment was endorsed in August, 1987, when Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden claimed he had no doubt the Soviet Union "aspired to drive out the US presence and influence in the region — militarily in the first instance — in order to reap the security, political and economic benefits its own proximity and military predominance might then be expected to bring".

The US still maintains formidable forces in the region, with almost a quarter of a million troops deployed in the Pacific area. It is also engaged in a major program aimed at increasing the modernisation, readiness and sustainability of the units that make up its Pacific forces. The largest component is the Pacific Fleet, which is made up of the US Third Fleet, Seventh Fleet and Pacific Submarine Force.

The US Seventh Fleet is based at Yokosuka, Japan, and usually deploys eight submarines, two carriers, 20 surface combatants, nine amphibious and six support ships. It is the largest of the American fleets and is made up of around 40,000 person-

Major Soviet Far East Forces						
	1968	1973	1978	1981	1985	1986
Ground Division	25+	40+	43	45+	53	57
Ships Total	660	646	726	720	803	836
Carriers	0	0	0	1	2	2
Surface Combatants	55	60	67	80	81	84
Submarine (Gen Purpose)	95	90	90	99	90	95
Submarines (SSN-SSBN)	10	20	30	30	32	25
Amphibs (LPD/LST)	0	4	9	11	14	14
Mine War (Ships/Craft)	110	115	110	95	95	105
Log-Spt-Misc ¹	390	357	420	404	485	510
Tactical Aircraft (Fighter/Attack and Interceptors)	1050	1370	1405	1355 ³	1815 ⁴	1860
Bombers	215	220	240	255	263 ³	250
			(LRA-175)	(LRA-150)	(SAF-155 ³)	150
			(SNA-90)	(SNA-115)	(SNA-108 ³)	100
ASW-Patrol	65	125	120	130(1)	154	170
SS-20 IRBM				75	162	147
Personnel Total (in thousands)	²	610	679	701	813 ³	882
Army	210	380	410	430	530	570
Navy	105	115	119	121	143	159
Air Force	²	115	150 ³	150 ³	153	153
			(Includes Air Defense Forces)	(Includes Air Defense Forces)	(Includes Air Defense Forces)	

¹Includes patrol combatants, amphibious warfare craft, coastal patrol/river-roadstead craft, underway replenishment ships, material support ships, fleet support ships, and other auxiliaries.

²Not available. ³Approximate. ⁴Excludes Strategic Defense Interceptors.

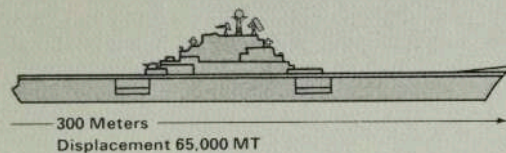
38 PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JANUARY 1988

Source: U.S. Department of Defense

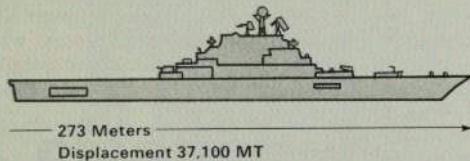
Surface Ship Comparisons

USSR

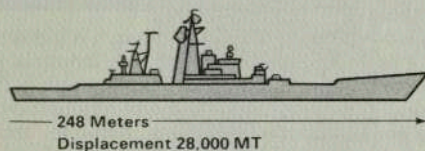
New Class Aircraft Carrier



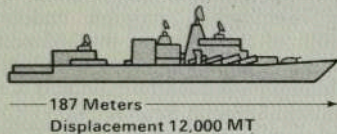
KIEV-Class Guided-Missile VSTOL Aircraft Carrier



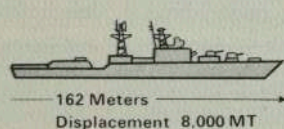
KIROV-Class Nuclear-Powered Guided-Missile Cruiser



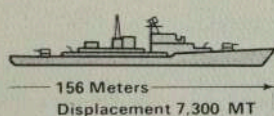
SLAVA-Class Guided-Missile Cruiser



UDALOY-Class Guided-Missile Destroyer

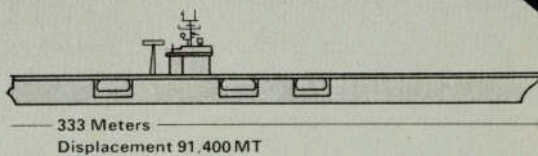


SOVREMENNY-Class Guided-Missile Destroyer

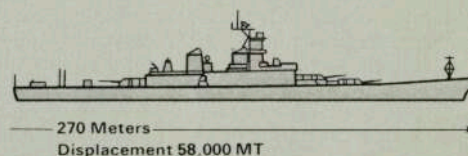


US

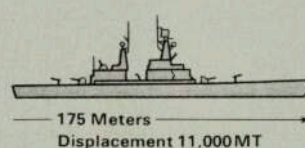
NIMITZ-Class Aircraft Carrier



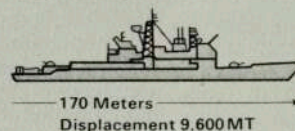
IOWA-Class Battleship



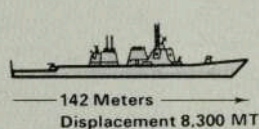
VIRGINIA-Class Guided-Missile Cruiser



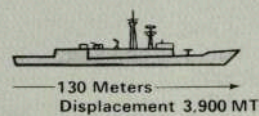
TICONDEROGA-Class Guided-Missile Cruiser



ARLEIGH BURKE-Class Guided-Missile Destroyer



OLIVER HAZARD PERRY-Class Guided-Missile Frigate



nel — almost half of the entire overseas US Navy.

The Third Fleet is based in Hawaii, with support bases on the east coast of the United States and in Alaska. A normal strength would be 28 submarines, four aircraft carriers, 72 principal surface combatants, 26 amphibious and 32 support ships.

The third leg of the force is the Pacific Submarine Force, which commands up to

42 attack submarines — 39 nuclear powered — and eight strategic missile submarines.

These forces are supported by the Fleet Marine Force, based at Hawaii, which maintains integrated air/ground amphibious mobile strike forces. The USMC is deployed in three areas of the Pacific: the III Marine Amphibious Force is based in Japan, the First Marine Amphibious Force is based in California and the operation-

ally ready First Marine Brigade is in Hawaii.

Behind this lies the might of the US Pacific Air Force based at Hawaii and charged with air defence within the Pacific command area and support for naval operations. It currently has around 300 fighter, ground attack and reconnaissance aircraft. The major units with a direct responsibility in the South-West Pacific are the 13th Air Force at Clarke in the Phil-

Philippines and the 326 Air Division at Hawaii, responsible for the Pacific Islands Air Defence Region.

The spearhead of this force remains the Carrier Battle Group, built around the versatility, range, speed and potency of carrier aircraft. The mobility and comprehensive and mutually supporting firepower of the battle group afford it the flexibility of being able to react to almost any level of threat, from offensive air strikes or the control of marine lanes of communications to air superiority for fleet operations and cover for amphibious operations.

This military presence has been deployed in the region since the end of World War II, in support of what has long been accepted as a legitimate area of influence by the United States — an influence that has been used by the Soviets as the rationale for their own increasing military presence. During visits to Australia, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze defended the Soviet military presence in the area on the grounds that the Pacific "is potentially an area of military threat against us", studded with American military bases "that threaten us from the East, from the North and from the West".

Australia

AUSTRALIA has been badly caught out by events in the South Pacific and is only now moving to rectify the situation. The Australian Defence Force is made up of 70,000 regulars and around 27,000 reservists who are being afforded an increasingly integrated role.

At 32,000, the army is the largest element. It is organised around a Field Force Command and seven Military Districts: the Field Force consists of one infantry division of three under-strength, two-battalion brigades. This is supported by one armoured regiment, one reconnaissance and one APC regiment and three artillery regiments (one medium and two field). There are also field, construction and survey engineer regiments, two signals regiments, six independent squadrons, one Special Air Service Regiment and three transport regiments — one air support, seven supply battalions and an Army Aviation Corps of one aviation regiment, five independent squadrons and an aviation school.

The army is being re-equipped with new medium and light artillery, new RBs-70 surface-to-air missile systems and Sikorsky helicopters for added mobility.

The 15,700-strong navy is organised into a Fleet and Support Command and six naval area commands. Plans are underway to relocate half of the fleet to Western Australia to provide a two ocean capability.

The fleet is made up of six Oberon class submarines, three destroyers and nine frigates. There are 20 patrol craft, two minehunters and six amphibious vessels, half of which are in reserve. This is supported by one heavy amphibious transport vessel, one destroyer tender, a former ocean ferry used for training and logistic support, one replenishment tanker and three marine science survey ships.

The Fleet Air Arm has seven armed helicopters but no combat aircraft. The navy presently has two FFC 7 frigates, four Bay class catamarans and six Sikorsky S-70B2 ASW helicopters on order, along with eight new Australian-built conventional submarines and six new light patrol frigates under a joint procurement program with New Zealand.

The Royal Australian Air Force has 22,800 on strength and can field 148 combat aircraft. It is made up of two FGA/Reconnaissance Squadrons equipped with F-111s and three interceptor squadrons equipped with Mirages. There are also two Maritime Reconnaissance squadrons flying the Orion P3c, six transport squadrons and four helicopter squadrons: one medium, with CH-47 Chinook, and three utility squadrons with UH-1B Iroquois.

Seventy-five new F-18 fighters are presently being deployed into the front-line interceptor squadrons and the existing fleet of MB-326H and CT4 trainers is to be replaced by new Pilatus PC-9 aircraft. New S-70 helicopters are also on order but all helicopters except for the Chinook aircraft will be transferred to the army this year. Work is also progressing on a new long-range over-the-horizon (OTH) radar system.

One squadron of Mirage fighters is presently deployed in Malaysia under the Five Power Agreement, with one infantry company on rotation. These are to be

withdrawn in favour of a rotating deployment by the new F-18 fighters when they come on stream.

Australia maintains a 135-man training unit and an engineer squadron in PNG, together with 100 advisors.

The ADF has recently undergone some far reaching reforms in command control and communications and is presently undergoing a major re-equipment program. There are however problems of retention and questions of the availability of funding for the new programs outlined in the Defence White Paper. Defence funding has been reduced from the three per cent annual increase envisaged by Dobb and endorsed by Defence Minister Kim Beazley down to minus one per cent, while the time-frame has steadily been extended from five to 10 then, and now 20 years.

Indonesia

TO SOME observers, it is Indonesia — with its numbers, industrial potential and military strength — that is emerging as the major regional power. Indonesia maintains first-line armed forces of 281,000, with reserves of around 8000 fed by two-year selective conscription used to man the regular forces. It is well trained and well equipped, with a major re-equipment program underway. Much of the effort of the Indonesian Armed Forces is directed toward "nation-building", but Jakarta maintains a formidable Strategic Reserve (KOSTRAD) and ready units: an estimated 20,000 men are deployed in East Timor.

The ground force of 216,000 is organised into two infantry divisions, one armoured cavalry brigade, three infantry



A Tomahawk cruise missile is launched from a US battleship.



brigades, six airborne battalions, two field artillery and one anti-aircraft regiments, a field engineer regiment and four special warfare groups. There are also eight cavalry with four independent airborne and 13 independent field and anti-aircraft battalions. This is supported by six independent field engineer battalions, three special warfare groups (KOPASSU) and two army aviation squadrons. There are a further 39 independent infantry battalions allotted to Military Province Commands (KOREM). The army is also in the process of forming a third infantry division.

The 26,000 strong Indonesian Navy is organised into two fleets equipped with six guided weapon frigates (including the recently acquired two Van Speijk class, equipped with Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles), six conventional frigates, of which two are about to be retired to the reserve, three Corvettes and four torpedo and patrol fast-attack craft, with an additional 31 patrol vessels. The navy has two minesweepers, two command and support ships and 12 amphibious vessels. There are also 19 cargo, training survey and repair ships and three submarines.

The 27,000-strong air force is divided into two Air Operations Areas and is equipped with 84 combat aircraft. These



Top: Brigadier Rabuka reviews troops. Above: Missile frigate HMAS Sydney.

are organised into two fighter/ground attack and one interceptor squadrons flying Northrop F-5s and A4 Skyhawks. There is also a Counter-Insurgency Squadron with OV-10F Broncos and a Maritime Reconnaissance squadron, four transport and three helicopter squadrons with C-130 and 140 Hercules, Fokker and Skyvan transport aircraft and Sikorsky S-58, Bell 204B, SA 3301 Puma, Hughes 500 and Indonesian made MBB-105 helicopters.

There is also a 19,000-man Strategic Reserve under the direct control of the

Commander of the Armed Forces made up of two divisions, a cavalry brigade, special forces and support arms and services. There are also five counter-insurgency battalions supported by six roll-on, roll-off cargo ships and a 3000-strong Special Forces command.

Behind this are 115,000 special police and a Department of Defence and Security police brigade of 12,000, organised into independent companies; a militia of about 300,000 and a large civil defence force and popular units such as the "Kamra", the lo-▶

cal police auxiliary and the "Warra", the people's resistance, under the control of the Regional military commands.

Indonesia remains a relatively benign giant, with its armed forces bound up in the task of nation building, but, as was demonstrated in Timor, it retains formidable reaction forces and equipment and new technology weaponry. However, most important of all, it now has a thriving defence industry rapidly moving toward self-sufficiency in many areas, and one that could eventually become an important regional source of equipment in partnership with European and American sponsors.

Fiji

THE takeover in Fiji by Brigadier Rabuka not only signalled the end of Western democracy there, but gave a graphic demonstration of Australian military impotence in the region. At the time of the first coup in May, the Fijian armed forces totalled just under 3100 regulars with a further 5000 reserves. The 2500-strong army was made up of three infantry battalions (one reserve), an engineer company and support units. The heaviest equipment was a dozen 81mm mortars. A further 170 served in the navy, which is equipped with three modern 370-tonne coastal minesweepers, two with helo-deck facilities.

The majority of this force, however, was on overseas service, one serving with UN-IFIL in the Lebanon and the other in Egypt with the Sinai MFO. Since the coup, the army has been expanded to around 8000 by the call-up of reserves but they are now slowly being demobilised to normal levels. There are increasing reports of moves to upgrade the armed forces by the introduction of new equipment.

The coup has given an added impetus to the formation of a pan-Melanesian

movement throughout the region. Organisations such as the Melanesian Spearhead group are designed to promote independence for New Caledonia and afford a greater say for Melanesian states in regional affairs. This movement — along with the emergence of a Polynesian group — is being seen as a direct challenge to the pre-eminence of Australia and New Zealand.

Papua New Guinea

PNG PRESENTLY maintains a highly efficient defence force, organised along conventional military lines with the emphasis on ground forces. There are around 13,250 in the all-volunteer regular forces, with a further 4600 in the para-military police border patrol. The 2846-man army is made up of two infantry battalions, one engineer battalion, a signals squadron and logistic units. The 300-man navy is equipped with five Australian-built Attack Class patrol boats and two 500-tonne landing craft, and is currently taking delivery of the new Pacific Class patrol boats from Australia.

The 86-man air force of one squadron is equipped with N22B Nomads, three Israeli Aravia and six C-47 transports. In September, 1987, however, Defence Minister James Pokasui presented a new defence policy paper outlining major changes and improvements in force structure, and a warning that PNG was prepared to look beyond Australia for defence needs.

The paper stated that there was no foreseeable major threat in the immediate future and highlighted the good relations that existed with Indonesia. It did, however, warn of the possibility of destabilisation

within the region, adding that events in Fiji forewarned PNG against complacency.

As far as possible, Mr Pokasui argued the Defence Force should be self-reliant. It should be capable of defending against external threats, able to meet international obligations and assistance to the civil authorities in maintaining law and order, which was seen as a major problem. They should also follow the Indonesian style "nation-building". The aim is to be able to counter low-level threats from internal resources other than the maintenance of material support, and the ability to meet any greater problem through the mobilisation of trained reserves.

The PNGDF should then be capable of taking a leading role — with major allied assistance when the threat had developed beyond PNG's ability to respond. PNG should also maintain a highly mobile conventional core force containing some irregular land warfare capability, supported by maritime and air elements (including a possible new, rotary wing capability, aimed at improving border surveillance).

The policy paper also sounded the warning that PNG would look beyond Australia for its equipment needs and that defence co-operation measures should be further developed with "trusted friendly nations", with a view to demonstrating PNG's preparedness to defend itself with a modern, well-equipped defence force. This would be supported by a new reserve force with legislation that would allow the implementation of conscription and the acquisition of civilian assets in time of emergency. The paper also suggests that PNG should be prepared to offer military help to regional nations. This determination to widen international security arrangements is already evidenced by the US deployment of a small Special Forces "Action Team".

Indonesia's reaction, according to a spokesman for the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, is that Jakarta sees no problems as long as the American involvement is restricted to what it terms "training and education". But despite this accommodating attitude — which may well rest on a gleeful appreciation that the major loser is Australia — the border area between PNG and Indonesia remains one of the more troublesome security issues in the region.

The border has been a contentious issue ever since the incorporation of Irian Jaya into the Indonesian Republic. Indonesian security forces have violated the border in the course of operations against the OPM and Port Moresby has been confronted with periodic waves of refugees, culminating in the crossing of more than 12,000 refugees following the abortive 1984 OPM uprising in Jayapura. Jakarta is also reported to be annoyed at Port Moresby's apparent toleration of the OPM and their openly expressed sympathy in some quarters for their "Melanesian brothers" and the OPM cause.



The PNG army is aiming for self-reliance.

Vanuatu

VANUATU has no armed forces of any regional significance, but is setting the lead in asserting its independence of action on the international scene by its non-aligned posture. The major security issue arising from this realignment lies in the possibility of nations such as Vanuatu exercising their right to invite external powers in the region. □

New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND'S decision to break with the United States over the question of nuclear-powered ship visits and its exclusion from US co-operation under ANZUS has been met in part by a renewed effort within the South Pacific, in what is being seen as a growing partnership with Australia.

New Zealand has a total armed force of 12,600 regulars and 9325 reservists: the 5800-strong army is made up of two infantry battalions, one artillery battery, one light armoured squadron and an SAS squadron.

France and Libya

LIBYA'S "intrusion" into the Pacific has raised alarm in most parts of the region, following reports of Libyan involvement in New Caledonia and growing diplomatic and cultural links with Vanuatu. Since then the Libyan connection has broadened to include links with supporters of the Organisa Papua Merdeka (OPM) movement in Irian Jaya. These activities have been a cause for concern not so much for their scale but for their potential to destabilise the region.

It is France, however, that is assuming a major role in regional security problems. France maintains its nuclear testing program at Mururoa Atoll, despite blanket condemnation on the basis that it is maintaining an "independent nuclear deterrent". France maintains a regional naval force of three frigates, three minor surface combatants, amphibious support ships and five Falcon Guardian maritime reconnaissance aircraft as part of its Pacific Naval Command (ALPACI). This force of around 1400 men is supported by two InterService overseas commands; one at

New Caledonia and the other in French Polynesia.

The 5000-strong force in New Caledonia is made up of a regular component of one marine infantry regiment, four infantry companies and an air transport unit equipped with C-160 aircraft and Alouette III helicopters. Additional forces have been deployed as the political situation demands.

The force at Polynesia numbers around 5400 and is made up of one marine and one Foreign Legion regiment, plus an air transport unit equipped with Caravelle and Twin Otter aircraft and Super Puma and Alouette III helicopters.

The crisis in New Caledonia, however, remains the major issue within the region. The prime difficulty in any transition to independence rests in the fact that the indigenous kanaks make up only 43 per cent of the population. The political situation has become increasingly polarised and the potential for civil unrest remains high, despite the presence of more than 8000 French security forces.



Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley and his PNG counterpart Mr Pokasui inspect a patrol boat.

Andovers and Sioux and Bell UH-1DH helicopters. There is also a training wing.

One infantry battalion with supporting logistic units is presently deployed in Singapore, but is to be withdrawn. A 35-man force is deployed to the Multi-National Force (MNF) in the Sinai.

The NZ Government's Defence White Paper, released early last year, points to a greater defence self-reliance and a greater capability to operate within the South and Southwestern Pacific. A major program for the modernisation and expansion of the RNZN has been announced to achieve these aims. This includes a new fleet tanker, a new multi-purpose logistic support ship and the projected one-for-one replacement of New Zealand's frigates during the 1990s — probably in conjunction with the Australian Light Patrol Frigate program.

There can be little doubt that the collapse of ANZUS, problems of decolonisation, superpower rivalry and external intrusion have changed forever the concept of a tranquil and remote Oceania.

The region's states still remain generally pro-Western in their outlook, but are now beginning to appreciate their new importance and are moving to extend their international contacts. As a result, the region's political and strategic environment has become much more complex as some island nations are beginning to question conventional security arrangements.

Such problems, however, should not be over-emphasised. There is a vast wellspring of goodwill and co-operation, and a common awareness within the region of the need to contain US and Soviet aggression and for closer economic and military ties. With luck — and increased respect for the opinions of others — the Pacific could be allowed to live up to its name. □

Major Peter Young is The Australian newspaper's special Defence writer.

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TRAVEL

Skin-Diving For Submarines Off Papua New Guinea



It's the perfect tropical adventure, going down for a fish-eye view of sunken World War II ships and planes in the calm, clear waters of Papua New Guinea. Story by Glen Roach

PROMOTED as "Adventure Country", Papua New Guinea offers dramatic landforms that range from coral atolls to snow-capped mountains, the Sepik and Fly Rivers, active volcanoes and hot springs, geysers and boiling mud.

The increasing number of tourists discovering its unusual attractions are also coming to know what the world's divers have known for years — Papua New Guinea has some of the best diving in the Pacific. Crystal water, teeming marine life, safe conditions, modern facilities and the most accessible World War II wrecks anywhere add up to an underwater enthusiast's idea of heaven.

Two of the country's most experienced divers, Bob and Dinah Halstead, who operate Tropical Diving Adventures in Port Moresby, last year made a discovery the diving fraternity dreams about... a previously untouched wreck.

Tropical Diving Adventures had taken a group of divers to New Hanover, north-west of Kavieng — about as far away from Port Moresby as it's possible to get. Within days the group had located and dived two aircraft wrecks and three shipwrecks, including a large armed Japanese freighter in Three Islands Harbour. The wreck is covered with sea fans and tropical fish, and is shallow enough to allow hours of diving on it by day and night.

At the end of one dive, scuba instructor and former salvage diver Kevin Baldwin surfaced with even more enthusiasm than normal. The news that he had found a *submarine* had his companions back in the water in seconds.

Sitting upright on the sandy bottom in

21 metres of water was a Japanese mini-submarine, intact. Unbelievable. The bow consists of twin torpedo tubes, one on top of the other; further aft, the conning tower is complete with an entry hatch, periscope and strobe light. The twin counter-rotating propellers and tail fins are still in perfect working order.

The unlocked hatch was easily opened after being cleared of some coral growth, and one of the women divers managed to swim inside the sub and take photographs.

Curator of Modern History at the Papua New Guinea Museum, Bruce How, was informed of the discovery and said the find was most unusual — even in Papua New Guinea, where there are many World War II shipwrecks within easy reach of divers.

The sub is believed to be a Type C Japanese midget submarine, which had two crew and a range of 120 kilometres. Legislation protects all war relics in Papua New Guinea, and future visitors to the wreck will be able to see it in its original condition, enhanced by the rich marine growth that has enveloped it.

Over the central ranges of Port Moresby is Madang, another diver's delight. Abundant coral and marine life afford spectacular snorkelling and scuba diving conditions. Madang Harbour is enclosed by a chain of reefs and tropical islands extending several kilometres to the north, and between Krangket and Leper Islands is the beautiful "magic passage", a dramatic coral passage frequented by pelagic and reef fish, soft corals, seaweeds, sponges and seafans.

The Melanesian Dive Centre, situated in the grounds of the Madang International Resort, enables divers to carry out many spectacular descents including one to the intact wreckage of a Mitchell B25 bomber in Madang Harbour. The wreckage is almost untouched, with ammunition and bombs still on board.

Seven hundred kilometres east of Madang is Rabaul, capital of East New Brit-

ain Province and one of the prettiest ports in the Pacific. Rabaul's unique diving attracts divers from Australia, Japan, USA, New Zealand and Europe.

Located on the rim of a sunken volcano — which serves as the city's superb harbour — and surrounded by six volcanic peaks, Rabaul was the main Japanese naval base during the Pacific War. As a result the clear, calm waters of Simpson Harbour offers the greatest known concentration of World War II plane and ship wrecks. More than 50 ships litter the harbour bottom and 12 are accessible to scuba divers.

Rabaul Dive and Tour Services has three boats and caters for up to 25 wreck divers at a time: "Rabdiver", as it is known, can also arrange a visit to the famous Japanese submarine base at Tavui Point. Tunnels were dug into a cliff-face to house supply barges, which the occupying forces used to serve the submarines that patrolled Rabaul's deep channel. The town was bombed for three years, and Japanese troops were forced to build hundreds of kilometres of elaborate tunnels and bunkers.

Also on New Britain but less well known than Rabaul is Walindi Plantation and Diving Lodge, at Kimbe in the west of the province. Kimbe Bay, more than 50 kilometres wide, is dotted with volcanic islands and coral cays that provide some of the world's most exciting diving. The volcanic reef systems give divers the chance to explore spectacular "drop offs" in the clear water of the Bismarck Sea. Dive headquarters is Walindi Lodge, located on a 500-hectare oil palm plantation with thatched bungalows a few metres from the beach. It is from here that the Lodge's two dive boats take guests to offshore reefs for a full day of diving, picnicking, snorkelling and sunbaking.

New Hanover, Madang, Rabaul and Walindi Plantation are just four of the reasons why Papua New Guinea is gaining a reputation wherever divers dive as a "must-go" destination. □



BOB HALSTEAD

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The Island Press

Reports from the papers, compiled by John Carter

THE MINISTRY of Natural Resources has said it has no evidence of any large scale gold smuggling out of Solomon Islands as claimed by the Minister of Education and Training, Mr Joini Tutua, in a radio interview recently.

Mr Tutua earlier claimed on SIBC that about SI\$72 million worth of gold has been smuggled out of the country.

The Ministry of Natural Resources said in a press statement that to produce \$72 million worth of gold would require about 170,000 people working with prospecting pans for six hours a day for 200 days a year. This would be about 60 per cent of the total population of Solomon Islands.

— From *The Nius*, Honiara

I AM ATTEMPTING to co-ordinate a sponsorship scheme to help the villagers of Labu Tali preserve their turtles.

The details are rather up in the air at present, but if you would be interested in preserving a nest (it would cost you 20 kina!) then give me a ring . . .

If you do visit the turtles please don't get involved in the usual tourist tricks of being photographed riding them etc. Give them as little disturbance as possible.

The villagers are honest responsible people. There is a good chance the schemes could work.

So far as I have been able to find out, it is technically ILLEGAL to purchase turtle eggs in the local markets — Bob Lockhart

— From *The Reporter*, the PNG University of Technology, Lae

THE UNIVERSITY of the South Pacific has expelled a Micronesian student for trying to set fire to the university's dining hall. The 25-year-old student, from Truk in the Federated States of Micronesia, was convicted by the Suva Magistrate's Court and given a suspended sentence. The court was told he set fire to the dining hall doors as he was angry over having to pay for his meals. The student left for Truk on Monday.

— From the *Cook Islands News*, Rarotonga

WESTERN SAMOA has recorded the first case of car theft in its history, and it seems to have been a professional job.

A man has been charged in connection with the disappearance of a Toyota pickup from the market.

It is alleged the blue pickup was later painted black, the engine changed and other alterations made.

— From *Tahi Tala Niue*, Niue

THE OFFICE OF the Ombudsman has revealed that two thirds of complaints handled by the Ombudsman were made by public servants (government employees) about their employment.

This was stated in the Ombudsman Mr Isaac Qoloni's Mid-Year report released in Honiara recently.

Government employees complained about everything from basic pay, allowances, promotion and transfers, discipline, dismissal, redundancy payments, pensions and other benefits, the report went on to say.

— From *The Nius*, Honiara

THE ANNUAL Report of the Niue Public Service Commission sparked lively comments on the behaviour of public servants.

The member for Tuapa Mr Tama Posimani began by commenting on the number of public servants observed to be buying liquor from the Bond Store during working hours. It was not only the problem of purchasing of liquor, but there were also those public servants who were either drunk or who are actually drinking while on the job.

Mr Posimani asked why these offenders should not be dismissed, for they would be endangering the lives of those working alongside them.

— From *Tohi Tala Niue*, Niue

A NEWLY arrived wife of a contract worker in Port Moresby was overheard discussing how much she enjoyed the lifestyle here. "At home in the UK, I was considered a drunk. Out here, I'm considered perfectly normal," she said.

— From *The Drum*, Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

A 24-YEAR-OLD man from Tuapa, Mr Sione Ikitoa, has been sentenced to six months imprisonment when he was found guilty of cultivating cannabis (marijuana).

Police found two cannabis plants growing on Ikitoa's taro plot.

Ikitoa told the court that he planted the seeds after receiving them from his brother in New Zealand to see if they would grow. Only two plants grew. He had harvested leaves from one cannabis plant and smoked them.

Ikitoa was permitted weekend leave from prison to work on Saturdays on his taro garden to support his elderly grandparents. The court also ordered that he attend church on Sunday.

— From *Tohi Tala Niue*, Niue Island

VANUATU

How Tanna's Water Flowed Again

Cyclone Uma cut Vanuatu's water supply. Billy Williams tells how it was restored

IN TROPICAL Vanuatu it's hard to imagine that fresh water could ever be in short supply. And especially so in the aftermath of cyclone Uma, which dumped nearly three metres of rain on the island of Tanna during a 24-hour period in February, 1987.

Such a volume of rain, the most in recorded history on the island, caused massive earth slippages with millions of tonnes of soil being washed away from the mountains and hillsides to the beaches below. Huge trees more than 300 hundred years old were washed away in an avalanche of timber and earth that took everything in its path. Whole villages along with their vegetable gardens and fruit trees were wiped out as the full force of the cyclone was unleashed on this small island of 17,000 people.

One of the main casualties of the cyclone was the island's rural water supply system, which provides the villages with fresh potable water on a gravity-fed principle from natural mountain springs. Thousands of metres of polythene water pipe were ripped out of the ground and smashed.

Land slippage wreaked its toll. What was once a small creek is now a large one, and what was once a large creek is now a massive ravine. On some parts of Tanna, the only soil remaining is on the tops of ridges.

Australia has been a major contributor to the establishment of rural water supplies in Vanuatu through funding by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) from the inception of the program in 1975. Since 1979, under the Australian Defence Co-operation Program, the Army has provided technical skills in the form of engineers, plumbers and drillers to assist the local authorities install the water supply. Three officers from the Royal Australian Engineers are now stationed in Vanuatu.

Within a few days of the cyclone passing, Rural Water Engineer Captain Alan Sheridan flew from his base in Vila to inspect the damage on Tanna and other smaller islands. Sheridan walked the length of four water supply systems on Tanna to gauge the extent of the damage so a reconstruction proposal could be put



Left and above: Volunteers secure the water pipes.

to the international community for the supply of new materials.

"The amount of land slippage was almost unbelievable in its magnitude and the size of some ravines meant the pipes would have to be suspended by steel wire ropes," Sheridan said.

An urgent response was required because of the health risk associated with inadequate and polluted surface water supplies. Within two weeks of the cyclone, Captain Sheridan and the Rural Water Supply Section in Vila had prepared a detailed report of the damage to the rural water supplies, for inclusion in Vanuatu's cyclone reconstruction program.

"We estimated that the cost to restore the water supply system in the affected areas would be somewhere around \$A1.25 million, which represents 25 to 30 per cent of the initial capital cost," Captain Sheridan said.

The international community made a quick and positive response to the reconstruction program. Australia provided \$2.7 million last financial year and has agreed to commit an additional \$4 million over the next three years toward the reconstruction program. Other countries making a contribution are New Zealand, the UK,

Japan, the European Community and the United States.

The polythene pipe for the water supply system was supplied quickly from Australian manufacturers while local villages organised volunteer teams to install and connect the new pipes to their local communities.

"The response from the villages has been very good with dozens of volunteers giving their time freely to connect the new water pipes," Captain Sheridan said.

All of the damaged systems have now been replaced with new ones and the villages once again have clean water for domestic purposes. "Clean running water is extremely important to the infrastructure of Vanuatu in terms of a healthier population, and in saving a vast amount of time in the collection of water," Captain Sheridan said.

The Vanuatu Government has placed a high priority on the provision of running water to rural areas. This priority has been confirmed in the Government's second Five Year Plan to supply all rural communities with potable water by 1991. □

Billy Williams is a journalist with the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), the agency responsible for managing the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

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Book Reviews

TRANSPACIFIQUES: Observations et considérations diverses sur les Terres et Archipels du Grand Ocean By Jean Chesneaux; Editions la Decouverte, 1 Place Paul-Painlevé, 75005 Paris.

Reviewed by Helen Hill

WHAT does the average French citizen think and believe about the South Pacific? Are French images, dreams and beliefs about the South Seas based on a solid foundation of information, or on myth, prejudice or deception? It is rare that we have the opportunity of looking into the minds of the French.

This book, unfortunately, will not help us. It has a different purpose, different audience, and is written in French — a language most of us don't read. Nevertheless, it has an extremely important purpose, and one for which Pacific people (including Australians and New Zealanders) should be thankful to Jean Chesneaux. It's his belief that despite our time's "fetishism of communication", an "abyss of non-communication" separates public opinion in the countries of the Pacific from that in France. This book, clearly aimed at the casual reader rather than the specialist, has as its task the bridging of that abyss from the French side.

English-speaking readers will be somewhat surprised to find a book on the Pacific for French readers beginning with a description of Canberra, complete with the "kitsch colonnades" of Civic and the fine wines of the Australian National University Staff Club. Those who know Canberra might be even more surprised to find it described as an early stronghold of the New Left! The portrait is here, however, because Canberra is where Chesneaux's own voyage of discovery of the South Pacific started. Had he not come to the ANU in 1970 as a visiting Professor in Chinese and Vietnamese history, and become involved with Australian academics opposed to the Vietnam war, he might have emerged with quite a different view of the Pacific region.

Indeed, by comparing his own intellectual voyage (following contacts given to him in Canberra and New Zealand) with the journeys of Bougainville or Jules Verne, Chesneaux seems to be stressing the difficulties, for a Frenchman, of coming to a view of the Pacific that is not determined by the vast amount of cultural and political preconceptions that cloud French official thinking.

Yet it is these "cultural dreams" penned

by Verne, Melville and Stevenson and illustrated by Gauguin, that are seen as providing some of the undesirable cultural baggage that ensures many French view the Pacific as an exotic place of pleasure, of unknowable mystery and significantly, of freedom from responsibility. The four chapters on "Cultural Dreams" covering the mutiny on the *Bounty*, the writings of Jules Verne and other novelists, and the role of anthropologists in the South Pacific might seem a little out of place, in a book such as this, particularly as each topic is covered in a distinctly sketchy fashion. However, Chesneaux's technique appears to be to create some accord in the minds of his French readers by making connections with their existing images of the Pacific before moving on to the more political and hard-hitting stuff, which will question a great deal of their beliefs about France in the region.

Thus it is not until Chapter 17 that we begin to see some of the "state taboos" of France's presence in the Pacific discussed. According to Chesneaux, two logics combine, both of which are officially regarded as essential for the interests of France. The first is the necessity of the "independent nuclear deterrent"; the other is France's need to be regarded as a world power of medium size. These two have combined to produce the policy of nuclear testing on Mururoa — a policy which, Chesneaux claims, continues due to bureaucratic and financial interests, mythology, and civil and military careerism rather than out of necessity for the defence of France.

He points out that it has never been demonstrated that Mururoa, chosen for its isolation when nuclear tests were carried out in the atmosphere, was indispensable for underground nuclear testing. But in the nine years between the geographical transfer of testing from the Sahara to Polynesia, and the technological transfer from atmospheric to underground testing, so much was invested in the *Centre de l'Expérimentation du Pacifique* (CEP) and associated commercial and military establishments, that its use has had to be justified regardless of whether it really is necessary.

Second, the policy of deterrence envisages preventing war, not winning it. This is the basis on which the *force de frappe* is sold to the French people; a policy, however, that is inconsistent with continuous testing to perfect a weapon such as the neutron bomb. Third, Chesneaux asks, have there been any circumstances when France's possession of the *force de frappe*

has made France any more independent or more powerful internationally? He can think of none.

Last, he points out that the CEP is localised in the Pacific region, yet its aim is to be part of a "global" strategy of which the priority areas are on the other side of the planet. How useful would they be in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union on France?

How does the French State react to these "taboo" questions being raised? We are not told in detail, but some interesting quotes from reconstructed '60s radical Regis Debray, adviser to President Mitterrand on the South Pacific, are provided. When confronted with the question of almost complete unanimity in the Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand, on the question of nuclear testing and France's continued presence in new Caledonia, Debray talks of "a conspiracy between the customary law of islanders and the biblical morals of the missionaries from London". Nineteenth century disputes and prejudices are still alive and well. Chesneaux comes down clearly on the side of the Pacific islanders and the Forum consensus, which have renewed opposition to the nuclear tests and supported the case of the Kanaks in the United Nations — though he also points out many examples of Pacific prejudice and ignorance about France.

It's a pity the author didn't have the opportunity to visit more of the independent countries of Polynesia and Melanesia, to give French readers more insight into how small island states can survive independence and to break down prejudices that apply to countries such as Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. His description of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement, while highly flattering to its participants, seems to overestimate its size and level of regional co-ordination.

Chesneaux's position is, unfortunately, a minority one within France, but the people of the Pacific should be glad to have such an eloquent advocate within the French academic establishment who can put their case forward. His reputation as a scholar on Vietnam and China should ensure his book is read in France, despite the challenge it provides to the so-called "national consensus". His next task is to try to bridge the abyss of non-communication between France and the Pacific from the other side by producing, not a translation of *Transpacifiques* but a book, in English, that will explain the French view of the Pacific to English-speaking readers.

Transition

Elected: The Mayor of Paapeete, Mr Jean Juventin, to Speaker of the Territorial Government of French Polynesia, following the resignation of Mr Jacques Teura as President of the Assembly. Mr Juventin was the only candidate put forward by a new Alliance of 29 out of the Assembly's 41 members, led by the former Economy Minister, Mr Alexandre Leontieff. Mr Juventin's election paved the way for Mr Leontieff's appointment as President of the Assembly announced mid-December.

Appointed: Fiji's former Governor-General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, as first President of the Fiji republic. The former Alliance Party Prime

Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, has been named Prime Minister. Brigadier Rabuka, who led two military coups which paved the way for Fiji to become a republic, has stepped down as acting head of state and head of Government but becomes Minister for Home Affairs National Youth Service and Auxiliary Army Services.

Retired: Mr David Graham, assistant general manager of the Union Shipping Group and chief executive of Union Maritime Services. Mr Graham spent many years in the Pacific islands representing the company in the Cook Islands, Western Samoa and Fiji. The new general manager of Union Maritime



David Graham, the Union Shipping Group's assistant general manager and chief executive of Union Maritime Services, receives a parting gift, a kava bowl.

Services is Graeme Brown, who has served as manager in Rarotonga and Western Samoa. Mr Randall Wiggs, for many years UMS manager in Tonga, has been named as Pacific Island manager.

bank's chief industrial manager for six years.

Opened: Lord Glenarthur, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, has opened the new British High Commission building at Port Moresby. He announced during the ceremony that Britain would give PNG a special rough-terrain ambulance. He also invited Prime Minister Pias Wingti to Britain.

Appointed: The French Government has named Mr Jean Montpezat, High Commissioner in New Caledonia, as High Commissioner in French Polynesia, and appointed Mr Clement Bouhin, a prefect in the Pyrenees-Atlantic region, to the New Caledonia post. Mr Montpezat replaces Mr Pierre Angali, who becomes a member of the Council of State in Paris.

Hospitalised: Captain Alain Mafart, convicted *Rainbow Warrior* bomber, was transferred to Paris for medical investigation of "stomach pains", despite New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange's outraged protests that the move violated the United Nations-sponsored agreement that he and fellow terrorist Dominique Prieur remain on the South Pacific atoll of Hao until 1989. UN Secretary-General Mr Perez de Cuellar agreed to arbitrate in the dispute if and when France responds to New Zealand's continuing protests.



Barak Sope

"I will be the next Prime Minister. The Opposition says the Vanua'aku Party plays politics. Well, you will see we haven't even started to play politics yet."

Vanuatu's Vanua'aku Party secretary-general Barak Sope at a victory party immediately following the election.

"I don't think we would like to see Russians in the area."

Mr Sope, again, to *The Australian's* Nicolas Rothwell.

"These are momentous times for Fiji."

Fiji's Brigadier Rabuka announcing that a civilian Government would take over from his council of ministers.

"Each person was beaten and made to sit in a pit filled with sewage while being questioned."

Fijian lawyer Mutu Krishna, alleging human rights abuses by the Fijian army.

"It's one of the biggest sandboxes in the world. But the interests of the US and the Soviet Union are quite different — they are fulfilling different roles."

Australia's Foreign Minister Bill Hayden on super-power rivalry in the Pacific.

"I have no comment on what may or may not have happened between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. That's for those countries to deal with bilaterally."

Mr Hayden, again, on the alleged loan from Indonesia's Commander in Chief Benny Murdani to then-Foreign Minister Ted Diro.

"The proposed legislation could be a source of political interference to restrict freedom of speech and expression in print, radio and TV."

PNG's churches on the country's proposed mass media controls.



Mr Huey

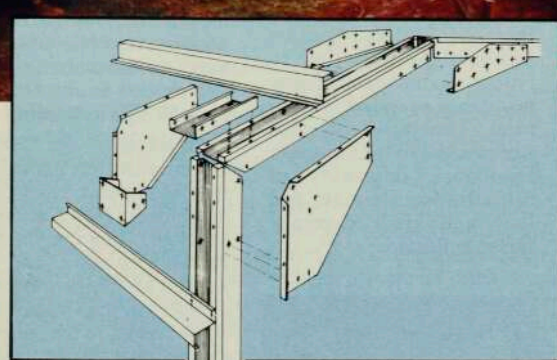
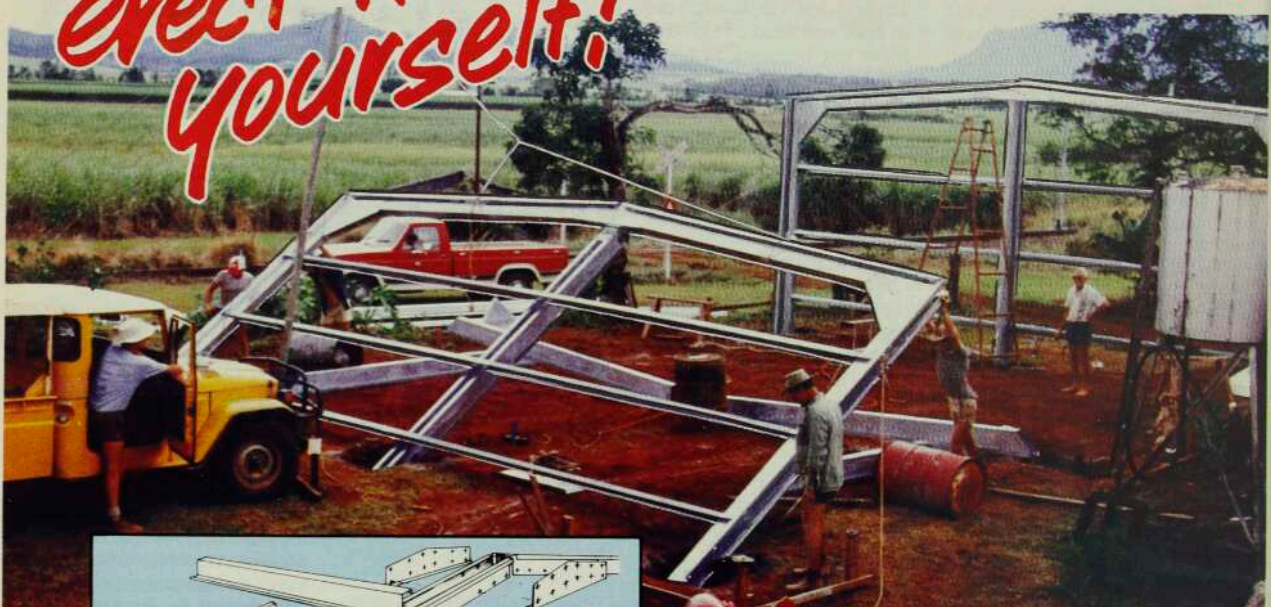
Mr Stone

Appointed: Mr Jim Huey, well known Fiji banker, to a new position with Westpac Banking Corporation in Australia. Mr Huey, Westpac's Suva-based chief manager, Pacific Islands division, since 1983, will become executive director of Westpac Training Pty Ltd in Sydney. He left Suva on December 19. The new chief manager for Pacific Islands division will be Mr John Stone, who has been the

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Pacific Stamp Box *Edited by John Hunter*

Talk about the cat among the pigeons! Australia has really done it this time: *Stamp News* magazine's November issue used three reporters, each contributing three full pages, to attack Australia Post.

Furthermore, stamp or coin dealers in Australia are sure to attack Australia Post immediately, in no uncertain terms.

The issue is this: Australia Post in September began a campaign whereby at least 500,000 glossy brochures were posted out accompanied by a letter signed by John Power, manager of Stamps and Philatelic Branch of Australia Post in Melbourne. The brochure advertises a set of gold-plated sterling silver stamp replicas in honour of the bicentennial. There are 25 replicas in the set, available at the rate of one per month at a cost of \$98 each.

The letter from Mr Power gave Australia Post's full endorsement of the set, and I must admit I was first led to believe Australia Post had produced the set as part of its official philatelic program and obtaining a set was a must to complete my Australian collection.

A second, careful look at the fine print assured me that the issue was a sales gimmick. Nowhere, however, is there an explanation that the set is not official.

The stamp world is furious that Australia Post is promoting a gimmick as if it were an official Australia Post philatelic promotion. There is outcry that Australia Post is also encouraging people into believing the set has great investment potential, whereas experts have calculated that out of the set that will cost the collector almost \$2500, he or she will have silver worth little more than \$100. Further, several companies market this type of material and any attempt to re-sell the material nets the collector the only metal content of the

set. The stamp world now fears overseas collectors will be confirmed in their belief that Australia is becoming a philatelic "banana republic". Marketers of the collection stand to make \$2 million to \$3 million for its promotion.

We complain about some questionable stamp deals in the Pacific, but say angry collectors, nothing could compare with this ripoff. *Stamp News* ended its comments by stating: "JUDAS ISCARIOT SOLD OUT FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER. Australia Post seems to have negotiated a discount rate . . . they have sacrificed their integrity, on a universal scale, for a mere 25 PIECES OF SILVER."

The worst is not over either: *Stamp News* claims evidence that more such "offers" are in the Australia Post pipeline.

SINCE THE last issue of Pacific Stamp Box it has been announced that the British Post Office will have a joint issue with Australia Post on June 21, 1988, to mark the bicentenary of European settlement in Australia. Already some dealers are advertising sets of bicentennial issues as a special collection. My advice is to put aside a set of issues for investment. They should be sought-after in years to come.

ON 6 DECEMBER Norfolk Island issued a set of three stamps as its fourth Bicentenary issue — La Perouse's visit to Norfolk Island. La Perouse could not land because of heavy seas, but he caught and recorded several species of fish and birds before sailing on to Botany Bay.



THERE IS talk of recession, and alternative areas of investment away from the stock market. Already people are moving money into property banks and the like, and many are moving money into stamps. As this happens, prices will climb again: already prices have firmed for good scarce material. My advice for the investor is to get a portfolio of scarce material. Shop around among reputable dealers and put aside some pieces. You can't lose.



Above: Western Samoa celebrated the 25th anniversary of independence with a stamp issue showing islands flora and traditions. Left: Four new stamps from Tuvalu recall the development of trade and communications, from early steam and sail vessels to recently constructed vessels such as the John which is the Williams IV, proud inheritor of a century-old tradition.



THE NEWLY formed Philatelic Distribution Company of Eastleigh has taken over from the defunct firm of Philatelists Ltd of Fritham to keep the flow of the series Leaders of the World flowing to those agencies who have contracts for the series. Unfortunately, we have to put up with these "stamps" until people refuse to buy them. I have spoken about the Pacific countries that issue the series before: I don't want to bore you further or to give further publicity to them.

NEW CALEDONIA has issued a stamp to mark the 40th Anniversary of the South Pacific Commission. The stamp features the flags of member nations.

STOP PRESS! Papua New Guinea has announced that due to a printing delay, its 1987 Year Album will not be released until January 23, 1988. □

Shipping Schedules

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — HAWAII — NORTH AMERICA

PACE Line (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised service every 17 days from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Suva and Lautoka. A new feature of the service is direct calls at Noumea. The vessels continue on to the North coast of America, calling at Hawaii at frequent intervals.

Details from ACTA Pty Ltd, Sydney (2660633); Tlx AA121369; Fax 2671148; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Rodwell Road, Suva (311777); Tlx FJ2168; Fax 311804; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Lautoka (60777); Sato SA, Avenue James Cook, BPC 2, Noumea, Cedex (281122); Tlx 163 NM SATO; Fax 278532.

AUSTRALIA — SAMOAS — TONGA

Warner Pacific Lines operates a regular cargo service from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Apia and Vava'u.

Details from Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (2231600).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Sydney. Cargo

centralised from Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 796 Auckland; Union Bulkships, 333 George St, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne; Union Co, Lautoka; Pacific Forum Line, Suva, Nuku'alofa; Pacific Forum Line, Apia; Polynesia Shipping, Pago Pago.

AUSTRALIA — LORD HOWE ISLAND — NORFOLK ISLAND

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

Details Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (2231600).

AUSTRALIA — KIRIBATI

K. Asia Pacific operates a 5/6 weekly service from Melbourne and Sydney to Kiribati (Tarawa).

KAP New Guinea Lines calls 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 St, Circular Quay, Sydney (2322277); Tlx: 122143.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

K. Asia Pacific operates direct service every second voyage to Tulalu (Funafuti).

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (2322277); Tlx: 122143.

AUSTRALIA — NORFOLK ISLAND — LORD HOWE ISLAND

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates direct service every 5/6 weeks ex-Sydney.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd as managing agents for NISL, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (2322277).

AUSTRALIA — COOK ISLANDS

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates direct service every 5/6 weeks ex-Sydney.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd as managing agents for NISL, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (2322277).

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 from Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (2313700).

AUSTRALIA — NAURU

Nauru Pacific Line operates regular cargo service from Melbourne to Nauru, passenger service to Nauru only.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line (Aust) Pty Ltd, Nauru House, 80 Collins St, Melbourne (6535709); Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20522).

AUSTRALIA — SOLOMON ISLANDS — VANUATU

NGAL/PNGL joint service operates a monthly service.

Details from Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20522).

AUSTRALIA — NEW ZEALAND

The Australian National Line and the New Zealand Line operate a 10-day container service (TRANZTAS) between Sydney and Melbourne to Auckland, Wellington, Lyttleton and Port Chalmers.

Details from Australian National Shipping Agencies, 131-137 York St, Sydney (2257333) and ANL Shipping Agencies, "World Trade Centre", Cnr Flinders and Spencer Sts, Melbourne (6112323) or New Zealand Line, Pastoral House, 96 Lambton Quay, Wellington, (7285000).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — 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 (2399000), NSW; reservations and inquiries (008 422277); rest of Australia, reservations and inquiries (008 222277).

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, Vava'u and Vila on cruises from Australia.

Details from P&O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh St, Sydney (2370333).

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS — VANUATU

A consortium of NGAL/PNGL and CONPAC/NEL has 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, PO Box R124, Royal Exchange, Sydney 2000 (20547); Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20522); New Guinea Express Lines, 37 Pitt St, Sydney (2413991); Vila Agents PO Box 27, Port Vila (2456); Tlx: NH1011.

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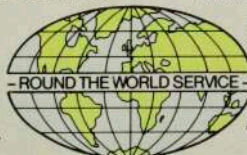
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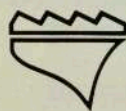
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New Guinea Express Lines operates a weekly container service from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta, Honiara, Kavieng, Madang, Wewak, Santo, Vila.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange, Sydney (2413991); New Guinea Express Lines, 127 Creek St, Brisbane (2219333); New Guinea Express Lines, 84 William St, Melbourne (6025544); Nuigini Express Lines, Port Moresby (214572); New Guinea Express Lines — agent Steamships Trading, Rabaul (921400); Bougainville Agencies Pty Ltd, Kieta (956089); New Guinea Express Lines, Steamships Trading Co, Madang (822446); New Guinea Express Lines, Garumut Enterprises, Wewak (862106); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, Kavieng (942133); Alotau Stevedoring and Transport, Alotau (611318); Ngatia Wholesalers Pty Ltd, Kimba (93-5102); and Tradco Shipping, Mandana Avenue, Honiara (22588); Vila Agents Ltd, PO Box 971, Vila, Vanuatu (2490); John Lum & Associates, PO Box 65, Santo, Vanuatu (329).

SINGAPORE — HONG KONG — FIJI ISLANDS PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co Ltd operates a monthly containerised and break bulk cargo service from Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and then to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag GPO Suva — Fiji (312244); Fax: (679) 314572, Tlx FJ2199.

FAR EAST — FIJI — NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (NZUE) operates a monthly service accepting containerised and break bulk cargo from Manila, Keelung, Kaohsiung and Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and thence to New Zealand ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag GPO Suva (312244); Fax: (679) 314572; Tlx FJ2199; Burns Philp, Suva (311777); New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customhouse Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington (727865); Cables: ENZUE-MAN WELLINGTON, Tlx: NZ31340, NEDLNZ, or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney (20522).

FAR EAST — MID-S. PACIFIC

China Navigation's New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia and to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara monthly. Wewak and Madang will receive four direct calls a year. A T/S service via Lae to these and other PNG ports connecting with monthly sailings is available at cost. Cargo from the same Eastern ports to the South Pacific ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa, Raratonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai service.

Details from Steamships Shipping, PO Box 634, Port Moresby (220283 or 220289).

Kyowa Shipping Ltd, operates monthly services from Japan to Guam, Saipan, Solomons, New Caledonia, Fiji, Western and American Samoa, Tahiti, Cook Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Details from Hetherington Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (2231600); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (312244), Tlx: FJ2199.

GUAM — NORTHERN MARIANAS

Saipan Shipping Co Inc operates a weekly service via barge carrying containers and conventional cargo between Guam and Saipan and Tinian.

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, Inc, PO Box 8, Saipan, CM 96950 (322 9706 or 3229707), Tlx: 783619; Fax: (670) 3223183; Guam agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

HAWAII — SAMOAS — TONGA — COOK ISLANDS

Hawaii-Pacific Lines operates monthly container service between Honolulu, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa and Avatiu (Raratonga).

Details from Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc, PO Box 3264, Honolulu, HI 96801-3264 (808 53114841). Details from: Morris Hedstrom (Samoa) Ltd, PO Box 189, Apia, Western Samoa (21355, 22722), Tlx: 224 (MORISHED SX), Fax: 24-279; Union Citco Travel Ltd, Raratonga, Cook Islands (682 21780); Tlx: 62024 (UTRAV G); Fax: (682) 20859; Kneubuhl Maritime Services, PO Box 39, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799 (684 6335121/22); Tlx: 782505; Fax: (684) 6335100; Union Maritime Services Ltd, PO Box 4, Nuku'alofa, Tonga (21644/5); Tlx: 66227, Fax: (676) 21645.

JAPAN — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co. Ltd operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Harbour Centre Building, 1st Floor, Thomson St, Suva (312244), Tlx: FJ2199, and Burns Philp, Suva (311777).

JAPAN — MICRONESIA

The NYK Shipping Line operates a monthly cargo service from Japan to Micronesia, calling at Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe.

Details from Burns Philp & Co. Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (2591000).

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, PO Box 8, Saipan, CM 96950 (322 9706 or 3229707), Tlx: 783619, Fax: (670) 3223183. Japan agents Kyowa Shipping Company Ltd; Guam Agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG PARADISE SERVICE

Mitsui OSK Lines operates a monthly service from main ports in Japan, Wewak, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta, Port Moresby.

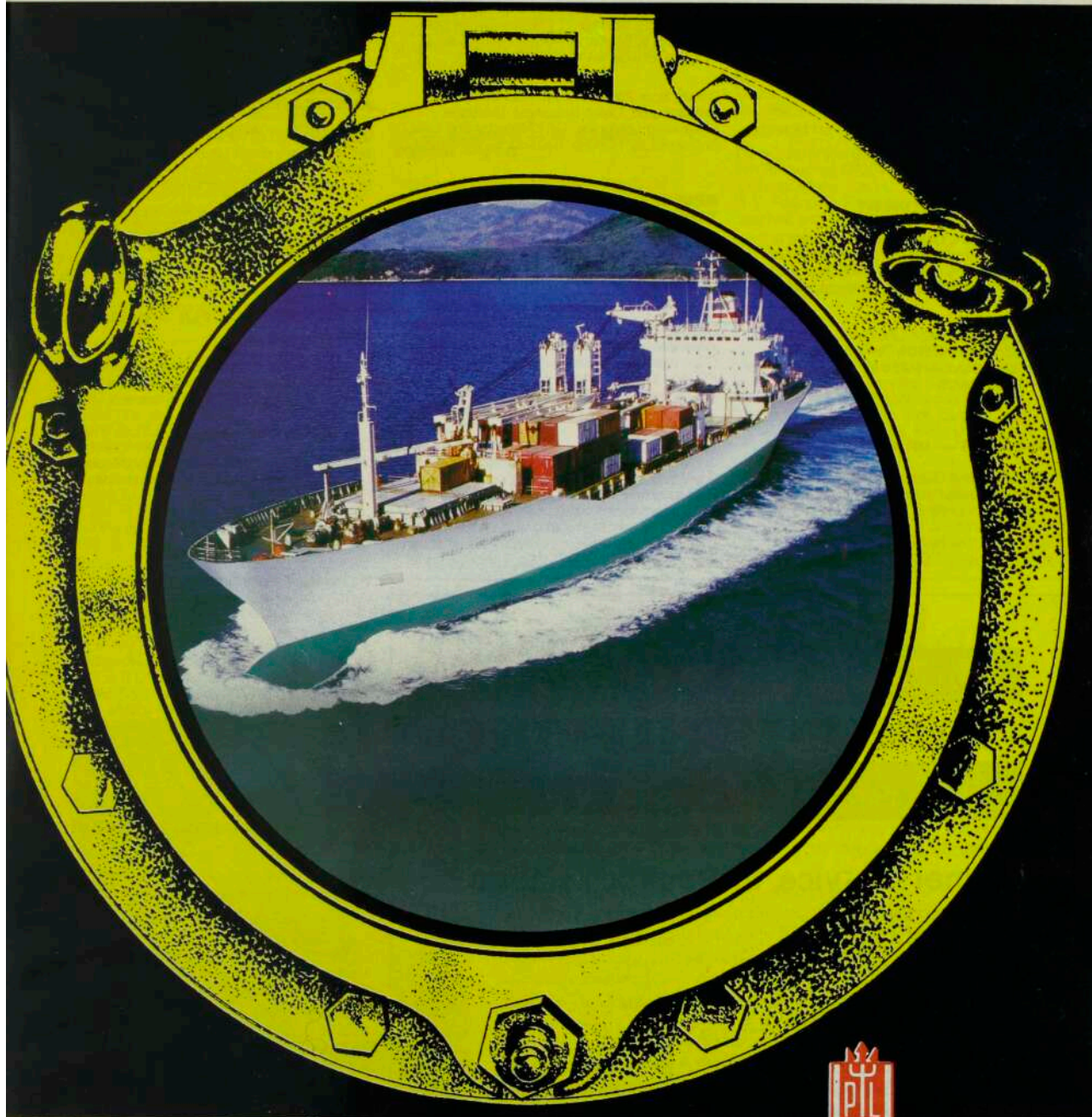
Details from Robert Laurie Company (PNG) Pty Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae/PNG (423642, 423811), Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG — JAPAN PARADISE SERVICE

Mitsui OSK Lines in joint service with Nyk Lines operates a monthly service from main ports in Japan and Busan in Korea to PNG — ports of Wewak, Rabaul, Kieta, Lae, Port Moresby, Kavieng, Kimbe, Madang and Oro Bay.

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◀ Details from Robert Laurie Company Pty Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae/PNG (Direct: 423642 or Switch: 423811), Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager & Marketing; Tlx: NE 42508, Fax: 423801.

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 trans-shipment facilities.

Details from PNG Line, Box 543, Port Moresby, PNG (211174), 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 (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (272041), 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 (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (272041), Tlx: AA24063;

Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44171; Tradco Shipping Ltd, Honiara (22588), Tlx: 66313.

NEW ZEALAND — AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMON ISLANDS

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro service from Lyttelton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby and Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then New Zealand.

Details from Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae; Sullivan's Ltd, Honiara; Seabridge, Wellington.

NEW ZEALAND — COOK ISLANDS — TAHITI

New Zealand Line operates cargo services based on pallets and similar units from Auckland to Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Details from NZ Shipping Agencies International Ltd, PO Box 3420, Auckland (392650); Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Raratonga; Cook Islands; Shipping Office, Govt. of Niue, PO Box 107, Niue Island; Compagnie Maritime Polynesienne, PO Box 36, Papeete, Tahiti.

NEW ZEALAND — 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 (7712213), Tlx: 60633; MV

Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd, Private Bag, Suva, Fiji (311056).

Pacific Line with one ship operates two weekly ro-ro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva. No passengers.

Details Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs St, Auckland (773279), PO Box 3614, Tlx: NZ2313; Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (25141), Tlx: FJ2199.

NEW ZEALAND — 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-US West Coast voyages.

Details from Blueport ACT (NZ) Ltd, PO Box 192, Wellington (739029); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva, Fiji (311777), Tlx: FJ2168 Burship.

NEW ZEALAND — 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, Christchurch, Suva and Apia, Union Maritime, Lautoka, and Nuku'alofa; Polynesian Shipping, Pago Pago.

NEW ZEALAND — TONGA — SAMOAS

Warner Pacific Line Services: Auckland, Nuku'alofa, Vava'u, Apia, Pago Pago fortnightly carrying general and freezer cargoes and FCL Dry.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, Downtown House, 21 Queen St, Auckland, PO Box 3 (390229), Cables MACSHIP, Tlx: NZ2554f; Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Mealelei (Western Samoa) Ltd, Private Bag Apia, Western Samoa; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, PO Box 129, Pago Pago, American Samoa (6332709), Cables 506, Burnsouth SB.

NZ — COOK ISLANDS — AITUTAKI — NIUE

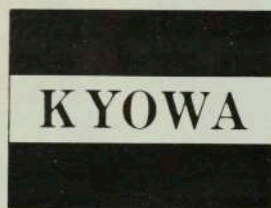
Cook Islands Line services Auckland, Aitutaki, Niue monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, Downtown House, 21 Queen Street, Auckland, PO Box 3, Auckland (390229), Cables MACSHIP, Tlx: NZ2554; Fax: 32931.

TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU — SOLOMON ISLANDS — NEW ZEALAND — PNG - SINGAPORE — EUROPE

Polish Ocean Lines operate in semi-container type vessels to the following ports: from Papeete, Noumea, Santo, Vila, Yandina, Honiara, Auckland, Rabaul, Lae, Singapore, Port Klang, Penang then to Mediterranean ports and Europe via the Suez Canal. (Other New Zealand ports subject to inducement)

Details from Universal Shipping Agencies Ltd, 6th Floor, 38 Fort St, Auckland 1, NZ (390931, 390727, 32104), Tlx: 21517.



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◀ **EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA**

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates services from Europe and Mediterranean ports to Papeete and Noumea using three ro-ro and multi-purpose vessels thus ensuring a bi-monthly sailing to and from.

Details from Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (2313700).

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — NEW ZEALAND — VANUATU — SOLOMONS — PNG — EUROPE

Polish Ocean Lines offers regular monthly sailings for containerised and break bulk cargo, also conventional reefer space and reefer containers from Hamburg, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Auckland, Santo, Honiara, Rabaul, Lae, Singapore, returning to Europe via Suez. Other ports in the South Pacific can be served directly with inducement or otherwise via transshipment.

Details from Sotama, BP 9170, Papeete (427805), Tlx: 373, Tlx: Sotama 373FP, SATO: BP, C2 Noumea Cedex (272094), Tlx: 163NM; Universal Shipping Agencies, PO Box 2282 Auckland (30930), Tlx: 21517; Vanua Navigation, PO Box 44, Vila (2027), Tlx: 1033; Melan Chine Shipping Co, PO Box 71, Honiara (21678), Tlx: 66335; Steamships Trading Co Ltd, PO Box 85, Lae (424666), Tlx: 42423; Union Steamship Co of NZ Ltd, PO Box 50, Apia (21781), Tlx: 225; Warner Pacific Line, PO Box 93, Nuku'alofa (22088), Tlx: 66219; Fiji Agents — TBA.

EUROPE — TAHITI — W. SAMOA — FIJI — NEW CALEDONIA

Nedlloyd offers regular cargo services from Continental ports to Papeete, Apia, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Details Nedlloyd (Aust.) Pty Ltd, Spring St, Sydney (273801); Carpenters Shipping, 1st Floor, Harbour Centre Bldg, 100 Thomson St, Suva (312244) Tlx: 2199FJ and Vetari St, Lautoka (63988), Tlx: 5215FJ.

UK — EUROPE — W. SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (272041), Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE 44111, or Lines' local agents.

UK — EUROPE — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara and on inducement to Yandina.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (272041), Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44171; or Lines' local agents.

UK/EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Port-Vila and Santo.

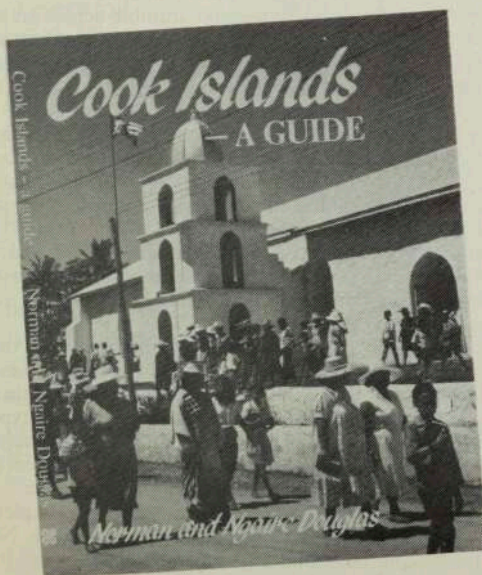
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OUT OF THE PAST

Bringing The Heroes Home

The quest to find, and bury, the lost airmen of WWII. By Maclaren Hiari

THE search to retrieve, identify and bury with full military honours the remains of some 2000 Allied airmen — both Americans and Australians — lying in the jungles, swamps and waters of Papua New Guinea is continuing 43 years after World War II ended.

From Port Moresby to Lae, Goroka and Madang, or in a multitude of other places, the remains of aircraft four decades old are still lying in the matted undergrowth.

It was then a time of war, and the skies were filled with Liberator, Fortress, Mitchell and Havoc bombers, Airocobra, Kittyhawk, Thunderbolt and Lightning fighters and Dakota transport aircraft. Their crews were young men, filled with the vigour of youth.

For hundreds of these young warriors, this land was to become their final resting place — lost, but not forgotten, on some cloud-covered mountain or hidden among the foliage of a lowland rainforest. Their mortal remains lie amid the shattered wreckage of what was once a proud fighter, bomber or transport aircraft.

Most of the remains will never be found, despite combined efforts by agencies of the Papua New Guinea, Australian and US Governments. Many, however, have been located and re-buried in one of the Allied war cemeteries that dot PNG. For many more, their only memory is the words: "Missing in action, presumed dead".

At the end of the war, the Royal Australian Air Force, in conjunction with the United States Graves Registration Service, mounted an extensive program to search for, and locate, Allied aircraft still missing. In the course of this program, which lasted for almost 40 years, a large number of aircraft were located: it seems incredible — until one sees the terrain — that aircraft are still being found.

The responsibility for continuing this program is now vested in the War Museum of the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port Moresby. The War Museum is responsible for documenting and recording aircraft losses incurred by Australia, the US, New Zealand and Japan during World War II. Extensive records are now held on most US aircraft, and many Australian losses. Information is being added every day: the latest recovery of the remains of three American and one Australian airmen in the jungles of Oro Province, in south-eastern PNG, is a good example of this combined effort, with the assistance of the local people.

An Orokavian man, Frank Egiambari, while on a hunting trip in July, 1986, found

the crash site of an American C-47, or DC-3, transport plane at the northern end of Middle Embi Lake, about 15 kilometres south-east of Popondetta. The plane, which carried a crew of three Americans and one Australian, was shot down on November 26, 1942, by Japanese fighter planes. When US troops reached the scene of the crash all the occupants were dead, and in the confusion prevailing at the time — the battle of Buna was about to be fought — the bodies were not recovered.

Mr Egiambari reported his find to local wartime enthusiast David Pennefather, who has had previous experience in locating and examining war relics. Both men visited the crash site and Pennefather discovered skeletal remains when he was sorting through debris. He contacted Bruce Hoy, Curator of the War Museum, who informed the RAAF in Canberra.

The plane was indentified as a C-47 nicknamed Swamp Rat. It belonged to the 6th Troop Carrier Squadron of the 374th Troop Carrier Group, and the Australian crew member was its co-pilot.

In December, 1986, a two-man investigating team from the US Army Central Identification Office in Hawaii, Sergeants Randy Nash and Tom Baughman, spent a week in Popondetta and visited the crash site. Accompanied by Culture and Tourism Development Officer Simon Akai and myself — Maclaren Hiari, Senior Projects Officer with the Department of Oro — the team photographed pieces of wreckage and prepared a crash-site sketch.

Further investigation revealed additional wreckage at the top of an 85-degree incline, at a distance of 60 metres from the main crash site. Remains of landing gear were found on the ridge and photographed: altogether wreckage on the ridge was scattered over a distance of 30 metres.

The US Army Central Identification Laboratory also sent a 12-man team to Oro Province in June, 1987, to recover the remains of the four crew members.

A large portion of the aircraft remained above ground and various parts of it were identifiable, though detached on impact. Swamp Rat had come to rest in dense jungle approximately two and a half hours walk from the old Dobuduru Airbase, from which it took off on its last flight. The wreck itself sits at the bottom of a deep gully. It had hardly been affected by the elements over 46 years, though some bones were found buried about 40 centimetres beneath the jungle leaf litter.

A more detailed inspection of the crash site established that the plane dislodged its

wings as it ploughed through the trees: one wing was found on a slope about 40 metres from where the fuselage came to rest. Most of the wreck was in one spot, though pieces were found not far from the main wreck.

The CIL team spent three days in the jungle, painstakingly mapping and pegging out the crash site and sifting through the remains. Some skeletal remains, discovered earlier by Pennefather, were already evident. The team wanted to find the rest of the remains, if any, and to try to establish if any other personnel were in the plane at the time of the crash.

Various items from the plane were uncovered within a small radius around the crash site: radios, a compass, flare pistols, gun cleaning kits and uniform buckles. Bone fragments were uncovered just forward of the cockpit area. Several teeth and portions of a skull, or skulls, were located a few centimetres below ground level. It was apparent the plane's occupants had been projected forward among the wreckage of the cockpit. The bone fragments were placed in boxes for their journey back to Honolulu.

The team also found an RAAF identification tag, which confirmed the presence of the lone Australian airman at the time of the crash. The wreckage was then left as it had been dismantled.

To those who stumble across an aircraft wreck, a word of warning: most aircraft were carrying live ammunition, bombs, flares and oxygen cylinders at the time they crashed. Nothing should be picked up or removed from the wreckage, but its location and serial number, if visible (large yellow or white numbers painted on the tail, or a series of numbers painted below the pilot's side window) should be reported to the National Museum, aviation, maritime and war branch, which will arrange for a Defence Force team to visit the wreckage.

There are still 360 missing aircraft from the American 5th and 13th Air Forces in PNG: 148 fighters, 163 bombers, 21 transports and 28 miscellaneous aircraft types, representing more than 1500 personnel. Of this number, approximately 35 per cent are thought to have crashed into the sea.

The War Museum has not completed its research into missing Australian, New Zealand and Japanese aircraft, but it is hoped authorities in these countries will assist. With the help of the villager on a hunting trip, the forestry survey worker, the geologist or bushwalker, many of these aircraft will be found in the years to come. □

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