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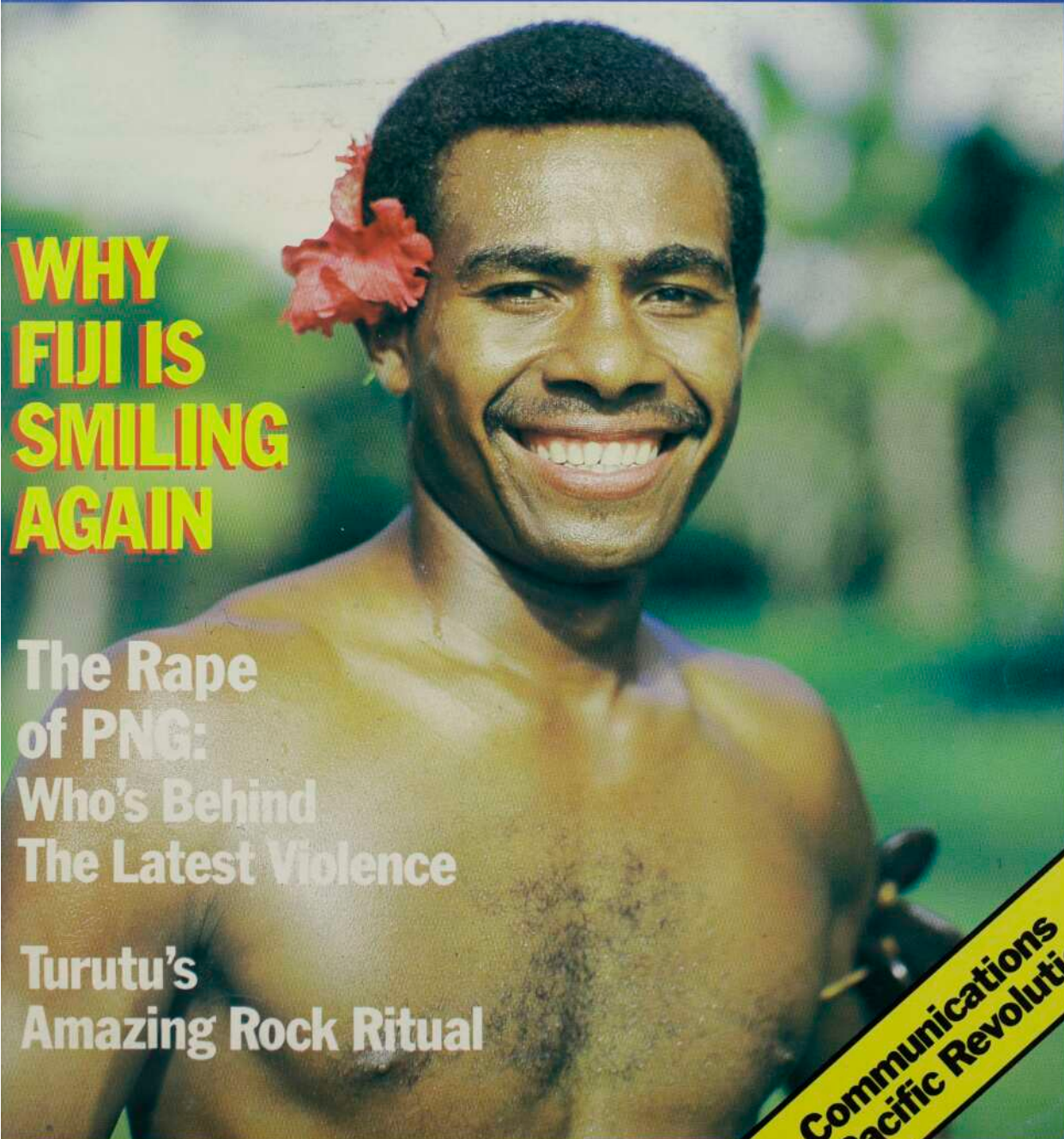
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MAY 1988



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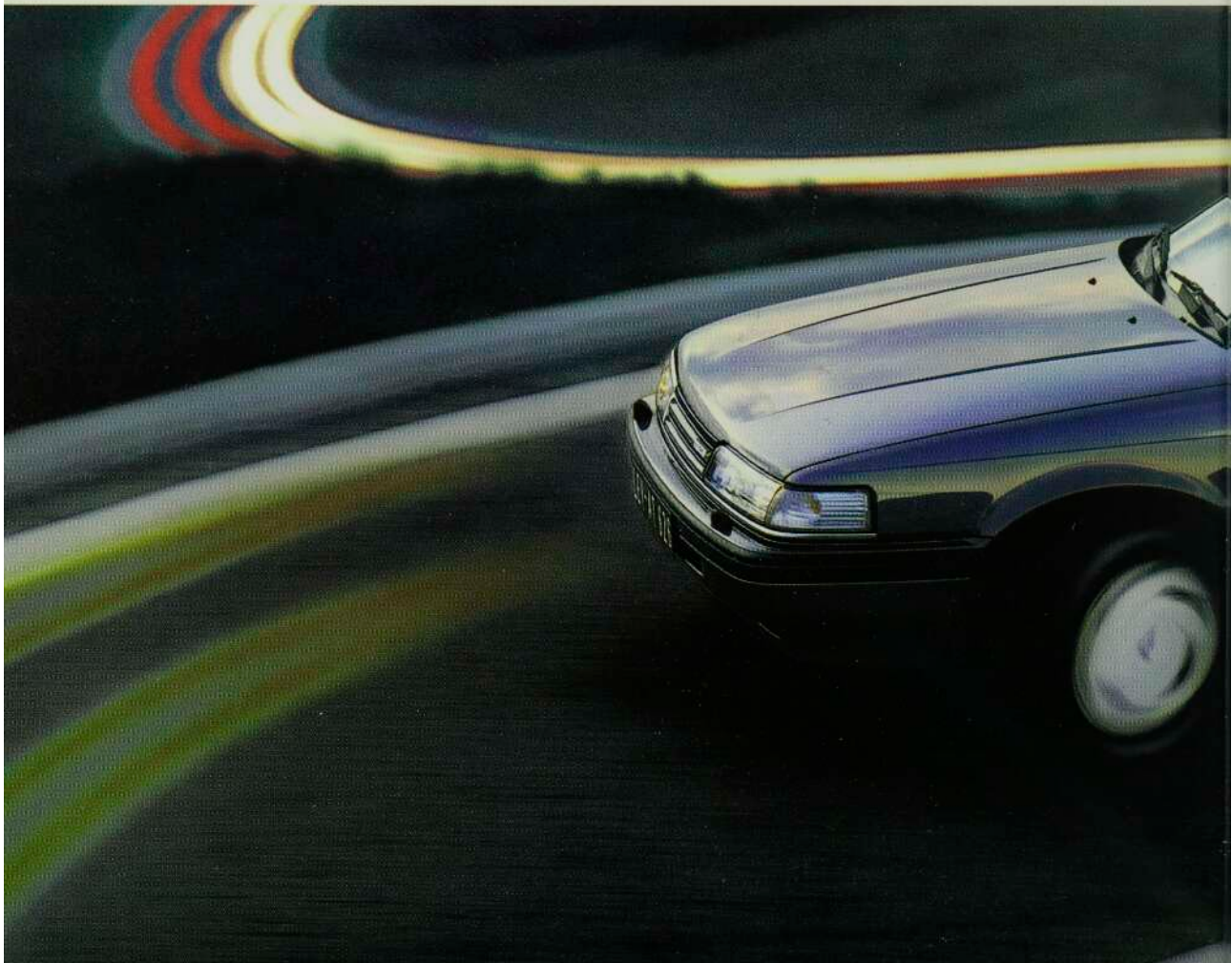
The ultimate; those are pretty strong words to use. But then, words like that have been used by automotive experts and drivers

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An advertisement for Dunhill De Luxe 25's cigarettes. The background is a textured, golden-yellow surface. In the center, an open pack of cigarettes is shown, with several cigarettes visible. The pack is white with a red label that features the Dunhill logo and the text 'DE LUXE FILTER' and '25'. Below the pack, a single cigarette lies horizontally, showing its filter. The text 'Always in good taste' is written in a serif font to the left of the pack. At the bottom, a paragraph of text reads: 'Created by our blenders from tobaccos of exceptional quality Also available in De Luxe Mild'. The Dunhill logo is in the bottom right corner.

Dunhill De Luxe 25's

Always in good taste

Created by our blenders
from tobaccos of exceptional quality
Also available in De Luxe Mild

dunhill

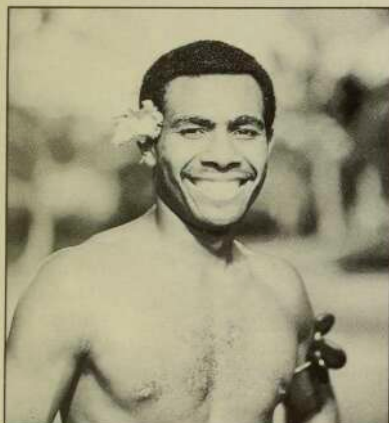
PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 59, No. 5

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

May, '88



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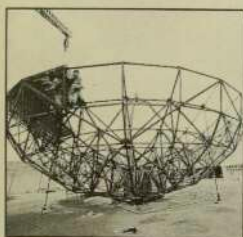
Business boosts Fiji's economic recovery: In an exclusive interview, Russell Leitch, president of the Australia Fiji Business Council, is confident of the ability of business to rescue Fiji and restore it to pre-coup prosperity.

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OPINION

Putting People Before Politics

Arch-enemies Wingti and Somare's coalition is PNG's only hope for unity.

APRIL WAS perhaps PNG's most momentous month since Independence. It was certainly its most tumultuous. For much of the period, because of a series of political crises, an escalation of lawlessness, and vicious rumours concerning personal improprieties in high places, the nation seemed on the verge of chaos, its institutions in danger of disintegration. The atmosphere in Port Moresby was electric as public faith in the powers of government and the motives of the country's leaders reached a nadir.

As this parlous situation came to a head the Prime Minister Paias Wingti and the leader of the opposition Pangu Pati Michael Somare on April 20 made a stunning announcement. They would join forces in a grand coalition. The move was met with scepticism at first. The one-time firm friends had become implacable foes. But scepticism was soon replaced by the realisation that the alliance of the PNG giants may well be the nation's only hope of stability.

On April 11, Parliament resumed for the first time in seven months. Two and a half hours later it was suspended. In so doing, Mr Wingti had defused a vote of no confidence in him that seemed likely to succeed. Mr Ted Diro was then named Special Minister of State assisting the Prime Minister. The opposition cried "dictatorship". The credibility of Mr Wingti was in tatters. The Government was hopelessly divided.

Most of the blame for this untenable situation must be sheeted home to the disruptive and destabilising Mr Diro and his People's Action Party (PAP). Although corruption allegations against him remained unresolved, Mr Diro had continued in a naked bid for power, seemingly without regard for the damage he was doing to the Government and the nation.

Thirty minutes before Parliament resumed on April 11, Mr Diro is understood to have handed Mr Wingti a list of non-negotiable demands. Failure to grant them, he warned, would result in the PAP defecting to the opposition to topple the Government. The demands were as arrogant as they were unrealistic: the appointment of Mr Diro as Special Minister of State by 11.30 that morning; his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister within one month; PAP ministries in the Government be increased from five to seven, and include the portfolios of Foreign Affairs and Finance and Planning; the Commission of Inquiry into the Forest Industry be scrapped.

Mr Wingti, it is understood, acceded to these demands, appointing Mr Diro Special Minister of State and adjourning Parliament.

In the days that followed, according to sources close to the severely compromised PM, Mr Wingti underwent a crisis of conscience — as well he might. After some sleepless nights, he decided to put paid to Diro's destabilising influence by getting into bed with Mr Somare in what at first seemed a blatant marriage of convenience. This new grand coalition (which includes the Peoples' Progress Party of Sir Julius Chan) does not need the PAP for a ma-

jority, and its formation therefore skittled the obnoxious ambitions of Mr Diro.

Mr Wingti and Mr Somare say their alliance will restore stability and provide the means whereby the issues that have rent PNG may be addressed and solved. The pair have pledged to put egos and personal animosity aside in the interest of the nation. They must now tackle the problems of lawlessness, media censorship, misbehaviour and corruption in high places, impediments to the rural development program and the crisis in education.

PNG's neighbours have no choice but to wish the new administration well and to support it so long as the leaders stay true to their promise to put the nation before their own factional interests. Events will move rapidly over the coming weeks and no one can predict the detailed form of PNG's new Government. Although composed of odd bedfellows indeed, it may well be the only hope for a country desperately in need of unity. □

Fiji Back In Business

THE GUARDED optimism of Mr Russell Leitch, president of the Australia Fiji Business Council, is an accurate reflection of the feelings of all of Fiji's friends and business partners. The essence of Mr Leitch's message to Fiji (see our story on Page 32) is this: "There are many problems still unsolved, but you have splendid resources, a strong and willing workforce, sugar is in good shape, the tourists are trickling back ... now is the best time you'll have to recover". Clearly, these are all reasons why smiles are at last returning to Fijian faces.

But Mr Leitch knows the battle to return Fiji to pre-coup levels of prosperity is far from won. Rather, the opening shots have just been fired. He is under no illusions. Nor is Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Fiji's Prime Minister. In his ringing address to the nation (which we publish on Page 35) he, while brimming with confidence over Fiji's potential for recovery, does not try to sweep the problems of his country under the carpet. Lingering racial bitterness, the brain drain, the country's tourist image and many other bugbears all have to be put to rights.

This frank message was also the theme of his talks with political leaders in Great Britain and France. Ratu Mara's honesty is, to many, every bit as encouraging as rising trade and tourism figures. It signifies that the polemical and pie-in-the-sky rhetoric that has riddled many Fijian leaders' public utterances since the May 14, 1987, coup has been assigned to the same scrap heap where today rust the discredited revisionist dreams of the Taukei.

There is no place for false and unrealistic hopes in post-coup Fiji. The situation is far too serious. And those running the nation know it. They also know that Fiji's only chance is for everyone — indigenous Fijian, Indian Fijian, neighbours and allies — to work together long, hard and harmoniously for the greater good of the Republic. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — MAY 1988 7

Letters

TOURIST OUTRAGE

From *The Times of PNG*
March 10-16, 1988

AS EIGHT visitors to PNG who were robbed between Baiyer River and Mt Hagen last week — an event that went unreported in this country's newspapers, like many other tourist victim crimes — we are forced to answer "no" to the question, "Does PNG reasonably ensure the safety of its tourists?"

PNG's greatest tourist attractions — its rural scenery and peoples — increasingly cannot be visited without worry of some crime being perpetrated. Yet while such guaranteed popular tourist spots such as the Baiyer River Sanctuary are ignored, the Government proposes a nearly K1 million expenditure for Moresby's Sea World, which offers a tourist attraction that both Australian and American tourists can view in their own lands at less cost. Is it any wonder that we can question the priorities in tourism related expenditure?

In the past week, we have experienced or learned: (1) the fear of being attacked by a dozen bandits armed with shotguns, rifles and semi-automatics, some with previous criminal records; (2) the indisputable assurance from a Mt Hagen policeman that the road was safe and that we needed no police escort; (3) the finding from police reports that other robberies had taken place on that road only three days before our visit; (4) the loss and damage of more than K7000 worth of our property, much of it not insured; and (5) the finding that attacks on tourists are not rare, occur in many parts of PNG, both in cities and in rural areas, and sometimes produce far greater humiliation and harm than what we experienced.

Contemplating all these facts, we spent our last days in PNG in the recognition that tourists are not safe here, that the compensation opportunities that PNG clans can use are not open to us, and that the criminals will usually remain free to continue their crimes.

Are these problems due to the budget? Hardly. It would cost too to post tourist advisories at the entrance to police stations, to override knowledgeable police officers. It would cost far less than the ridiculous K1 million Sea World proposed expenditure to conduct police escorts to all the proven tourist attractions.

Most of us leave this country with many newfound wantoks and the recognition that PNG has some of the world's friendliest people. But even these people have told us that nothing constructive is being done to protect tourists, and whatever we could do to warn other potential tourists — even if it hurts PNG's tourism industry — should be done.

Clearly, tourists to this country are not going to receive reasonable guarantees of

their safety. We say enough is enough, and since the Government will not do anything about this intolerable situation we will act. Until tourist safety can be guaranteed, potential visitors must be warned of PNG's dangers.

On returning home, and armed with newspaper and police on past tourist crimes, we will approach the travel agency associations in the US and Australia and their respective embassies. It is time that official travel advisories were issued for this country. The PNG Government has complete freedom of choice in choosing whether it wants overseas visitors, but if it does, greater responsibility for their safety must be taken.

Since the Government has not taken action, we will.

ANGRY TOURISTS

Nicolaus Stephens
Durham, California

Larry Orsak
Orange, California

Joseph Somp
Wau, PNG

June Myles
New York, NY

Jack DeLong
Lakewood, Colorado

Thomas McNeill
Valencia, California

Jerry & Marjorie Ewers
Denver, Colorado

Greg Bachman
Valencia, California

KAVA — THE REAL STORY

IT WAS both pleasant and encouraging to read Nicolas Rothwell's article, "Kava: A Pacific Ritual" (*Pacific Islands Monthly*, February, 1988). Pleasant because it makes a welcome change to the negative media coverage kava has been receiving in recent years; and encouraging because at last the true story of kava *per se* is coming out in black and white.

And there is a lot of subtle but meaningful authentic information about Vanuatu kava in the article that should be taken careful note of. Kava may be a Pacific pursuit at present but it is a commodity with a future whose potential is yet to be tapped. But perhaps for one to fully appreciate it one needs to come in contact with it first hand, as Mr Rothwell has.

Meto Nganga
General Manager
Vanuatu Commodities Marketing
Board

PACIFIC ISLANDS

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MURDER, RAPE, ROBBERY

Crime Wave Engulfs PNG

Police and politicians stand by helplessly as an escalation of lawlessness terrifies a nation. By Frank Senge in Port Moresby

SEVENTH Day Adventist Pastor Peter Knopper, 32, of Perth, Australia, was used to crime and criminals. Since arriving in Papua New Guinea in 1985 he had lived and worked among people who accepted crime as a normal part of their lives. Pastor Knopper was very aware that even as a man of God, there was always a chance he could become a victim of crime. But he liked his calling. He wrote to his Pastor father saying: "My life and work here is everything I've ever imagined it to be. I'm enjoying every moment of it and I plan to stay on for 10 years."

It was not to be. On the evening of Wednesday, March 16, a man shot him at point-blank range as the pastor was returning from his generator house. Nine shotgun pellets entered his face and head. Sherry Knopper found her husband lying in a pool of blood, unconscious. He died on the way to the hospital.

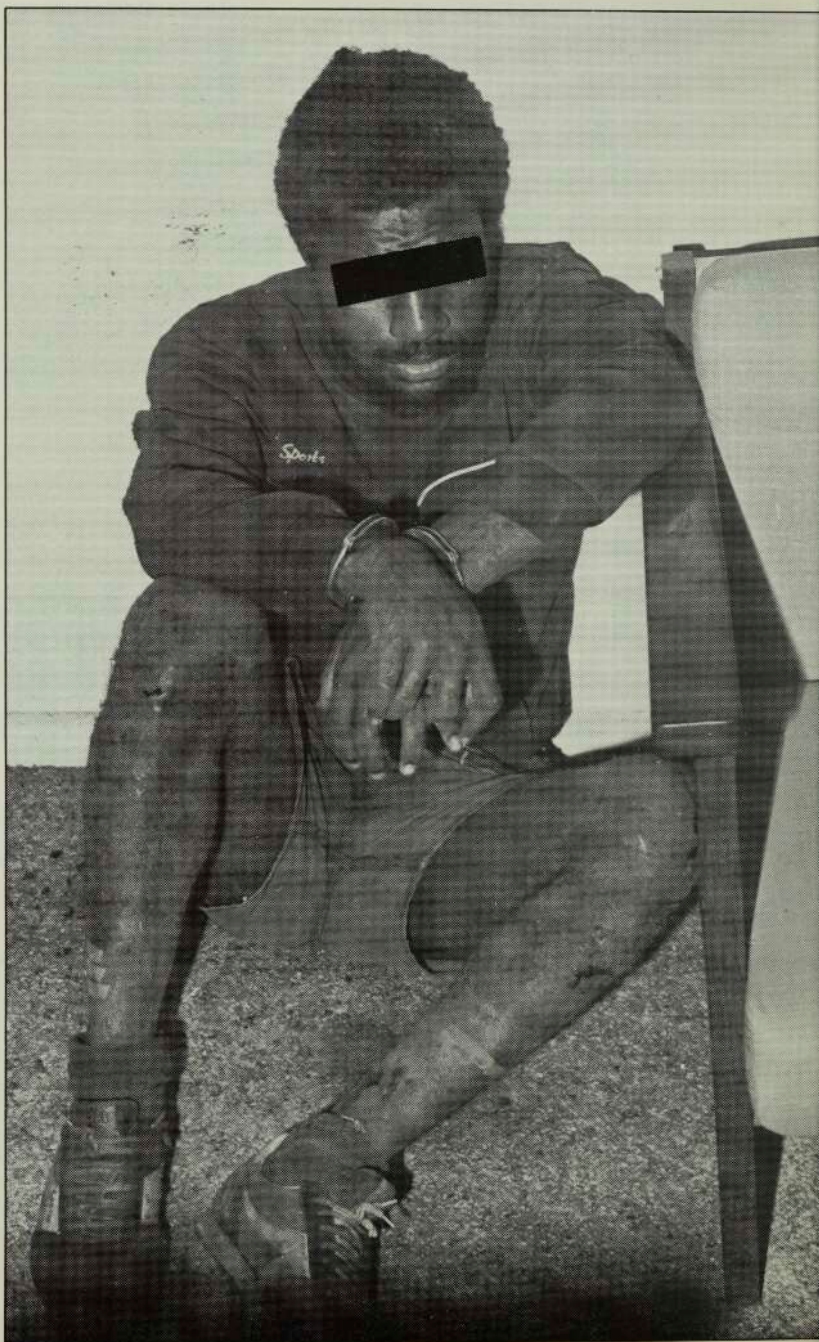
Before Pastor Knopper's body was flown out, more than 3000 Gorokans gathered to mourn his death and to contribute cash to his wife and parents who flew up to take his body home to Australia.

As was demonstrated by the many mourners, most people in PNG, as elsewhere, are peace-loving. They don't like crime. As one rape victim put it: "The majority of the people are good. Only one per cent are freaks."

That one per cent represents a stark and growing problem in PNG. The country's public image is tainted. People are killed or maimed and ruined. Foreign investment is stayed. Tourism is retarded: what traveller wants to put his or her life at risk?

Each day the newspapers are full of news of riots, murder, robbery and rape. The Wednesday before Pastor Knopper was shot, masked men held up five tourists and three nationals returning from the popular Baiyer River Bird Sanctuary. The thieves ran off with K1600 worth of property. Those tourists were lucky: they had prompt police help. But others have written blistering letters to newspapers around the world describing their dangerous and bitter experiences in Papua New Guinea (see Letters, page 8).

PNG's Culture and Tourism Minister Albert Karo is worried. "Tourism will definitely be effected by problems associated with law and order, particularly when tourists themselves are attacked or robbed





"Rascal gangs are being employed by politicians to attack and injure their political opponents"

of their possessions," he says.

In the immediate term Mr Karo wants tour operators, embassies and consuls to inform tourists of the problems they may face in PNG and to advise them to take precautions.

The US State Department, in fact, has already advised its citizens to take care. Its warning reads: "The Department of State advises US citizens that there is a continuing crime problem in rural and urban areas of PNG. Individuals are advised not to travel alone into rural areas.

The PNG Chamber of Commerce and Industry warns visitors and intending residents that the country is "experiencing a serious law and order problem created by both social and economic factors."

From the national point of view, no place seems safe from criminals. Western Highlands province, the heart of the lucrative coffee industry; Lae, the commercial centre; Madang, the tourist destination; Rabaul, the cocoa and copra port; Arawa, home of Bougainville Copper; and Port Moresby, the capital, are all hotbeds of lawlessness.

The hard-core criminal is no respecter of the famous, the high office holder or the handicapped. A knight and former Governor-General, Sir Tore Lokoloko, was robbed in broad daylight while playing golf. Prime Minister Paias Wingti narrowly escaped being robbed while at a friend's house. In 1987, criminals broke into the Cheshire Home for Handicapped Children but were chased away. In 1985 a deaf woman was pack raped.

To curb crime, a curfew was imposed in 1985 in Port Moresby and anti-criminal paramilitary operations have been carried out in Lae and the Western Highlands more than once. In Rabaul and Lae, frustrated and angry residents have formed violent vigilante groups that have sometimes caused more harm than the criminals themselves.

The tourist destinations of Madang and Wewak along the north coast of the New Guinea mainland have on many occasions virtually been held under siege by armed criminals.



Opposite page: A criminal is apprehended. Top: Police Commissioner Paul Tohian claims the problem is under control. Above: Citizens march against crime.

In March this year, the North Solomons provincial Government declared the province a trouble zone and began "Operesen Mekim Save" ("teach them a lesson"). Police mobile squads literally razed everything in trouble areas to the ground. "Operesen Mekim Save" has been brought to bear on Enga and the Southern Highlands provinces as well.

Police action, however, has often had negative effects. On two occasions parliamentarians from Enga and the Southern Highlands electorates raided by the police complained of brutality and even rape and succeeded in having the police operations investigated.

No parliament sitting is concluded without mention of law and order. Indeed, the topic is often the main subject for debate. Parliament and cabinet have considered solutions ranging from the death penalty, public flogging and castration to asking for Australian and New Zealand soldiers to be brought in to control crime.

Attempts at setting policy and programs to overcome the law and order problem have taken much of consecutive governments' time, energy and money. Each year there have been reports, submissions, papers, seminars and expert opinions offered on the crisis at the expense of private organisations and the taxpayer; but the problem only grows worse.

Crime figures cited in the 1984 William Clifford, Louise Morauta and Barry

Stuart report on law and order show that there were 44 murders and attempted murders in 1976 and 274 in 1983, an increase of 523 per cent; rape and attempted rape rose from 102 to 465 for the same period — an increase of 356 per cent; and assault rose 233 per cent for the period. Dangerous driving resulting in death has risen 1917 per cent between 1976 and 1982.

In February, a resident sociologist Bruce M Harris released his two-year study on criminal gangs in PNG through the Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research (IASER).

Harris confirms that the police force is only as effective now as it was 10 years ago, while gangs and criminals have become increasingly sophisticated. (In 1985, the then Police Commissioner, David Tasion, went further. He admitted his force had deteriorated since 1978.)

Harris says that today's gangs are "efficient organisations, which operate with little fear of apprehension". An estimated five per cent of stolen property is recovered and just one in 30 break and enters and one in 15 stolen vehicles result in arrests. About 40 houses are broken into every night in Port Moresby.

PNG Police Commissioner Paul Tohian discounts Mr Harris' statistics as inaccurate, but admits that Harris' three possible crime scenarios give much food for thought.

Harris refers to the "Organised Crime ▶

Behind The Grand Coalition

The Australian's *Asia-Pacific Editor Bruce Loudon* analyses the tumultuous times in Papua New Guinea.

IF IT sticks, it could usher in the sort of political stability that has for the most part eluded Papua New Guinea since Independence.

But that "if" is both overbearing and daunting, and nothing is more certain than that failure will spell serious new trouble for the country.

In a nutshell, this is how most seasoned analysts in Port Moresby see the situation following the dramatic announcement of the "grand coalition" formed by the Prime Minister, Mr Pias Wingti, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Michael Somare.

Only days before the announcement of what is clearly a marriage of convenience, Mr Wingti and Mr Somare were at their mutually antagonistic best, furiously scoring political points off each other. From Mr Somare in particular there was unmitigated fury: Parliament had been called for the first time in seven months but when the Opposition introduced a motion of "no confidence" in the Government, the meeting ended after only two hours and the

Prime Minister moved the adjournment of the session until June 27.

The Leader of the Opposition was enraged. Bitterly, he accused the Prime Minister of destroying democracy in PNG.

And when, in the aftermath of the adjournment debate, Mr Wingti disclosed that he wanted to amend the constitution to minimise the use of "no confidence" motions and thus ensure duly elected governments were able to serve their full five-year terms in office, Mr Somare — at least publicly — was even more furious.

Days later, in a breathtaking change of stance, the two men were together at a news conference announcing that for the good of the country they were sinking their political differences and forming their "grand coalition".

Compare all the bitterness that surrounded the abortive no confidence debate with what was said at the joint Wingti-Somare news conference:

"Our interest is the stability of the country. The nation must move forward.

It's very important that at this level we must have dialogue," said Mr Wingti.

"We have our individual feelings, our individual egos, but first and foremost we must put the interests of the country ahead of us," said Mr Somare.

It is clearly a long way from those high-sounding words to the effective implementation of a government of national unity, but what happened to provoke the dramatic change of stance? And what are the prospects?

At the centre of the political cauldron was Mr Ted Diro, the former Defence Force Commander and leader of the Papuan bloc in Parliament. When he left Mr Wingti's government it was made plain that he would remain out of the cabinet at least until he had been cleared of corruption allegations. But when the Prime Minister was confronted by the no confidence motion he needed all the help he could get and, against the wishes of some of his closest advisers, turned to Mr Diro.

An alliance between the two was ▶

◀ "Scenario", whereby the gangs use "strike forces" and have strong links with other criminal groups in the country and overseas middlemen to whom they sell and distribute stolen goods. The author claims he knows of PNG gang links with people and organisations in the Philippines and Australia.

The "Social Protest and Revolution Scenario" focuses on the danger of gangs becoming a medium to express the frustrations of the lower class.

The "Political Co-operation Scenario" sheds light on a trend that has seen rascal gangs in partnership with political powers: "Already some gangs have distributed campaign literature and 'encouraged' people to vote for particular candidates in return for payment of cash and/or beer.

"Politicians have used rascal gangs to attack and even injure opponents or those they consider enemies. This trend could lead to more formal and long-term alliances in which the gangs become a violent enforcement wing of the parties in return for which they are allowed to freely traffic drugs and other illegally acquired commodities . . ."

The report offers many reasons for the law and order problem, but the experts agree on one main cause: the education system. Lack of education is common in many countries. Those who drop out of school resort to crime to stay alive.

But too much education can also be a

cause of crime. PNG has adopted an education system that pampers and spoon-feeds a student to the extent where, if he does not win the job for which he has been trained, he has no alternative occupation and therefore cannot provide for himself.

Successive governments' role in crime prevention has been mostly reactionary. They have been afraid of making waves, fearing adverse effects on foreign investments and PNG's overseas image. Meanwhile, the private sector spends K76 million annually on security.

The public outcry rises and falls relative to the seriousness of the crime wave. When the clamour is loudest, the government jumps in with medium-term solutions — most of which are not acted on.

After the pack rape of a New Zealand girl and her mother in Port Moresby in 1984, the Somare Government came up with 49 measures aimed at curbing crime. Among them: soldiers of the PNG Defence Force were to be deployed to trouble areas and if necessary the Australian and New Zealand Governments would be asked for more soldiers; there was to be an immediate strengthening of police personnel and an annual increase thereafter in personnel and budget allocation. Commissioner David Tasion applauded it as a landmark decision. But none of the measures were ever followed up.

Law and order is too often just a political catchcry; an electioneering ploy more

often than not. Government policy is vague when there is any policy at all. When the public outrage dies down, the politicians put the issue on the back burner.

Experts now agree that any solutions to the crisis would have to be approached short-term, medium-term and long-term.

The immediate need is to upgrade the facilities and resources of the law enforcing agencies. This would require money to better train existing personnel, hire more officers, replace outdated equipment and improve the conditions of the police and prison warders.

Plans and policies aimed at community action would comprise the medium-term strategy. Communities could take care of common non-criminal disputes, and leave the hard core criminal problem to the police.

The long term solution would be to institute policies to upgrade and shift the emphasis of education, from job oriented courses to teaching total human development that would prepare students to cope with the real world.

But the enormity of the task ahead is realised when Police Commissioner Tohian claims to be unconvinced that crime is even a problem at all: "Law and order is not a problem at this stage," he told *Pacific Islands Monthly*. "Our arrest rate is very satisfactory. The situation is normal. We have the law and order problem in this country under control." □

The two old enemies told the press that they would put the interests of the people in front of their own

TOGETHERNESS

The Chief's choice — people before politics

By FRANK SENG



IT was a moment to be recorded for posterity, a moment to remember. At around 2pm and even earlier members of the Port Moresby Press Corps and thousands of people would come together to form one government. But when the two leaders walked through the doors of the national Parliament House at 10am, they were not alone. They were surrounded by a large contingent of supporters, some of whom were holding signs that read "People before politics". There they were, the Prime Minister and Opposition leader, shaking hands together. It was a moment to be remembered. It was the man who gave

patched together — and Mr Diro returned to the Cabinet.

This move, however, backfired, and the seven-party alliance that then formed the Wingti Government was thrown into disarray. There was bitter resentment in some quarters toward Mr Wingti's embrace of Mr Diro: Mr Diro appeared to be on top of the world, able to name his own price for supporting Mr Wingti (there were even suggestions he would become Deputy Prime Minister). But Mr Wingti was clearly unable to carry his supporters with him on this issue: he desperately wanted stability and constitutional reform of the no confidence rule — reform he believed was vital to the future of the country — yet he was hopelessly vulnerable in Parliament.

Mr Wingti then did the previously unthinkable: he contacted Mr Somare, the man he deposed as Prime Minister two and a half years ago, and suggested a reconciliation in the interests of "national stability". From that meeting the 66-member coalition, engineered by Public Service Minister Mr Utula Samana, was born.

The immediate conclusion was that if there were winners and losers in this morass of contradictions, Mr Wingti and Mr Somare were both winners... and Mr Diro was the loser. Further, Mr Samana looks to be the Parliament's prime power broker, with his fledgling Melanesian United Front expanded from five members to 15 and including three Government ministers: Environment's Perry Zeipi, controversial Communications Minister Gabriel Ramoi, and Defence Minister James Pokasui. It is understood

Mr Samana is offering his party's support to whichever alliance can provide the ministries he desires.

The implications of this sea change in the body politic of PNG are undoubtedly far-reaching. In many respects, indeed, they are imponderable, and will become clearer only as the new Government makes its dispositions.

But what remains to be seen is whether the new relationship between the former adversaries is in the first instance sustainable in the always shifting sands of PNG politics, and whether it will introduce the sort of stability both Mr Wingti and Mr Somare say they want.

The first test is likely to come when and if Mr Wingti decides to go ahead with his plans to amend the Constitution: before the formation of his grand coalition with Mr Somare, he had no realistic hope of achieving this in Parliament as it is presently constituted.

Any amendments to the Constitution require the approval of 73 members — two thirds of the entire membership of Parliament, meeting twice at least two months apart — a tall order for even the most powerful of governments.

With Mr Somare's backing, Mr Wingti could now pull this off; alternatively, he could reach an understanding that for the life of the present Parliament there will be no more motions of no confidence and that the Government will be allowed to serve out its term until 1992.

The country could move into the period of stability it so desperately needs — but,

given the basic cynicism that pervades PNG politics and the long history of dubious loyalty among so many of the country's most prominent politicians, is the marriage really sustainable, and can it be consummated?

Among both Wingti and Somare supporters there is undoubtedly considerable apprehension. There is even doubt that some will go along with the arrangement; and if enough of them become disaffected, will they block the proposals for constitutional change, and will they try to bring down the Government?

If they do so, they could bring down the entire system of politics as it has been since Independence, and even threaten the future of democracy in PNG.

And in the midst of all this turmoil and uncertainty, what of the allegations of corruption and sexual impropriety that have gained such widespread currency in recent weeks (and which in so many ways lie at the heart of the crisis)? Are they simply to be swept under the carpet, or will they continue?

There will clearly be pointers in the coming weeks to just how the situation is likely to evolve. The practical working of the new Government will be a major factor in this: so, too, will be the attitudes and actions of Mr Diro and his Papua bloc supporters.

The announcement of the grand coalition represents a dramatic new stage of political development in PNG, but it is unlikely to be the final act. What is certain is that there will be few people in Port Moresby and elsewhere willing to lay bets — at least not at this stage — on the longevity of the new set-up. □

VANUATU

Keeping The Language Alive

The voices of Vanuatu are recorded for posterity. By Nicolas Rothwell

IN THE furthest forests of verdant Ambae, in the deepest valleys of Pentecost; all across the scattered islands of Vanuatu, something strange and wonderful is taking place. Even as the forces of modern civilisation spread inexorably across the archipelago, ni-Vanuatu field workers are collecting a rich store of myths and traditions — the vanishing cultural patrimony of their new nation.

Conceived a decade ago and run on a shoestring budget, the Pacific's most successful oral traditions collection project is an intense — and idiosyncratic — exercise. In place of western-trained anthropologists, volunteers from different language groups have fanned out across the islands, equipped only with tape-recorders and enthusiasm, in a race to capture the fine thread of traditional life for future generations. Despite the tenacious hold of custom in Vanuatu, old ways are being eroded or subtly changed, and have almost died out completely in some of the islands: the oral traditions project aims to document the songs, dances and myths of the ancestral culture, and so to restore among the younger generations of ni-Vanuatu (people of Vanuatu) a sense of pride in the world of their forefathers.

The scheme, the brainchild of ethnomusicologist Peter Crowe and linguist Jean-Michel Charpentier, was launched with the approval of the nation's Cultural Centre, and is now presided over by Vanuatu Museum and Cultural Centre director Dr Kirk Huffman. Already 36 field workers are active, each in his own linguistic and cultural area; slowly, as the years pass, the project grows in ambition and complexity, with the gift of a new camera or video system from donor governments — but the entire enterprise is still co-ordinated from the inspired confusion of Dr Huffman's office in Port Vila, one of the South Pacific's most charmed (and most cluttered) corners.

Since 1982, the field workers have been instructed in the transcription of their own languages by the Australian National University's Dr Darryl Tryon, a pre-eminent authority on South Pacific linguistics — but the project remains a race against time rather than a measured and conventional research venture: "The amount we've got already would take years to transcribe, but the most important thing is to get material on tape from the old people before they die, and to try to get young people interested," Dr Huffman explains.

"We wouldn't need to do any of this if



Top: James Gwero interviews a chief from Tongariki at the first National Arts Festival in Port Vila in 1979. Above: Cultural centre field worker Wari Sus records old Mweleun Jamat at Bunlap Village.

the younger generations were interested in ensuring the cultures continued, and sat down and learned the songs and dances they have the rights to — but the world is changing, and things will die out."

Yet this sombre note is counterbalanced by the sheer range and exuberance of the traditional culture, and the passion of the field-workers. Vanuatu has 105 separate languages — as well as uncounted

dialects or variants — and it is Dr Huffman's dream to train one field-worker for each language area. The ultimate goal for the project is to promote and develop traditional languages and aspects of traditional culture, in conjunction with chiefs in their villages. Many of the field-workers are themselves chiefs in their own areas, and their authority within the society enables them to record the full diversity of the languages and myths.

Within the next two years a pioneering women's group, with a trained women's education officer, will be launched to study that little-known province of ni-Vanuatu culture — the private realm of female myths and traditions.

Eventually, the Vanuatu Cultural Centre hopes to publish certain traditional myths for use in schools — although here one of the fundamental problems of this enterprise is encountered.

"We don't want to publish the really powerful myths, the ones that tell you what it's all about; they should be part of the living culture, only passed on by word of mouth or preserved on tape, with access restricted to those who have the traditional right," Dr Huffman explains.

Many of the tapes collected by the project concern taboo subjects — initiation rituals, funerals or circumcisions — and these cannot be shown to the general public. Some western institutions have asked for copies, only to be refused; the Cultural Centre does not produce materials "for use by academics overseas".

But its goal of preservation raises another question: even as the project conserves, does it mummify? Can a myth survive when all its believers have died? Dr Huffman concedes that "as much as possible one should try to ensure the culture remains a living culture. If you put it down on paper it loses its magic."

Yet he hopes that tape-recording can preserve the spirit where writing only catches the letter: "In the telling of traditional myths the gestures, the facial features, are vital — and they can't be recorded on paper, only on tape or film."

Anything to do with traditional beliefs and practices is grist for the field-workers: customary chiefs call the Cultural Centre with advance warning of ceremonies they want filed for posterity; tales have been recorded ranging from "the time before there was any time" right up to the coming of Christianity, the early days of the Franco-British colonial condominium, and memories of World War II.

Dr Huffman suggests that some other Pacific oral history collection projects may have foundered because their field-workers were school-leavers "who might have lost touch with their traditional culture and not preserved as much respect for it as they should have, so they no longer kept the confidence of the traditional elders". The Vanuatu project relies on volunteers: "It didn't matter to us if they could read or write — all that matters is to stop the cul-

ture dying out. We want people whose interest comes from the heart."

Perhaps the archetype of this sense of devotion to the traditional culture and its survival is chief James Gwero from Ambae, who has singlehandedly collected 300 hours of tape from his own region; other unsung heroes of the project are such as the Nambas field-worker (with his tribe's traditional elongated head) who has the distinction of being the only man who can

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read and write his own language.

Some areas of the archipelago are well-served; in southwest Malejula, where the linguistic variations are the most pronounced in all Vanuatu, one field-worker represents a linguistic community of only five people — yet in the entire Torres islands, there is as yet no volunteer.

Modernity's onrush may be perceptible in Port Vila, yet Dr Huffman, a 15-year veteran of research in the islands, has in some sense been impregnated with the traditional culture he is now seeking to preserve: "This is a society where everybody believes in the spiritual side of life, whereas in Western society I think we have lost an awful lot — I think we've lost contact with reality, with the world of hobgoblins that used to make life really interesting in Europe... life's really boring in Europe now, because there's no magic left."

Yet sadly, these days magic alone is not enough to preserve a culture. The Vanuatu Cultural Centre runs on a budget of \$A65,000, which represents a considera-

ble commitment of funds by the cash-strapped Government; yet it needs a minimum of \$A150,000 a year to function smoothly and to support its institutions — the National Museum and Library, as well as the Archives of the condominium days... stored, appropriately enough, in the "haus bilong cranky", a disused lunatic asylum.

Similar museums elsewhere in the region receive twice and three times as much funding, though they do not run field projects. The slack is taken up by foreign agencies, chiefly the little-remarked South Pacific Culture Fund of the Australian Government, which specialises in small-scale aid ventures and has provided key technical equipment to the Oral Traditions Project.

"We wouldn't have been able to continue had it not been for them," Dr Huffman says bluntly.

While economic development remains Vanuatu's urgent priority as it nears the end of its first decade of independence, the nation also stands poised at a delicate stage in its social evolution: forged in the fire of a distinctive struggle for independence, its identity is now in some danger of being worn away by the levelling effects of imported culture, and in this context the preservation of regional traditions may have a crucial role to play.

"We are at a very important time in this country's history, and while many traditions are dying out there are some that have been revived, and we try to assist the chiefs by being handymen assisting in the documentation of traditional cultures, music, art and dance," Dr Huffman ventures.

Even the churches, for long foes of traditional belief systems and ceremonies, now encourage cultural development and use the metaphor of a canoe and its outrigger for the bond between church and custom; without the one, they suggest, the other would overturn.

Dr Huffman himself sees a direct link between Vanuatu's new identity as an independent political state, and its cultural heritage: "Just because Vanuatu is in the modern world doesn't mean it has to follow the same road as other countries. Loss of traditional identity would inevitably create problems, but this project is working in some ways to preserve identity; in certain areas, even, having a video made of a ceremony is looked on as validating your ceremony."

In the end, the Oral Traditions Collection Project is a venture that looks as much to the future's indistinct horizon as to the well-travelled paths of the past — and it is with a sense of excited optimism that Dr Huffman distils the essence of this venture: "We are gathering together what I see as a copra sack full of riches which can be used by future generations to assist in the preservation and development of traditional cultures. I suppose that could call this a giant copra sack full of national identity." □

NZ Recognises Fiji

Jack Kelleher reports on the new ambassador

NEW ZEALAND'S appointment of an ambassador to Fiji, to succeed its retiring high commissioner, was seen in the New Zealand Parliament as the first formal indication of recognition of the new regime. Brian Absolum, previously New Zealand high commissioner in Western Samoa, was succeeding high commissioner to Fiji Rod Gates.

Initial public reaction focused on the names, and seemed to miss the upgrading of the office.

But New Zealand Opposition leader Jim Bolger observed that by the change of title the country was recognising the new Government's declaration of a republic: representatives between Commonwealth countries used the term high commissioner, and by making the change the New Zealand Government was acknowledging the change in Suva. The Opposition welcomed the resumption of diplomatic ties with Fiji.

Mr Bolger said he hoped Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's visit to London would turn out to be the first step in returning Fiji to the Commonwealth under a democratically elected government.

New Zealand Foreign Minister Russell Marshall had made no point of the title in announcing Mr Absolum's appointment. He said that at a time when much remains to be done to restore both political and

economic stability in Fiji, it is essential that New Zealand monitor the situation closely and "maintain contact with the interim Government".

Asked whether the appointment meant recognition of the new Government, Mr Marshall said it was not usual for New Zealand to formally declare a position on recognition. The practice had been for this to "be inferred from the nature and level of our dealings with a particular Government".

The appointment did not represent any change, he insisted. "We had an ambassador before; we are now appointing a new ambassador to take his place."

Before his posting to Western Samoa Mr Absolum served in Canberra as deputy high commissioner, and in other countries.

Before retiring high commissioner Gates returned to Wellington, and the foreign affairs department, he was entertained at a Government House dinner in Suva. Former Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra invited him to take part in the laying of foundation posts for a new meeting house in the village of Viseisei.

At an interview in his own office in Suva, Gates said he had great faith in the resilience of the Fiji people. "They will pull out of their problems because of the commitment they have to their country and culture." □

France's Nuclear Site Switch

AUSTRALIA'S Foreign Minister, Mr Hayden, says his Government will maintain its strong opposition to French nuclear testing in the Pacific regardless of where tests are conducted.

French newspaper reports say a decision has been made to move the underground nuclear test program from Mururoa Atoll to nearby Fangataufa Island for safety reasons.

The Commander-In-Chief of French Naval Forces in the Pacific, Pierre Thireaut, is reported to have said the move follows concern that repeated underground blasts might eventually damage geological formations beneath Mururoa.

Mr Hayden said that this corroborated the views expressed by a scientific investigation several years ago. The scientists stated that long-term testing was likely to cause degeneration of the coral reef and possible leakage of radioactive material.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand Government has issued a statement saying the reported move to Fangataufa has caused serious doubts about Mururoa's safety. □

Western Samoan Election Settled

WESTERN SAMOA has a new Prime Minister. Tofilau Eti has been elected leader of the Human Rights Protection Party and leader of the Government, following voting in Western Samoa's Legislative Assembly.

In the voting, which was strictly along party lines, Tofilau obtained 24 votes. His opponent, Tupua Tamasese Efi, the leader of the ruling coalition party, received 23 votes. Tofilau was Prime Minister of Western Samoa from 1983 to 1985. The new speaker of the House is Aea Peniamina.

Tofilau is expected to announce his Cabinet lineup soon.

Meanwhile, the country's Supreme Court has dismissed the first of nine petitions filed following the country's general election in February. The petition, by former speaker Nonumalo Sofaro, alleged errors in the electoral role and impersonation at the polls.

In dismissing the petition, Mr Justice Maxwell said the court was not satisfied that the errors pointed out could have changed the outcome of the election. □

First Maori Bishop Consecrated in NZ

Pacific church elders gather. By Jack Kelleher

THE TIMBER industry town, in a clearing of the great pine forest of New Zealand's North Island, had never seen such a gathering of princes of the church. Its experience of Pacific islanders was as mill workers. Now Tokoroa was putting down its version of a red carpet, as island and other Catholic dignitaries gathered for the consecration of the church's first Maori bishop, Max Takuira Mariu.

The ceremony might have been held at Little Waihi, on the thermal shore of Lake Taupo where Max grew up, or at Hawke's Bay where he'd been working as a priest. Tokoroa, north of Taupo and west of Hawke's Bay, was chosen for its tribal neutrality: its Papa O Te Aroha marae is known as the home of all tribes.

In stately procession, before 5000 watchers, came the burly agriculturist for his people Cardinal Pio Taofi Nu'u of Samoa and the Tokelaus; charismatic and elderly Bishop Patrick Hurley of Western Samoa; Archbishop of Fiji Petero Mataka; Bishop Loft of Auki in the Solomons; Bishop Patelisio Finau of Tonga; Bishop Michel Coppenrath of Tahiti.

Because the new bishop was a member of the French-originating, teacher-oriented Society of Mary, so too were many of the prelates and guests — including Father John Foliaki, representing the society's Province of Oceania. Minister Koro-wetere represented the New Zealand Government. After Cardinal Tom Williams of New Zealand, Bishop Finau and the Bishop of Hamilton, Edward Gaines, performed the ceremony, the island prelates joined in endorsing the ordination.

While boys of the new bishop's old college, Hato Paora at Feilding, sang and 10 of New Zealand's 11 other Maori priests stood by, the new bishop, clad in a Maori cloak, and with tears on his face, confronted his parents, Mary and Maihi Mariu. "I must take to heart the words, the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve," he said.

Aged 35, the fourth of eight children, he is descended from the earliest Maori Catholics (from Kerehi, in the late 1840s the first Catholic in Ngati Tuwharetoa). He was ordained a priest in 1971 and underwent open heart surgery two years later — yet he managed to carry on with his favourite recreations of tennis and golf.

On Easter Monday he left for Rome, for a congress and to meet Pope John Paul II. When he returns it will be as Auxiliary Bishop to the Diocese of Hamilton, probably based at Tokoroa. □

THE REGION

Why Teaching Is In Turmoil

David Robie and Carson Creagh examine the crisis in Pacific education.

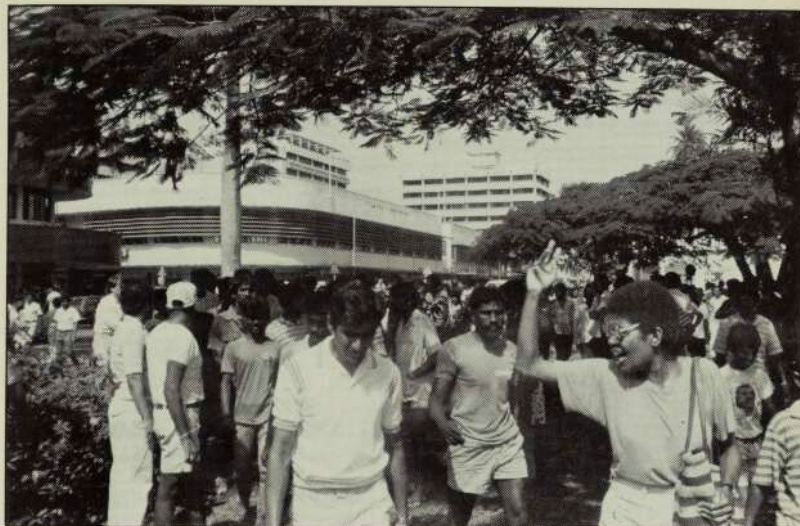
PACIFIC policy makers face a dilemma that is at once blindingly simple and exquisitely complex. Heirs of a colonial education system that sought — behind its pious claims of “development” — to educate natives as labourers and servants while giving the children of the white masters a metropolitan education, they govern nations that are ill-prepared for the tomorrow that, in most cases, has already arrived.

As more and more school-leavers discover they cannot find work, pressure grows to change the curriculum that trained them. Proponents argue that the strategy of creating national and regional universities such as the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) in Port Moresby, the University of Technology in Lae and the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Fiji creates an underemployed élite . . . and an élite that is trained primarily for politics rather than the development of emerging nations. Graduates in law and economics are numerous; those in technical, scientific or educational disciplines are all too uncommon.

Those who support a redefinition of educational priorities propose a re-orientation toward rural needs, claiming that training for a degree of self-sufficiency in village and agricultural sectors will lead to the creation of rural employment opportunities and will perhaps slow the drift of unemployed rural youth to the cities. It is a laudable and, on the surface, workable approach, according to observers outside the affected countries — and one that requires a massive change of emphasis from tertiary professional education to primary and lower secondary schooling.

But it ignores history, for the despised colonialist curriculum took the same path and is now acknowledged as having been as ineffective as it was paternalistic. Dr Sheldon Weeks, of the Education Research Unit at UPNG, wrote recently that “indigenous parents rightly saw the practical curriculum as inferior in status and feared it would exclude their children from access to the modern sector . . . where jobs, high income and social and political power were to be obtained”.

Yet today's parents are calling for a curriculum that is at once practical, offering a greater chance of employment in the rural sector, and one that will raise the quality and availability of white-collar trainees. They seek the best of both elements of the old colonial curriculum while rejecting the philosophies, the appearance and the products of that curriculum.



USP researcher Amelia Rokotuivuna: detained and harangued by security guards.

The opposite approach (and the approach currently in favour with most South Pacific governments) is to look to the needs of the future by training managerial and professional leaders: without high quality tertiary education, they say, there will simply be no teachers, health workers, engineers or scientists, lawyers or writers.

The situation is particularly poignant in Papua New Guinea. With a national literacy rate of around 30 per cent, it is claimed that universities train those who will train the next generation; but examination of postgraduate careers indicates that there is little motive for graduates to use their skills in low-status, poorly paid work as teachers or regional health officers: they elect to stay in the cities, where they have at least a chance of finding employment commensurate with their expectations.

The corollary of this result was examined by Dr Ken Gannicott, senior lecturer at the Australian Defence Force Academy at the University of New South Wales and director of the Centre for Studies in Management and Logistics. His findings are depressing for those who support the notion of graduates training the leaders of tomorrow. In truth, says Dr Gannicott, “Papua New Guinea receives a very poor payoff on its educational investment. Rates of return to all levels of education are low by the standards of other developing countries, while private returns are high. The extent of public subsidy is highest at university level — the level where, it has

been discovered, social returns are lowest.”

Dr Gannicott's research, which applied the concept of judging the returns to the nation as a whole from its investment in education in comparison with returns to private industry for the same national investment, revealed that although PNG spends one of the highest proportions of GNP on education of all developing countries, it succeeds in educating a worryingly low percentage of children.

The number of primary schools, for example, increased from 1762 at Independence to 2224 by 1983 — yet enrolments expanded by an annual average of only 3.9 per cent. During the same period the number of institutions of higher learning doubled, from 30 to 60, and enrolments increased by a yearly average of 7.3 per cent — almost twice as much as primary school enrolments.

“It does not seem harsh to note that progress has been modest,” Dr Gannicott says. “Increases in the numbers attending school at primary and secondary level have barely been sufficient to keep pace with the increase in numbers of the relevant age groups.” Less than one third of the population aged 15 or over can read or write; 86 per cent of the adult population has received no formal education, and of the 14 per cent who have attended school, 80 per cent have gone no further than primary level; only two thirds of the relevant age group are enrolled in primary school and a shockingly low 13 per cent are in secondary school.

Equally depressing is Dr Gannicott's conclusion, presented in an ANU Research School of Pacific Studies paper. "Economic returns to human capital investment in PNG are low," he writes, "not because of a lack of demand for skills but because the education system is internally inefficient: the output it produces, from primary graduates onward, is both expensive and of poor quality."

What, then, is the future for education in PNG? Dr Gannicott notes that the Government has learned from the experience of other developing nations — that education seems not to play any direct role in creating employment — but that it has, if anything, learned the lesson too well. Education at lower levels has stagnated and there is a severe shortage of high-level manpower, producing a recipe for maintaining a labour force with low skill levels and, ironically, for denying the benefits of higher education to those sectors of the economy that need it most. He argues for rigorous cost cutting at all levels, especially in the tertiary sector, and for expanded enrolments (which necessitates expanded facilities) at primary and secondary levels to overcome continued shortages of higher level manpower.

Academics and university students alike might feel threatened by the severe streamlining suggested, but in the long term they would reap the benefits of a new approach. Arguing that heavy subsidies and absence of tertiary fees are luxuries PNG cannot afford, Dr Gannicott advocates "novel and cost-reducing forms of management/academic structure" at UPPG and UoT. These include a broad reduction in the range of courses offered, those deleted to be made available at uni-

versities in Australasia or southeast Asia; "cost sharing" in which universities would take on expensive expatriate staff for six or nine months, after which their services would be on offer to the private sector as consultants or researchers; and withdrawal of public funding to small tertiary institutions offering training that can be provided more cheaply or at a higher standard in overseas locations.

Below the tertiary level, Dr Gannicott proposes a realignment of teacher training; provision of higher quality and expanded resources to teachers; the introduction of school fees at national high schools and the raising of fees at provincial high schools; and a searching examination of the practice of boarding high school students.

The adoption of these strategies would result immediately in significant amounts of funding becoming available for capital works — the construction of new schools and their linking, through upgraded communications, with others — and in increased proficiency in the delivery of education. None are total solutions, of course, but they offer a model of efficiency that would not only inspire confidence in PNG's education and technical training, but would please international aid donors anxious to see their assistance being used in a "businesslike" manner.

THE University of the South Pacific is today facing the gravest threat to its existence since last year's coups. Already troubled by financial difficulties, the campus now also faces a crisis over academic freedom.

A small group of "new wave" indigenous thinkers who have played a key role in shaping the university's identity over the past seven years are now gravely concerned about their future. "We are confronted with academic censorship," said one university academic, who declined to be named. "The university faces the biggest threat in its 20-year history."

A handful of USP lecturers was involved in drawing up the progressive reform policies of the multiracial Fiji Labour Party; others, while not being involved politically, were still suspected by the conservative Fijian establishment as having a hand in the party's spectacular rise to power last year.

Among this "radical" elite is Dr Tupeni Baba, a former registrar at the university who became Education Minister in Dr Bavadra's Coalition Government; English lecturer Dr Satendra Nandan, Health Minister under Bavadra and sociology lecturer Simone Duratalo, a vice-president in the party, who is now on a fellowship in New York.

After Brigadier Rabuka seized power in the May 14 military coup, several "critical thinkers" were harassed and intimidated by police and troops at the Laucala Bay Campus. Politics lecturer Dr William Sutherland, who had been a controversial

choice by Dr Bavadra as permanent secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, was forced to flee to New Zealand. He is now a lecturer at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Sociology lecturer Vijay Naidu, also president of the Fiji Anti-Nuclear Group (FANG) was forcibly removed from the campus after the second coup. Security forces arrested him in the middle of a university meeting and jailed him for a week without charge. For several days he was locked in a old death row cell in Suva Prison, where he was allegedly beaten and threatened.

Dr Baba was assaulted outside the Great Council of Chiefs meeting-place; another lecturer was clubbed with a rifle butt by soldiers. Other academics were detained; several were refused permission to leave the country on university business. Although Dr Baba is now back as a lecturer at USP others, such as Dr Nandan, have left.

In the months following the coups university staff members were confronted with threats of violence by Taukei extremists. One researcher, Amelia Rokotui-vuna, was illegally detained by campus security guards and harangued about how to be a "good Fijian".

The harassment came to a head in late February this year, when New Zealand-born senior history and politics lecturer and assistant head of the School of Social and Economic Development (SSED), Dr Robert Robertson, was forced to leave Fiji on the direct orders of the Home Affairs Minister, Brigadier Rabuka. Regarded as a member of the "critical thinkers" group, the 36-year-old Dr Robertson denied allegations of political involvement.

Having been a teacher in Fiji for nine years, the university has just extended his contract for a further three years, but on the Brigadier's orders the Immigration Department refused to grant Dr Robertson a renewed work permit.

The USP staff association protested to Education Minister Filipe Bole over "abrogation of academic freedom", and several staff members have revealed their fear that when British-born vice-chancellor Geoffrey Caston retires from office this year, a Pacific islander who is no more than a political "puppet" will be appointed in his place.

Caston recently told the university council almost all the staff found it "naturally distasteful" to live in an undemocratic society and felt threatened by any breakdown in law and order.

A statement issued last November in the name of former Education Minister Ratu Filimone Ralogaivau (in the then Taukei-dominated government) upset many academics. It alleged "intrigue and manipulation" to eliminate the Institute of Pacific Studies' tenure of the chair of Pacific studies, and added that staff appointments should not be influenced by

Continued on Page 37



DAVID ROBIE

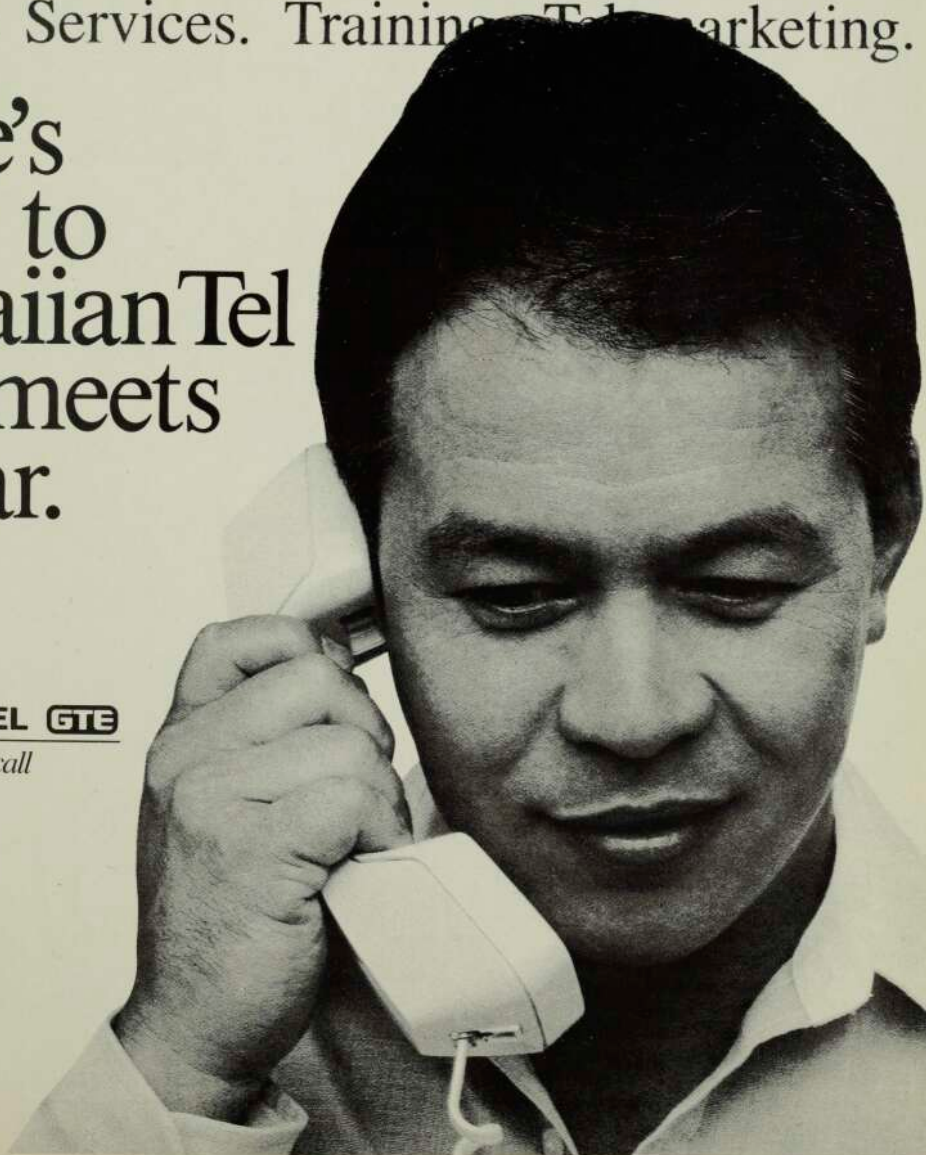
Former Fiji Education Minister Dr Tupeni Baba: victim of the conservative backlash.

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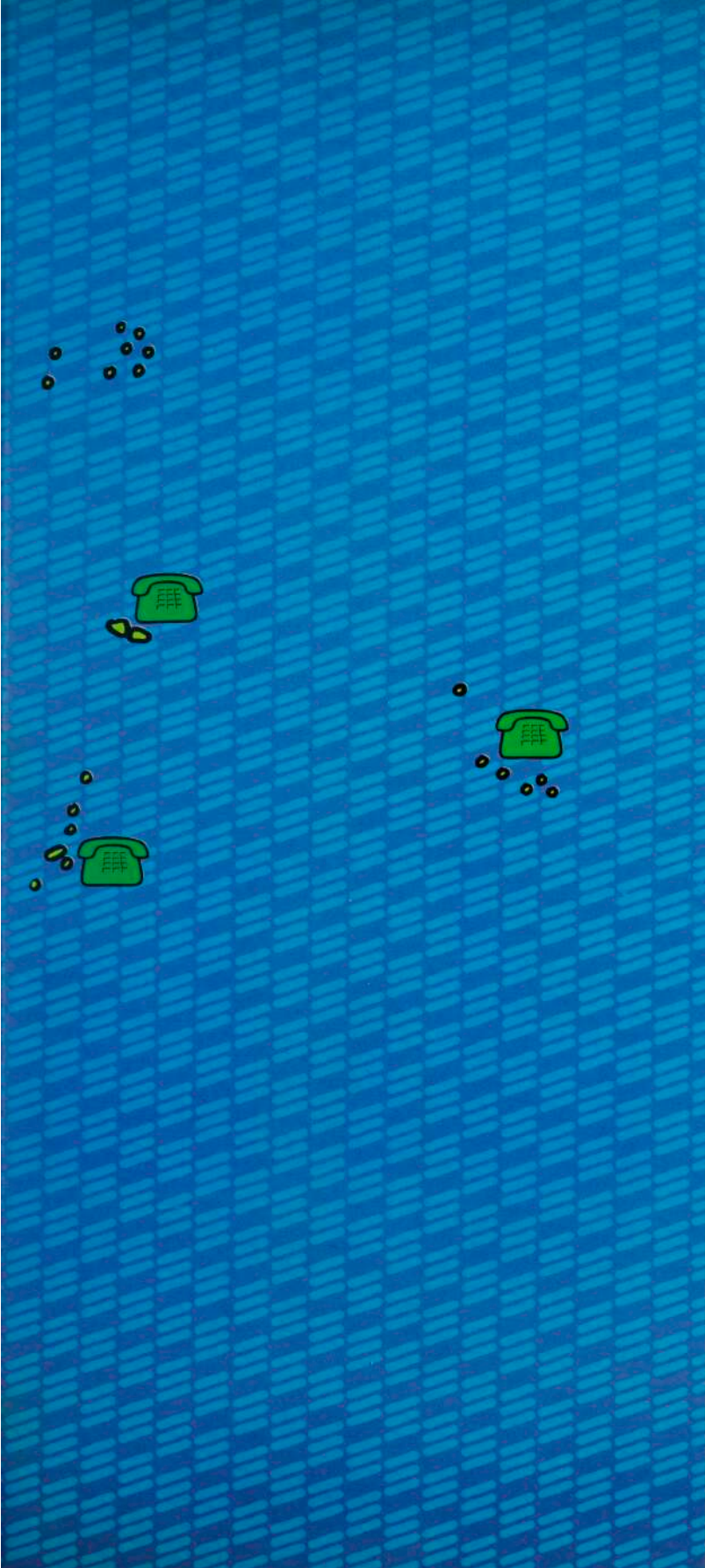
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TAHITI, AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE, KUALA LUMPUR . . . AND BACK

A Magical Mystery Tour

Tahitians take a trip to nowhere. By Larry Writer

THE PACIFIC has long had good reason to be wary of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. Intelligence networks have buzzed during the past few years with Libya's destabilising efforts in PNG, Vanuatu and New Caledonia. But in April the spectre of the Mediterranean strongman descended on the Pacific once more — and had its wings burned.

In a sensational, if bizarre, incident the Libyan threat to the region was made to seem more ludicrous than sinister. A delegation of Tahitians who may or may not have been taking up an offer to visit Libya was involved in a headline-grabbing, Asian-Pacific wild goose chase.

Colonel Gaddafi has declared that he wants to set up an "anti-imperialist" international front because "the small nations of the Pacific are in danger". Libya, he said, would "shoulder the responsibility to provide a place where struggling forces could gather".

So in the light of such largesse, an intrepid party of 11 pro-independence Tahitians set out on April 3 from Papeete. In a detention area at Sydney Airport the men

would tell Australian police that they were innocent fishermen bound for a conference on fishing and agriculture in Malaysia. However, before the men's plane had set down for its transit stop in Sydney, Australian authorities had been tipped off by French intelligence in Singapore that the Tahitians had links with the Pomare independence movement in French Polynesia and that they were en route to Libya for terrorist training.

The "fishermen" protested their innocence but were detained for questioning for 24 hours. The group told police that it had no connection with Gaddafi, Libya or the Libyan People's Bureau in Kuala Lumpur, which is widely believed to be a staging point for visits to Tripoli by Pacific independence activists.

Australian police accepted the Tahitians' claims of innocence and allowed them to fly to Singapore. But the men's tiring and frustrating odyssey had just begun. At Singapore's Changi airport they were detained, questioned, denied entry and sent directly to Kuala Lumpur.

There they were also denied entry and



The Tahitian "fishermen" defy jetlag.

packed off on the long route home . . . via Sydney. Exhausted and furious, they finally landed in Tahiti and were promptly barred by authorities from making any comment about their ordeal.

However, the men's "fishing" alibi seemed to have been blown out of the water when a fellow Pomare member arrived at Papeete airport to meet the Tahitians and contradicted their story when he told pressmen the men *had* in fact been bound for Libya: not for terrorist training but to attend a conference on the dangers of nuclear explosions.

Authorities in Tahiti were considering laying charges against the Tahiti 11. □

NEW CALEDONIA

Tension Mounts On Poll Eve

Gendarmes maintain an uneasy calm as election date approaches.

AS *Pacific Islands Monthly* went to press the political situation in New Caledonia was ominously quiet. With popular involvement in the leadup to the April 24 elections stifled by the presence of an estimated 12,000 armed and highly trained paramilitary personnel, posted at likely trouble spots and capable of deployment at a moment's notice, only the politicians were to be seen as demonstrations were banned outright.

The Front National pour la Liberation Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS) has had to confine itself to the expected denunciations of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's plans for cementing metropolitan French control of New Caledonia, supporting President Francois Mitterrand's claims that Mr Chirac's policies are "unjust and divisive" and "fail to recognise Kanak culture, the need for land reform and [for the establishment of] an ethnic, political and social balance" between New Caledonia's Melanesian and European communities.

Unsurprisingly, Mr Chirac (who is campaigning on a platform of

maintaining France's presence in the Pacific, and of neutralising the pro-independence movement through the realignment of provincial boundaries proposed by Minister for Overseas Territories Mr Bernard Pons) criticised Mr Mitterrand's statements as "strictly political and not based on any reality".

The FLNKS has thrown its support firmly behind President Mitterrand and his censure of the Chirac Government's decision to hold metropolitan and territorial elections on the same date. Party president Mr Jean-Marie Tjibaou endorsed Mr Mitterrand as "the representative for all people who support human rights and a modern and progressive image of France" — an image the incumbent Government was attempting to promote with promises of aid to Fiji, the establishment of a joint study on earthquakes by French, New Zealand and US scientists and a "major international study on icebergs in Antarctica".

In the Pacific, however, critics of French policy have condemned such actions as attempts to buy influence, and diplomatic

personnel have been harassed by more militant Melanesians: French Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Mr Jean-Paul Schrick was "ordered" from the University of PNG campus by students shouting anti-French slogans, while PNG Foreign Minister Mr Akoka Doi said he objected to the students' methods but "fully supported" their sentiments.

News of such events was slow to reach New Caledonia, where reportage is largely restricted to establishment metropolitan French coverage of international issues, and the major concern for members of the Kanak movement was an apparent dwindling of support among Melanesians and liberal caldoches for their cause. Despite anti-independence groups' claims that Kanak radicals were plotting violence and the overthrow of civil order, observers in Nouméa said the FLNKS' call for "active" boycotts of the election had received little popular backing — in part at least because any such activity would attract a rapid and efficient response from a police, Army and CRS force that now comprises almost 10 per cent of the Territory's population. □

FIJI

Bavadra Keeps The Flame Alive

In our exclusive interview, the ousted PM reveals his mission.

ACCORDING to Dr Timoci Bavadra, deposed Fijian Prime Minister and now leader of the newly formed South Pacific Progressive Parties Association, the ousted Coalition is still Fiji's true democratic government and is determined to regain power.

In an exclusive interview, Dr Bavadra told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that the Coalition's "peaceful, non-violent approach" to the question of Fiji's political future has paid off. "The Army is no longer harassing Coalition leaders or their supporters," he said, "and while some key members have left the country or have taken up appointments elsewhere, the core of the Coalition is very much intact."

"Somebody has to be there to respond to calls by Coalition supporters; they and we all want democracy back. They cannot look to the Government because it was this Government that took democracy from them." Dr Bavadra said the Coalition faced the enormous task of alerting indigenous Fijians to the implications of Fiji becoming a republic and whether there was a genuine need to alter the Constitution. "Fijians who originally supported the cause of 'Fiji for the Fijians' are realising their mistake," he said. "The country is in confusion: the Mara-led Government is not a civilian government, since there are four serving Army officers in key portfolios."

"But the real problem is that the Government is attempting to govern in isolation. There is no consultation with the people, and the approach is dictatorial: while on one hand the Government says the new Constitution will safeguard the interests of all the communities in Fiji, Rabuka continues to say that it will guarantee Fijian supremacy. He also says that the Constitution will be studied by a multi-racial committee — but that the Great Council of Chiefs will have the final say!"

Speaking at the end of a whirlwind tour of Australia in March, to attend the inaugural meeting of an association of South Pacific Labour parties in Melbourne, Victoria, and to meet with PM Bob Hawke and Foreign Minister Bill Hayden he said the trip was highly successful in explaining to Labour Party supporters and sympathisers the strategy Labour leaders will pursue in their bid to regain political power in Fiji.

"The first task," he said, "is to restore confidence both at home and abroad. The brain drain, unemployment, rising inflation, rising cost of living, lack of investment and declining tourist numbers — these are the issues that need urgent attention." The only way the situation can be



Dr Bavadra: Spreading the word to supporters.

reversed, Dr Bavadra believes, is by return to his Government's multi-racial approach. "The Taukei movement is losing ground because some elements within the movement have become disenchanted with progress," he said. "Most Taukei supporters have withdrawn from active involvement because they feel they've achieved their aims."

"But there's another group that's now out on a limb; it has joined forces with the Fijian Nationalist Party and is lending its support to an anti-Mara campaign. All this simply weakens not only the Taukei and its legitimacy, but foreign confidence in Fiji administered by and for Fijians alone. What's left of the Taukei has adopted a much more practical and softer stance — with the loss of jobs and hardship all round, which have affected everyone regardless of race, the Taukeis have realised that for Fiji to survive and progress everyone has a role to play, be they Indians or Fijians."

One Taukei group, he says, has actually approached the Coalition to discuss ways in which both movements could work together. "I haven't responded directly," Dr Bavadra said, "but they are very keen to hold discussions. I have not been secretive about my position: it's multi-racialism, and it was through multi-racialism that I was able to work on some ethnic Fijian issues."

"If the Taukeis want to work together with the Coalition, they will have to accept a multi-racial approach. The response to that stance has been encouraging, and I will be pursuing dialogue with them more seriously on my return to Fiji. Day after

day Fijians are realising that for the country to survive it will have to have Indian participation in the economy; Fijians on their own are not succeeding."

However, Dr Bavadra also expressed his and the Coalition's disappointment at the haste with which Australia had recognised the current regime in Fiji, and its restoration of aid — which he feels is failing to reach the people for whom it was intended. "Before restoring aid," he said, "Australia should have found out whether genuine efforts were being made to restore democracy, and should have attached conditions to the aid package — such as moves toward a Constitution acceptable to all Fijians."

Dr Bavadra expressed to Australian PM Mr Hawke his concern over human rights and basic freedoms in Fiji today. Radio and the press were under Government control or self-censorship.

Mr Hawke told Dr Bavadra that Australia had already been in the process of reviewing its policy of recognition — moving toward recognition of states rather than governments — when the question of recognising Fiji's present Government arose. However, Dr Bavadra continues to feel Australia and the US "caved in under the threat of Fiji seeking closer relations with Indonesia, Japan and even Libya."

Dr Bavadra's message to Labour supporters throughout Australia was clear: the Coalition is very much alive, and holds regular meetings. The bond of unity between Labour and National Federation Party leaders, he says, is strong and solidarity is intact. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — MAY 1988 23

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Rurutu's Amazing Rock Lifters

It's sport, legend and tradition rock and rolled into one as island strongmen lift their weight in boulders for the honour of the village. By Larry Writer

ALTHOUGH competition is light hearted, the ancient Tahitian custom of *amuraa ofai*, or stone lifting, is hardly a sport for lightweights. Each year the strongest of the strong men and women of the French Polynesian island of Rurutu meet there and on Tahiti to flex

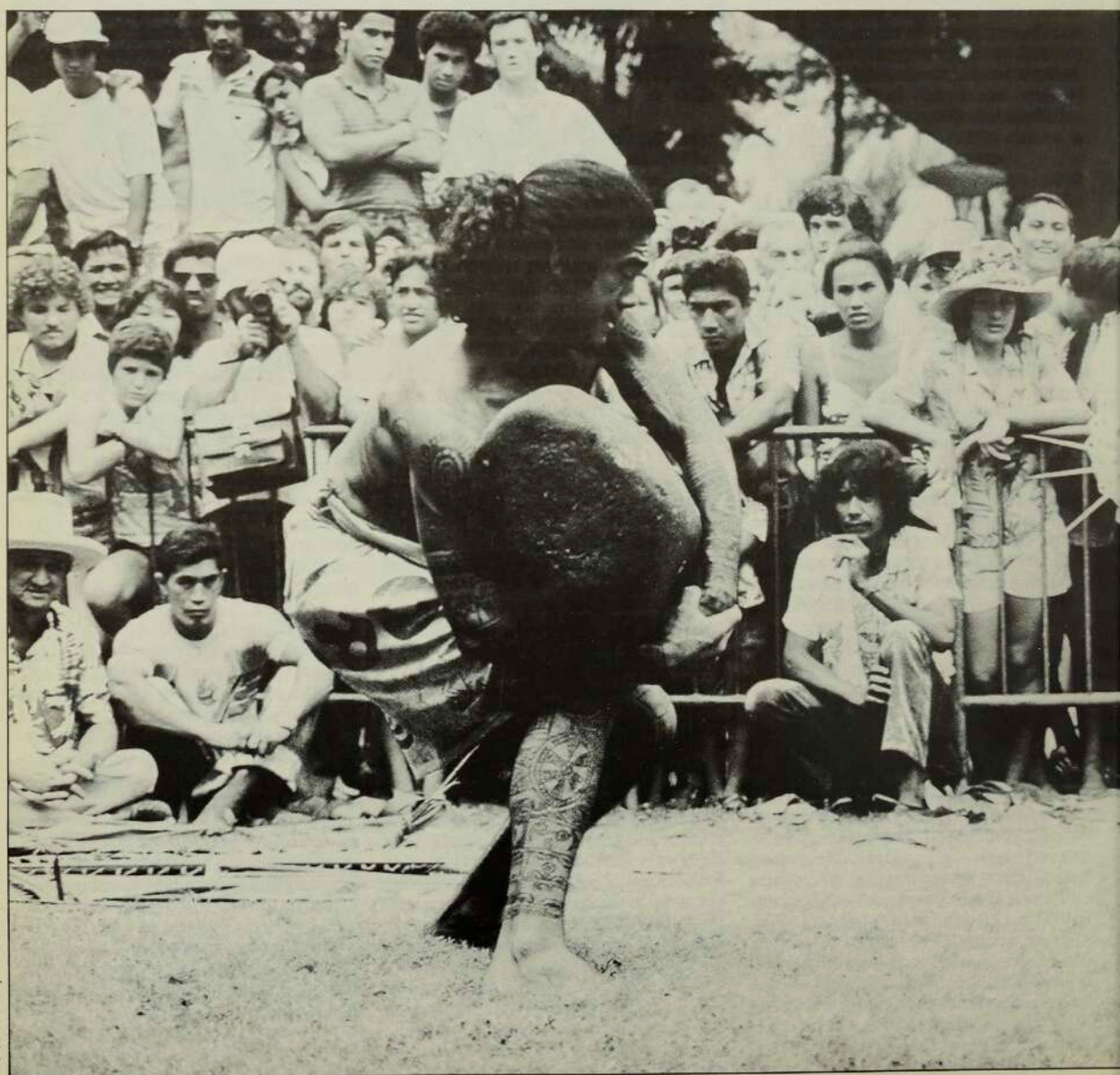
their muscles before adoring crowds of celebrating spectators.

The object of stone lifting is to lift heavy, oiled rocks — boulders is a more apt description — first to chest height, then with a dramatic surge of strength to heave them to the shoulders, holding the

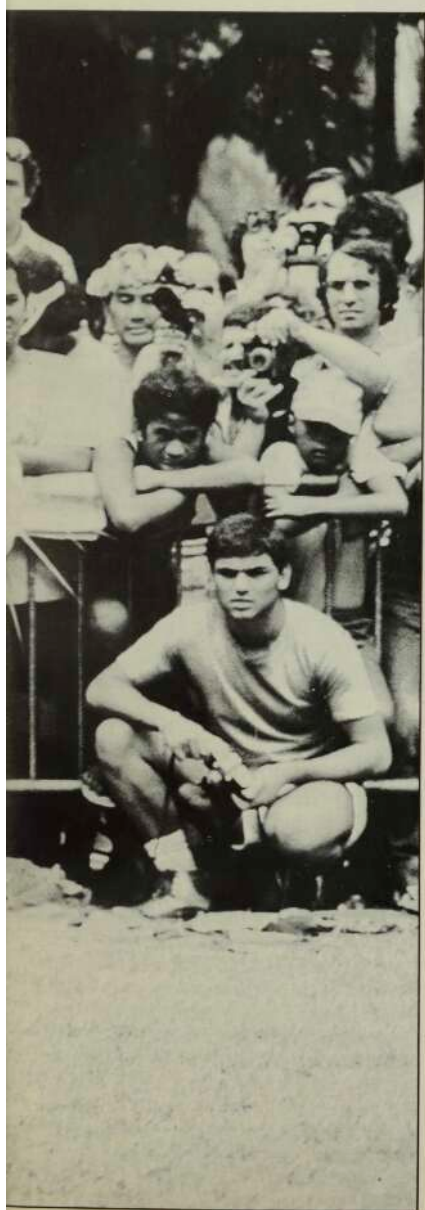
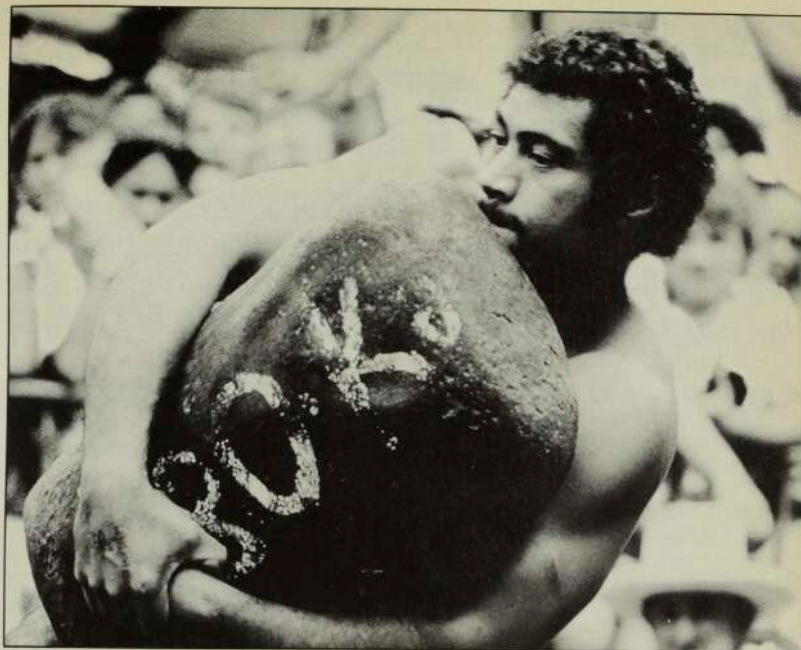
massive stone there for a "few minutes".

The competitors' achievement is a weighty one: the stones the men lift weigh up to 140 kilograms. Women are expected to hoist 60 kilogram rocks on to their shoulders.

Although most of the rock lifters are



Photos courtesy of Tahiti Sun Press



"The object is to lift a heavy, oiled rock first to chest height, then, with a dramatic surge of strength, to heave it to the shoulders, holding it there for a few minutes before letting go"

young, in their late teens or 20s, many successful champions are a good deal older. At a recent competition a man of 51 years of age put his younger opponents to shame and won the day.

The pastime is an ancient one, but took its modern form about 200 years ago when warriors lifted stones to keep in shape for battle. Stone lifting has long been practiced on Rurutu, 500 km southwest of Tahiti, once every year on New Year's Day; since 1982 it has also been a popular and colourful fixture at Tahiti's July fête or Tahitian Festival.

On Rurutu, people from the three main villages have used the same stones, known as *pa'oro'oro*, for hundreds of years. They are kept in special enclosures when they are not in use.

Practice is conducted throughout the year to keep lifters in perfect lifting trim for the big event, when village pride is on the line.

Each competitor is given three tries at hefting the greasy rock to his or her shoulders. If the weight is too great, the competitor simply lets go — and does his or her best to get out of the way before the stone crashes to the ground. The champion is the contestant who can lift the heaviest rock twice at four selected sites on the island.

Today, as in past years, the spectators at stone lifting competitions sing, dance, play a variety of musical instruments and chant. They follow the stone lifters on foot and by horseback, in cars, jeeps and trucks. The feats of the day are celebrated long into the night at a traditional *tamaaraa* or feast when the fierce rivalry of the day is put aside and thoughts turn to the next eat competition □

FORUM

Palau: The US Angle

James D Berg of the US Department of State hits out at critics of American policies in troubled Palau. Allegations that the US is forcing the republic to host nuclear bases and that America is behind a wave of violence is, he says, nonsense.

MUCH has appeared in the media in recent months concerning the future political status of the Republic of Palau. There have been allegations that the United States is coercing Palau into a Compact of Free Association with the US in order to establish a major military complex, including nuclear bases, in those islands. These allegations bear no relationship to reality. As one specific example, that Compact — approved by the Palauan people in six UN-observed acts of self-determination — specifically provides that the US will not “use, test, store or dispose of” any nuclear weapons in Palau. (Aside from that fact, one frequent specific allegation is particularly absurd — that the US plans to base Trident submarines in Palau. That allegation, if nothing else, ignores the fact that all Trident submarines are based in mainland US ports; their range is such that overseas basing is not necessary.)

Aside from rotating 13-man Civic Action Teams engaged in public works projects, there is no US military presence in Palau and none is planned. Not only are no “nuclear bases” contemplated for Palau, but neither are any other elements of a major military complex — as has been alleged in media reports. The only “nuclear issue” has been whether US Navy ships will, under a free association relationship, be able to visit Palauan ports from time to time on the same basis as they do the ports of other friends and allies.

The limited military options available to the US in Palau are precisely identified in a subsidiary agreement to the Compact of Free Association, and can be exercised only after consultations with the Palauan Government. They are: (a) anchorage rights for visiting US Navy ships in Palau's main harbour and use of a nearby 16-hectare site for support facilities; (b) contingency joint use with Palau of Palau's two airports; (c) contingency use of limited areas for logistics installations; and (d) occasional access to uninhabited areas of one island for training exercises. There is no plan to exercise these limited options, and under no circumstances could they be a substitute for US installations in the Philippines.

If there had been a need to establish “nuclear bases” in Palau, the US could



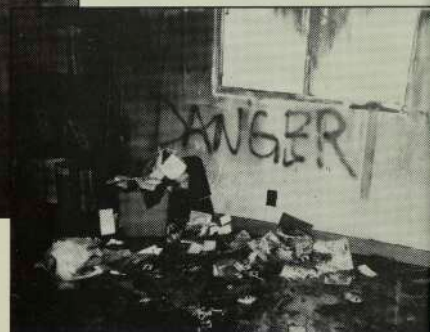
Above: President Sali and US Secretary of State George Shultz. Right: a terror attack.

have done so at any time under the existing US Trusteeship Agreement. It has not done so because there is neither need nor intent. Given the character of allegations about US intentions, it is ironic that Palau will be legally more “nuclear-free” with implementation of free association — that is, an existing but never exercised US legal right will be terminated.

To place recent events in their proper context, a little history is in order. In 1947 the Micronesian islands of the North Pacific (the Northern Marianas, Caroline and Marshall Islands) became the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under US administration pursuant to an agreement between the US and the UN Security Council. Previously they had been under Japanese control. In 1969 Micronesia and the US began negotiations directed at termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the identification of the future political status of these islands.

In the early 1970s, despite US hopes for a unified Micronesia, it became clear that political fragmentation was inevitable. The Caroline Islands (including Palau) and the Marshalls sought a “free association” relationship with the US, while the Northern Marianas sought US commonwealth status and US citizenship. In 1975 the Northern Marianas, in a UN-observed act of self-determination, formally opted for commonwealth status, which was implemented in 1986.

The remaining Micronesian islands continued to pursue free association, but in 1976



fragmented into three separate political units that have since become the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (the Carolines minus Palau), and the Republic of Palau. In the early 1980s all three entities became self-governing under the Trusteeship with the US, retaining only reserve powers pending termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Agreement was also reached on a Compact of Free Association between the US and each of these states — a status much like the relationship between the Cook Islands and New Zealand. Each state would be sovereign and self-governing, and would conduct its own foreign affairs. Defence responsibilities would be vested in the US. There also are provisions for each state to terminate unilaterally its relationship with the US and for the US to provide the three states with about \$US2.2

billion in grant assistance over 15 years, with periodic adjustments for inflation. In 1986, following UN-observed acts of self-determination in which the majority of the people of these states rejected full independence and approved free association, the Marshall Islands and Federated States entered into free association with the United States as sovereign, self-governing nations.

The Trusteeship for Palau could not end, however, because Palau had yet to complete its approval of the Compact according to its own constitutional requirements. The dilemma was that Palau's Constitution declared Palau "nuclear-free" in language inconsistent with US defence responsibilities in a free association relationship. Those responsibilities require that US Navy ships have access to Palauan ports for visits on the same basis as to the ports of other friends and allies. Since nearly half of the US Navy's ships are nuclear-powered and some are capable of carrying nuclear weapons (and the US neither confirms nor denies the presence of nuclear weapons on its ships), Palauan courts had ruled that the Compact of Free Association was in conflict with the nuclear provisions of Palau's Constitution. However, the Constitution also provides that these provisions could be overridden by a 75 percent majority vote for free association.

In five acts of self-determination the Palauan people, by majorities ranging from 62 to 72 percent, rejected full independence and approved the Compact of Free Association, including US defence responsibility. But the constitutionally mandated 75 percent vote was never achieved. However, another constitutional clause permits amendment of that document by a simple majority in three-fourths of Palau's states. In a referendum on August 4, 1987, 72 percent approved an amendment reducing the vote required for free association from 75 percent to a simple majority.

That amendment was accepted by the Palau National Congress and confirmed by the Trial Division of Palau's Supreme Court. It was in effect when, on August 21, 1987, 73 percent of Palau's voters in a sixth act of self-determination voted to bring the Compact into force as soon as possible. (As with all other acts of self-determination, UN observers subsequently reported the act was fairly and appropriately conducted.) The Palauan Government then certified to the US Government that approval of the Compact had been completed in accordance with Palau's constitutional processes. This action cleared the way for the US to take steps essential under US legislation to implement the new relationship with Palau and terminate the trusteeship.

Against the above background allegations that the US is somehow coercing Palau into an undesired relationship with the US are nonsense. These allegations ignore

the facts that free association (including US defence responsibility) had been the objective of Palau's elected leaders and Government since 1971; that Palau's Government is freely elected by the Palauan people; that most members of Palau's legislature support that relationship (as do most traditional leaders); and that this objective, favoured by the majority of elected and traditional leaders, was endorsed by large majorities of the Palauan people in six acts of self-determination.

The violence that took place in Palau recently is, of course, tragic and deeply to be regretted. Some related cases are already before the courts, so detailed comment would be inappropriate. However, one can observe that in Palau's volatile atmosphere, some of that violence may be attributable to the frustration of a few among the large majority who perceived that their free choice for the political future of Palau has been thwarted time and again by a relatively small minority. That is not an excuse for criminal violence — but it may be an explanation.

Other allegations are equally ludicrous, especially one to the effect that the US has withheld funds from Palau in an effort to blackmail Palau into free association. In fact, US grants to Palau in recent years have resulted in one of the highest levels of assistance, on a per capita basis, received by any state or territory in the Pacific. The Palauan Government's recent financial problems arose from its own over-obligation of available funds. Similarly, it has been argued that the US Government encouraged Palau to assume a large debt in connection with development of a new power plant. The US Government in fact advised the Palauan Government against that contract. Both actions were unfortunate, but the US cannot be responsible for actions taken by Palau in its exercise of self-government.

The "last word" on these issues should appropriately go to the President of the Senate of the Palau National Congress, who recently said:

"We have shown to the entire world that the basic rule of democracy — majority rule — is at work in our islands and that we stand for human rights on our shores. Let it be known to the world that the interest and welfare of the citizens of the Republic of Palau come first and foremost in our islands, and that we will not tolerate outside interests which invade our homeland disguised in the cloak of an over-zealous anti-nuclear movement. Let it be known that no outside interference or influence will deter us from our cherished, ultimate goal of self-governance." □

Mr Berg has been deeply involved in Micronesian affairs since 1971 — first as a Peace Corps volunteer in the islands and then (until his present appointment) as a participant in the future political status negotiations between Micronesia and the United States.

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Pacific Report

□ NAURU BUYS MORE US LAND

THE NAURU Phosphate Royalty Trust is purchasing more land in the United States as part of its investment portfolio. The trust, which administers royalties from phosphate mining on Nauru, will develop 240 hectares of land in Portland, Oregon, in conjunction with an American property developer. The purchase price was in excess of \$US16 million.

□ PNG TYPHOID THREAT

PNG HAS allocated K200,000 to fight an increase in the number of typhoid cases in Port Moresby. The money will be used to improve conditions at settlements, where poor sewerage and water supply systems are blamed for the spread of the disease.

□ ALEBUA SURVIVES

THE SOLOMON ISLANDS' Prime Minister, Mr Ezekiel Alebua, has survived a no confidence motion by one vote. The leader of the Opposition SAS Party, Mr Alan Qurusu, had claimed Mr Alebua's government was corrupt, lacked co-ordination, favoured foreign businessmen and was implementing harsh fiscal policies that were hurting the people.

□ TAUKEI WARNING

THE TAUKEI Movement in Fiji has warned that the impatience for change among indigenous Fijian people could erupt into "terrible violence in the streets".

The movement also called for the Great Council of Chiefs to assemble immediately and to take over the running of the country.

□ BRITAIN BOWS OUT

BRITAIN IS to give its final contribution in budgetary assistance to Vanuatu under the United Kingdom-Vanuatu Independence Settlement of 1980. Britain will provide up to \$A200,000 toward Vanuatu's 1988 budget.

□ AID THEFT INQUIRY

THE AUSTRALIAN Government is seeking details of allegations about misappropriation of Australian aid to Vanuatu. The Australian High Commission in Vanuatu has been asked to provide any information available on the alleged misuse of \$A100,000 from funds provided for cyclone relief.

□ BOUGAINVILLE BLACKOUT

THE ISLAND of Bougainville in PNG found itself in communications isolation following sabotage by landowners of a telecommunications repeater station. Members of the Mohata clan disabled the repeater station on Mount Takaniat, demanding greater compensation for the use of their mountaintop by the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.

□ VILLAGERS ISOLATE PNG

COMMUNICATIONS with and within Papua New Guinea were disrupted for several days last month by the village owners of a mountaintop. The Buang people, who own the top of Mount Shungol in Morobe Province between Port Moresby and Lae, entered the telecommunications station sited there and put it out of action.

A similar demand — and similar tactics — cut off the island of Bougainville for a week early in April.

□ AUSTRALIAN AID INCREASES

AUSTRALIAN Government officials say there will be a cash increase in Australia's aid to the South Pacific next financial year because the Foreign Minister, Mr Hayden, has ruled there will be no decline in Australian aid to the region in real terms. This will mean a payment to the South Pacific next financial year of at least \$A72 million, compared with \$A62 million this financial year.

□ FIJI ACCEPTS "NO STRINGS" AID

FIJI SAYS its opposition to French policy in New Caledonia and French nuclear testing remains unchanged despite its acceptance of French aid. The Information Minister, Mr Walker, says Fiji's position has not been compromised by the aid grants and that Fiji, which also receives aid from Australia, New Zealand, Britain and the United States, speaks for itself on international issues.

□ MORE MONEY FOR PNG

PNG'S DEPUTY Secretary of Finance, Mr Koari Tarata, and Australia's High Commissioner, Mr Lance Joseph, signed an agreement in April allocating more than \$A3 million in Australian aid. The money is to be spent on control of rust in coffee crops, on agricultural research and on improvements to help realise the economic potential of Papua New Guinea's least-developed areas.

□ WORLD BANK REPORT CHALLENGED

THE PNG Opposition has disputed a World Bank report that the average annual income of Papua New Guineans is equivalent to \$US700. Mr Michael Somare has asked Finance and Planning Minister Galewa Kwarara how the Bank had reached its conclusion, saying the report is grossly incorrect because there are Papua New Guineans in the rural areas of the country who would earn no more than two kina for months on end.

Mr Somare challenged the World Bank and the Government to be realistic in compiling such reports in order to give a true picture of how the country's economy is being managed.

□ HELP FOR FIJIAN BUSINESSES

FIJI'S INTERIM Government is considering setting up a fund to encourage the country's Melanesian population to become more involved in business ventures. The proposed fund, called a tax-free-zone unit trust, would buy shares in companies starting up business in the tax-free areas being established by the Government and would make money available to indigenous Fijian business people at very favourable rates of interest.

□ PNG DRUG SCARE

PAPUA NEW Guinea is experiencing a big increase in drug trafficking — mostly cannabis. The author of a Government report, Doctor Bruce Francis, says cannabis grown in the PNG Highlands has become recognised internationally as being of extremely good quality, and cheaper than cannabis obtainable elsewhere. He fears corrupt politicians will become involved with the gangs in the drug trade. □

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FIJI

Backing A Business Recovery

Businessmen are giving Fiji's ailing economy a boost. By Larry Writer

AT LAST there is cause for optimism. A good sugar crop, the resumption of aid from neighbours and the first signs of a revival of tourism have raised hopes that the Fiji economy is on the mend.

Government and business leaders, however, are under no illusions. One look at the books is enough to shake the bullish from any premature complacency: international investor confidence is still decidedly shaky, the economy declined by 11 per cent in 1987 (and that decline is tipped to continue in 1988, with a negative growth rate of 6.5 per cent on the cards), and the 1987 deficit of \$A73 million could crash to \$A124 million. The Fiji dollar has been devalued by about 34 per cent and this — while having many positive effects — has made essential imports more expensive. Inflation is growing, and so is unemployment.

But the interim Government is taking this parlous situation by the scruff of the neck and shaking it hard. Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara knows that economic recovery is the *only* hope Fiji has of regaining its once proud and influential position in the Pacific. In a recent address to the nation, Ratu Mara spelled out a brave and dynamic action plan to rescue the economy. (See page 35).

The Prime Minister can take heart from a positive and successful conference of the Australia/Fiji Business Council (AFBC) and the Fiji/Australia Business Council (FABC) held in Suva in March. The prevailing mood at the conference, said Australian businessman Russell Leitch, president of the AFBC, was one of "All right, what's done is done; now business has to do everything in its power to get Fiji back on the rails — for everybody's sake."

In an exclusive interview with *Pacific Islands Monthly*, Mr Leitch said his confidence in Fiji becoming again a viable business centre was high. But like Ratu Mara, Mr Leitch realises there is much to do. The brain drain must be staunch and vacancies filled by professionals. Tourism has to regain the high levels of pre-coup days, a small manufacturing base needs to be established, the good performance by the sugar industry has to be maintained and such encumbrances to trade as Sunday observance have to be reviewed.

"Fiji will recover," says Mr Leitch. "It has excellent natural resources, it is well placed geographically and its people are used to hard work. My company, Westpac, has been in Fiji since 1901 and within a few days of last year's May 14 coup we

made our position clear — when you are in a country for the long term you take the vicissitudes of the short term in your stride and keep planning for the future."

Mr Leitch considers that Fiji is now stable, and that will be his message to Australian and other countries' businessmen: "I have visited four times in the past six months and I have never felt any sense of instability. However, I do understand the concerns many local people have. But from my viewpoint, Fiji is once more the place it was before the coups."

The media is an important tool in Fiji's rehabilitation. "It has a responsibility to report when things are going well." Governments and businesspeople had a similar responsibility to be candid with the media. Similarly, a return to pre-coup tourism levels is vital, and again positive

"The economy can be rebuilt to the point where investors are queueing up at the door" — Russell Leitch

stories in the media can help. But so can anybody who visits Fiji and has a good time: "They should spread the word," says Mr Leitch.

"The tourist infrastructure, in the form of excellent hotels and holiday destinations, is already well established. What is needed is favourable publicity to encourage the return of tourists in large numbers, and an increase in airline schedules.

"Airline schedules will increase if the demand for seats is high. There would be a reason for some of those airlines that pulled out of Fiji after the coup to start their services again.

"Cheap air fares are a good short-term way of getting tourists back to Fiji, but a concerted and co-ordinated marketing campaign selling Fiji as a destination would have more lasting benefits. There should also be an education program for travel agents. "If the people selling tickets at the travel agency or the airline are convinced Fiji is a good place to go, they'll make an effort to convince their clients."



AFBC president Russell Leitch.

The Fijian sugar industry is as important to the nation as tourism but, unlike tourism, it is in good shape. "The industry is now doing better than immediately before the coup," says Mr Leitch. "The climate is good for the current harvest. The main growers are Indian families who have worked on the land for many years: their livelihood depends on a good crop and they will do their best to ensure a good harvest."

Russell Leitch predicts a good harvest this year but admits much depends on the world price of sugar ("although Fiji is largely immune to that," he says, "thanks to its long-term contracts"). Mr Leitch says the onus is on Fiji to be an efficient producer, especially when world prices are low. "The Fiji Sugar Corporation itself is a very efficient organisation; it needs to remain so and to support the industry with technology and milling capacity."

Asked whether Fiji could guarantee security for investors, Mr Leitch has his doubts. "I don't think any country can guarantee that, but Fiji can provide a climate where investors can make their decisions knowing that they have a good chance of turning a profit and repatriating their capital," he says.

"The state of the economy is the best guarantee investors can get. If the economy can recover — and quickly — the flow of investment will speed up. The Fiji economy has suffered a knockback, but the resources are there; if the right moves are made and Fiji is given the time to recover, the economy can be rebuilt to the point where investors queue at the door."

Mr Leitch also told businessmen in Fiji that the full restoration of democracy in Fiji needs to be encouraged, and the people need to be reassured that the military would not again interfere in the running of the country. "Business must know that the country will be run in an orderly and predictable manner, on the basis of laws enacted through a democratic process. The arbitrary exercise of power will only undermine business confidence," he stresses.

Recent moves by the Government to provide tax minimisation incentives, such as making land available for industry, manufacturing and commerce in tax-free zones, would help in the short term, says Mr Leitch. "But the most attractive incentive is the up to 13 year tax holiday for investors [whereby profits are not taxed for a specified number of years], which is particularly beneficial when geared to the SPARTECA agreement and other agreements that allow favoured access into markets."

The tax holiday would draw investors to Fiji. "Fiji has a good work force able to produce quality goods — garments, timber, furniture. Wages are relatively low, and Fiji has good shipping access to the United States, Asia, New Zealand and Australia."

In his address at the AFBC/FABC conference, Mr Leitch said that SPARTECA in particular could serve a useful role in helping build Fiji's manufacturing base. "And this benefit can be assisted by Australia, for example, by easing the remain-



Tourism needs to return to pre-coup levels.

ing restrictions on some Fijian items such as garments, which face import restrictions in Australia."

He says manufactured items could be encouraged to establish a niche in the Australian market. "In fact, under the SPARTECA agreement the climate exists for a major push by Fiji into Australia with manufactured items, if the base industries can be set up in Fiji. The establishment of the duty free zone will be very helpful in this regard."

What form should foreign investment take? "Any form of investment that brings capital into a country is welcome." Which industries? "Existing industries such as

tourism, sugar, gold, and timber could all use an increase in capital. Such an injection is probably not as important for them, however, as they are all established. What is needed are new industries that are fairly labour intensive, that use the capacity in the workforce and provide export potential for Fiji. Small manufacturing concerns would provide ideal foreign investment potential."

Mr Leitch regrets the so-called "brain drain" — the flight from Fiji of top people, mainly Indian, in the professions, the public sector and manufacturing. "I'd like to think there was a solution. Perhaps the constitution needs to ensure that Indians

A Blueprint For Prosperity

AS A result of extensive discussion between groups of delegates at the AFBC/FABC conference, a number of positive suggestions were tabled. These will be collated and presented to relevant ministries, agencies and bodies. Specifically, the meeting highlighted the following:

- The AFBC will promote Fiji as a destination for conventions to its members and contacts.

- Both councils will provide a constant and positive flow of information to the media.

- Councils called for the Fiji Government to respond quickly and positively to media enquiries to avoid speculative reporting.

- To assist in encouraging tourism, the Sunday observance should be eased.

- The councils pressed for an early conclusion of the Tax Sharing Agreement

with the Australian Government to fit in with the investment packages now being offered by the Fiji Government.

- Short and long term training programs must be initiated to fill the skills gap created by emigration and to meet the needs of a projected expansion of industry stimulated by planned investment initiatives; SPARTECA is seen as a possible funding source.

- The meeting was in favour of consideration of personal income tax reviews aimed at lowering personal tax rates in Fiji and thus increasing personal initiative.

- Labour-intensive industries were suggested as a priority. The manufacturing sector should be encouraged to develop using Fiji's special trading opportunities to gain entry into SPARTECA countries; the EEC, using Lome, and so on.

- A regular informative business-or-

ientated newsletter originating from the FABC should be instituted to highlight achievements and opportunities.

- The Australian Joint Venture Scheme requires urgent updating to make it a positive vehicle for Fijian participation. It should be venture-capital based and directed to the private sector.

- There is an urgent need to upgrade support services such as communication to encourage investment

- Councils supported the initiatives of the Fiji Trade and Investment Board and suggested it maximise the resources of both councils.

- Fiji should embark on a campaign, to be initiated in Australia and other countries, to encourage Fiji nationals to return to Fiji.

- Expo 88 was seen as an excellent opportunity for the promotion of Fiji's tourism and investment potential, and should therefore receive immediate and substantial attention. □



The sugar harvest is a vital component of economic recovery.

can take their place in the community and go about their business without threat. This is going to be difficult in the light of the coups and the perception of the indigenous Fijian population. But I have a great sympathy for the Indians, many of whom are second, third or fourth generation Fijians."

The brain drain had been quite serious in certain industries. What now needed to be undertaken were training programs to rebuild the level of professional skills in the

community. This would involve training young ethnic Fijians to aspire to take their place in both private industry and government at a professional level.

"It is up to Fiji to take the initiative. Programs instituted in Fiji and in secondary and tertiary institutions in New Zealand, Australia, Hawaii and elsewhere should teach the necessary skills," says Leitch. "But all this, like everything else, will take a little time. You will not change much in two or three years." □

Burns Philp Warning

A MAJOR Australian company operating throughout the South Pacific, Burns Philp, has predicted it will take up to five years for Fiji's economy to recover from last year's coups.

The company's general manager for the South Pacific, Mr David McClellan, made the prediction in a submission to an Australian parliamentary subcommittee considering Australia's foreign relations with the South Pacific.

Burns Philp's investments include wholesale and retail merchandising and shipping, and the company employs close to 4000 people in the South Pacific.

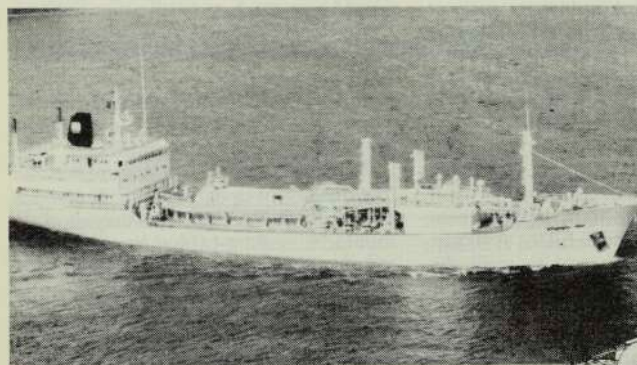
Mr McClellan says Fiji's military coups had a disastrous effect on the company's operations there, with sales falling by almost 50 per cent.

He describes the market in Fiji as very depressed with sales only recovering slowly but still 40 per cent down on budget predictions.

Mr McClellan attributes the depressed market to wage cuts, loss of tourism and loss of confidence. He said people are putting their money straight in the bank rather than spending it.

The Burns Philp general manager says he finds it difficult to believe that any large construction projects would go ahead in the short term, but predicts a slow recovery over the next five years. □

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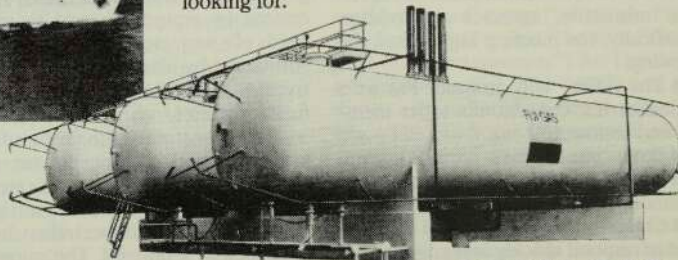


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FIJI

Ratu Mara: "Our Great Challenge"

The Fijian PM reports on the task facing the interim administration to restore democratic, economic and social order to the nation.

WOULD Like to bring you up to date on the progress the interim Government has made toward its fundamental goal of restoring order and normalcy in our country, of laying a secure foundation as the basis for sustained economic growth and for enduring political stability, social progress and harmony in our nation.

At the outset of the interim administration, I had made a special public appeal asking each Fijian for understanding, for co-operation and for full support in our difficult but challenging task of rebuilding our nation and of creating a future of hope and promise for all the people of Fiji.

As I look back over this first 100 days, I can say with humble pride and with much satisfaction that we have taken a big step forward. And what pleases me most of all is that this positive beginning has been made possible by Fijians' understanding, their readiness to accept less in order to help others, and their unshakeable faith that we can overcome our present hardships and difficulties.

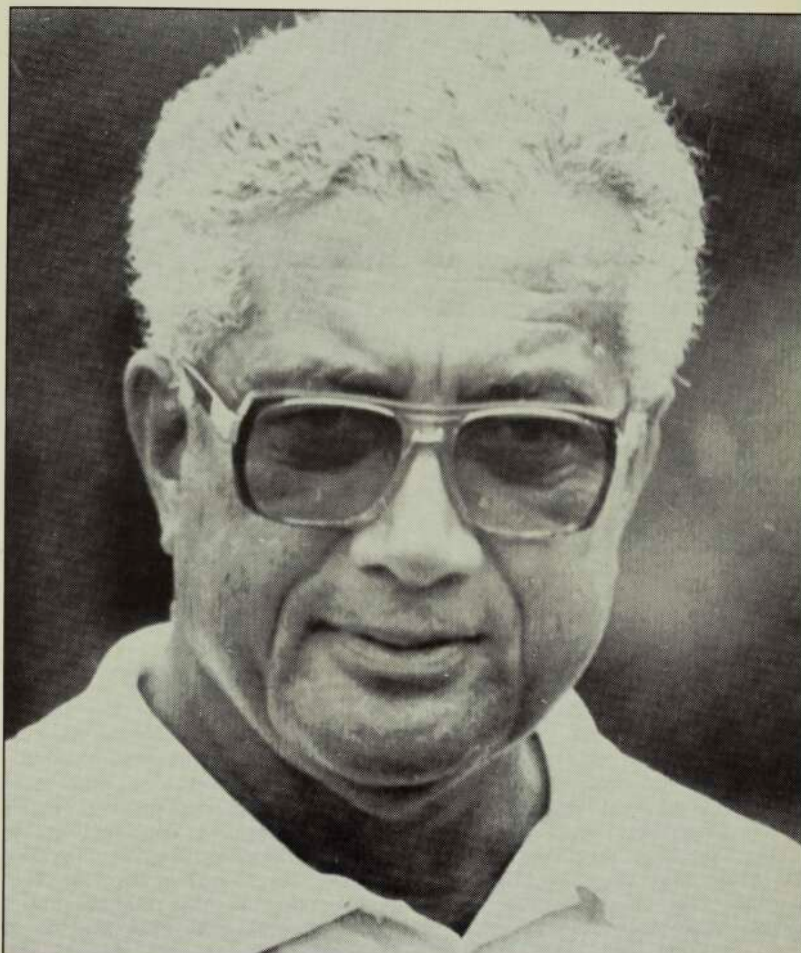
In a concerted endeavour to arrest the contraction in our country's economy, the interim Government had to act immediately and, in our national interest, put in place an austerity national budget. Public operating expenditure was cut by 30 per cent; salaries and wages had to be reduced by 15 per cent. But even with these severe measures, the budget was still in deficit to the tune of \$F119 million.

It has, therefore, been absolutely necessary to keep a tight control on public expenditure and to allocate resources only to those activities that are essential and conducive to the earliest possible recovery of the national economy.

Consistent with this, the interim Government will leave no stone unturned in ensuring, with the support of the police and the security forces — and, indeed, the public at large — that any genuine allegations of corruption, misappropriation or fraud involving any public servant, a Government Minister (or the Prime Minister, for that matter), are immediately and thoroughly investigated and appropriate punitive and corrective action taken if they are proven.

With prudent management, and with your patience and fortitude, I am pleased to report that our combined efforts and sacrifices are beginning to bear fruit. In this respect I am particularly grateful to all public servants for their hard work, loyalty and dedication.

As an example of the positive trends that are starting to emerge, actual revenue



Ratu Sir Kamasese Mara: "Let's work together."

collected for the month of January totalled more than \$F22 million, which represented an increase of \$F4.5 million over the projected revenue figure of \$F17.5 million for that month.

As another example, the projected revenue from customs, excise and export duty for February was set at \$F7.8 million. However, for the period from February 1 to February 24 actual revenue collected was \$F7.3 million and it is expected that the total figure for February will exceed the projected revenue for that month.

Government's revenue position is therefore starting to improve on projections. But not to the extent that we can now afford to relax those cost controls and other restrictions, including the salary and wage reductions, that the interim Government

had found unavoidable.

However, the Government is monitoring its financial position closely and if the trend in revenue collection shows a continuing substantive improvement, the interim administration will consider amending the current national budget in June this year.

A further welcome development is that all of our overseas friends have restored their economic relationships with Fiji. Overseas aid assistance already pledged to support economic and social development in our country this year is estimated at more than \$F34 million. It is the highest ever level of foreign aid to Fiji in any single year. This undoubtedly is a clear indication of the readiness of our overseas friends to lend full support to our endeavours in

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — MAY 1988 35

Fiji. It is comforting to know that we do not stand alone as a member of the international community of nations, but that we do have friends who genuinely care for our future.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the governments and international organisations that have rallied to our support. I can assure them that their generous contribution will greatly facilitate the economic recovery and social stability we all want for Fiji, and which we must have if we are to ensure lasting peace and harmony in our country.

In my address to you last December and in my New Year message to the nation, I informed you then that the protection of employment and the creation of new jobs for our people was an immediate priority of the interim Government. As we saw it, this was to be approached in several ways. One was to implement development projects in the public sector. In the capital budget for this year, a total of \$F57 million is to be spent on capital works. Work has already begun on several projects.

The \$F34 million in foreign aid already committed to Fiji for this year will be used to complement and to supplement our efforts in the public sector. And we shall continue our efforts to attract additional capital aid to Fiji.

The interim Government will, for example, be following up my recent discussions in South Korea and Japan, for the South Korean Government to assist in the financing of the reconstruction of the Ba and Sigatoka River bridges, and for the Government of Japan to consider financing the construction of a new teaching hospital complex in Suva.

These projects, if successfully followed through, will contribute not only in providing jobs for hundreds of our people but also in improving economic and social services. But in addition to all these, it is the private sector we believe that has tremendous potential to bring about and to foster the quick recovery of our economy.

The essential first step must be to restore and to raise the level of investor confidence, both within our own business community and among overseas businessmen. We have begun that process and we are succeeding in restoring that confidence. Furthermore, with the establishment of special tax free zones, the interim Government has been making every effort to attract increased investment interest and participation in Fiji. In this regard I am most grateful to the Australia/Fiji and Fiji/Australia Business Councils for the constructive contribution they have made. In particular, I wish to acknowledge with warm appreciation the extremely helpful attitude they have adopted in agreeing unanimously to express their collective confidence in the future of Fiji as a focus for substantial business investment and development.

Indeed, as a direct reflection of the growing business interest and confidence

in Fiji, 20 new investment proposals involving local businessmen and overseas partners have already been received to take full advantage of the tax free facilities that were recently introduced. Of these applications, three have already been approved and 17 are still being processed by the Fiji Trade and Investment Board.

The establishment of these new enterprises will create many new jobs for our people and earn increased foreign exchange for our country.

The interim Government will continue to do its utmost to encourage and promote new investment in our country, in order to stimulate and accelerate our economic recovery and provide employment and income generation for our people.

Tourism is another major area of primary focus by the interim administration. A number of tourist development projects with a total value of more than \$F300 million are already in the pipeline.

"The essential first step must be to restore and to raise the level of investor confidence"

In January this year, Government recruited a tourist expert to work with the Ministry of Tourism to identify small projects for indigenous Fijians. The objective of this project is to diversify and to spread the location of tourism-related activities, so as to help in improving economic conditions in our rural areas and at the same time create employment for our rural population.

Meanwhile, the Fiji Visitors Bureau has embarked on an active marketing campaign to restore growth in tourist visitor arrivals in Fiji. In fact, forward bookings look optimistic for the tourist industry for the rest of this year. And plans for the expansion of our tourist industry have been given a real boost by the recent start of the Nadi airport terminal redevelopment project. This is estimated to cost \$F10 million and will create 200 new jobs.

In my discussions with the Government of Japan during my recent visit to Tokyo, I was able to urge the Japanese authorities to facilitate the commencement by our own Air Pacific of direct air services to Japan later this year.

With Air Pacific flying to Japan, and with the renewed Japanese business interest in direct participation in hotel development and operation in Fiji, I have every confidence that we can develop an impor-

tant tourist market in Japan.

Australia, of course, will continue to be Fiji's most important tourist market. Accordingly, we welcome the recent undertaking by the Australia-Fiji Business Council to promote Fiji as a continuing destination for Australian tourists and as an attractive venue for holding conventions and meetings.

The commencement of improvement in the Government's financial position, the increased and extended public sector programs of public works, the restoration of overseas economic aid support for Fiji, the return of investor confidence, the start of new joint venture businesses in our country, and the gradual recovery of our tourism industry are all positive indications that our economy is moving forward.

If we can continue and persevere with our concerted and united efforts, with our sacrifice and readiness to help our fellow men with hard work and an unyielding determination never to be defeated, I have no doubt that our present endeavours to overcome our economic difficulties will be rewarded ultimately with resounding success.

In my address on December 8, I also said that the formation of an acceptable Constitution for our country was without question another top priority for the interim administration. To this end, a cabinet committee has already started looking at proposals for a new constitution. We regard this task as a matter of paramount national importance.

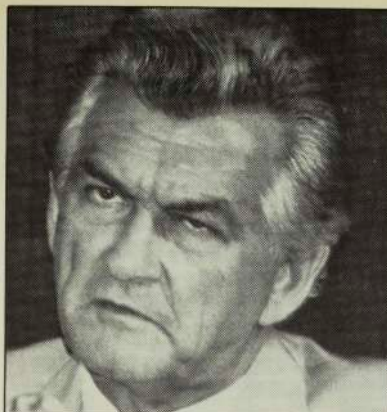
We also recognise that it would have to be approached delicately, with meticulous care and with extra sensitivity, but tempered by a realisation and an acceptance that the only solution that can have any real hope of lasting success is one that takes fully into account the realities of the present situation.

By various decrees that have already been promulgated, order and normalcy have been restored to the functioning of Government and of public services. An independent judiciary has been re-established. Under the new fundamental rights and freedoms decree, basic human rights and fundamental freedoms have been restored. But we have begun a new stage in our life as a nation. We are now a republic — the Republic of Fiji.

We must realise that there can never be a return to the Dominion status we had before this change in our Constitution. Nevertheless, the interim administration is firmly committed to exploring every possible avenue of an acceptable arrangement that would allow the entire people of Fiji the opportunity to be able to show, in the most direct way, their continuing loyalty to, and affection for, the British Crown.

In keeping with traditional Fijian custom and courtesy . . . the recommendations of our cabinet on the Constitution will be conveyed first to a special meeting of traditional chiefs from all parts of Fiji.

This *bose ni turaga* will be convened in



Clockwise from left: Some of Fiji's influential supporters — Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher, Bob Hawke, Jacques Chirac and David Lange.

May (or June) this year. This will then be followed by reference to the Great Council of Chiefs, which is to meet in June (or July). As we are all aware, the reconstitution of this council is presently under consideration. However, I would like to assure you all that any changes in the composition or the structure of the Great Council of Chiefs will be a matter entirely for selective decision by the traditional chiefs of Fiji — and not by the interim administration or any other body.

At the meetings of the *bose ni turaga* and the Great Council of Chiefs, there will also be full consultation on the wider aspects of the constitutional future of Fiji.

From the counsels of our traditional chiefs and elders, it is hoped that a clear and unanimous consensus will emerge on a possible way ahead for our country. An advisory committee, widely representative of major ethnic communities and cultural groups in Fiji, will then be appointed by the interim administration to give careful scrutiny to the constitutional proposals.

Within this overall framework it is the intention of the interim administration to hold free and open elections once a broadly acceptable Constitution, including its provisions and enabling regulations, has been completed.

The interim administration has no illusion about the difficulty of its task. We

are, however, clear in our perception and firm in our belief that a new Constitution will have to ensure the full protection of the fundamental interests and concerns of the indigenous Fijian people, but at the same time accommodate on a fair and equitable basis the position of the other communities in our multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society.

We are also confident that through the framework of consultations and dialogue I have outlined, it shall be possible to develop a broadly acceptable Constitution that will provide for a speedy return to parliamentary democracy, and a freely elected parliamentary representative government.

It is our sincere hope that all these can be achieved within the two-year time frame the interim administration has set for itself to complete these tasks.

We have all gone through a period of turmoil and strife, of fear and anxiety. I can only hope that this most disturbing period in our history is now well behind us. Indeed, I am happy to say that peace, stability and harmony prevail in our country. I would therefore urge us all to continue to work together to strengthen the unity of our nation. □

From Ratu Mara's March address to the nation in Suva.

Continued from Page 18

"personal prejudice, professional jealousy and political bias" to exclude Pacific islanders from jobs at a university that belonged to them. Furthermore, "the university council will need to begin now to look to look for an indigenous Pacific islander to be the next vice-chancellor when the contract of the incumbent expires shortly".

The university, built on the site of a former Royal New Zealand Air Force flying boat base at Laucala Bay, was opened in 1968. It is jointly controlled by 11 countries — Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa — and depends on Fiji for 60 per cent (about \$13 million) of its annual working budget. Australia and New Zealand also contribute to the university, largely through scholarships for students.

The staff reflects 60 different nationalities and there are 2000 full-time students, with 7000 part-timers at Laucala Bay. There is also a campus at Alafua, Western Samoa, where the Agriculture School is sited. Kiribati has the Institute for Atoll Research; Tonga, the Institute of Rural Technology; Vanuatu, the Languages Centre and Law Unit. As well, there are university extension centres in 10 of the member countries.

Apart from regional students, including some from New Caledonia, the university also accepts scholarship students from Ethiopia, Hong Kong, the Maldives and Zimbabwe on Commonwealth grants.

As USP began to feel the effects of a staff shortage in the wake of the coups, Australia has been filling immediate gaps by providing short-term lecturers. While this assistance fulfils teaching demands, it does nothing to satisfy the university's desperate need to retain an experienced and skilled body of staff capable of developing courses and programs that meet the region's development needs and its varied cultural and racial mix.

Latest reports from Suva suggest USP is overcoming the most basic of its problems, with approaches from academics in Australasia and Europe to fill vacancies exacerbated by Fiji's "brain drain" of upper level personnel in all fields.

However, the future holds problems of its own as USP's staff confronts the likelihood of an at least partial realisation of the new Fijian spirit. The University's former radical stance was more suited to the comfort of Commonwealth membership, and there is a growing chance some programs — especially in the social sciences — will face serious questions of their place in a now radically conservative society. Not only will the philosophies of lecturers be subject to close scrutiny, but there will likely be fewer students willing to risk official disapproval of enrolling in courses with a subject outline or approach critical of Fiji's new aspirations. □

Trade Winds

A COCONUT SHELL AND DRIFTWOOD STEAM ENGINE FOR THE ISLANDS

AN AUSTRALIAN-designed and built steam engine that runs on sawmill offcuts and coconut shells is now undergoing final tests in Sydney before shipment to the island of Atiu in the Cook Islands. Forerunner of a new export drive in "appropriate technology", the engine is designed to bring electricity and industrial power to remote communities, sawmills and workshops at a fraction of the cost of conventional diesel units.

Island Steam and Engineering Co (ISE) has been developing its Island 11/150 Steam Engine for the past five years. The first order came from the Cook Islands Government. Delivering 225 horsepower, the engine is capable of handling a typical 150 kW generator/alternator.

The engine is designed for simplicity of operation, on-the-spot repair and maintenance by village tradesmen, and cheapness of operation using a variety of solid fuels ranging from sawmill offcuts to coconut shells, oil palm detritus, chaff and grain stalks and driftwood.

The cost of diesel fuel is doubled or more for many remote communities by the cost of transporting it in barrels aboard local trucks and supply boats. In many Third World countries this cost far outweighs the labour-intensive collection and preparation of local wood fuels. Even in countries such as Australia and New Zealand, remote sawmills burn off waste wood 24 hours a day simply for disposal while in the same plant a diesel plant is burning oil.

ISE managing director Sandy Storey says, "The design requirements have been from the beginning simplicity, ease of essential repairs and maximum visibility of those parts most prone to wear or failure. It is almost axiomatic that if a machine part is visibly 'wrong' it is repairable with basic tools, experience and common-sense qualities — which are abundantly available in the Third World."

Storey engaged mechanical engineer Jack Doherty in 1984 to undertake the design and development of the Island engine. Another Australian engineer, Paul Bailey, was chiefly responsible for bringing out the production model.

According to Storey, the engine's cost-effectiveness is obvious when fuel comparisons are made. Remote communities able to grow and provide their own fuel should get power for 12 to 18 cents (Australian) per kilowatt hour where power from conventional diesel systems can cost between 60 cents and A\$2 per kWh.

As well as providing electricity, the Island 11/150 engine can provide rotational

power by a belt from the flywheel for a sawmill or other industrial activity, or provide a simple back-and-forth movement for pumping or grinding.

Development authorities in the South Pacific have shown great interest in the system and ISE is actively pursuing orders for more than a dozen engines. Under development is a larger 500 kW engine.

UNITED NATIONS WATER RESOURCE PROGRAM UNDERWAY

THE UNITED Nations Development Program has approved \$US1.5 million (\$F2.3 million) for the development of water resources in the South Pacific.

This project, which is located in the Institute of Natural Resources at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji, follows a pilot activity funded by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCO), which has been carried out over the past 18 months to assess water resources needs in Pacific island countries.

Individual country projects have been initiated for Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands.

Chief technical adviser Dr Peter Hadwen will continue as head of the new project. He will be assisted by technical staff based in Fiji and other Pacific islands including Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia and the Cook Islands.

The project will be executed by DTCO and will strengthen national water authorities by enhancing their capacity to plan, co-ordinate and manage water-related policies and activities. This will involve training of local personnel as well as the fielding of specialist staff and consultants to provide technical guidance and support to regional governments.

Among its activities, the project will conduct geological and engineering studies; explore and assess surface as well as ground water; provide various options on alternative water supply systems; and assist governments to review water legislation and prepare draft water laws and regulations. These activities may generate significant follow-up investment by bilateral and multilateral donors.

During 1987-1991, the project will also collaborate with USP to establish a regional information centre on aspects of water development.

SURVEILLANCE CENTRES TO PROTECT FISHING INDUSTRY

Australian officials say the South Pacific should have a regional surveillance network within five years. The network would be based around

national surveillance centres in the island states, the Pacific patrol boats being built and supplied by Australia and surveillance flights by Australia and New Zealand.

The officials say that in the next two years Australia will help establish national surveillance centres in Vanuatu, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands. Papua New Guinea and Tonga are to be given assistance to upgrade their centres.

The Solomon Islands surveillance centre, established with assistance from Australia's defence co-operation program, was opened in March.

The Australian officials say discussions are going on with Kiribati on whether Australia could help it set up a surveillance centre. The use of the centres was discussed at a March meeting in Vanuatu of 13 of the South Pacific Forum countries and the Forum Fishing Agency.

Staff from the surveillance centres would receive training at the Australian Maritime college in Launceston, Tasmania. The college would also train crew of the 12 Pacific patrol boats Australia plans to provide to the island states.

Meanwhile, the Solomons Islands Government is to hold talks with the United States over the reported discovery of two American tuna boats illegally fishing in the Solomons exclusive economic zone. The boats were sighted from the air in March.

The boats had been tracked by the newly opened maritime surveillance centre in Honiara, one of a number being established in the South Pacific under the Australian defence co-operation program.

The Solomon Islands Police Commissioner, Mr Fred Soaki, said the American tuna boats had been photographed fishing less than 160 kilometres from land.

Mr Soaki said the sightings had been referred to the Solomon Islands Department of Foreign Affairs, which would take up the matter with the United States Government.

The seizure of another American tuna boat by Solomon Islands authorities several years ago resulted in the United States finalising a fishing agreement with South Pacific countries.

□ TERRAMAT BAILED OUT

PAPUA NEW Guinea's Department of Trade and Industry is moving to save a new local industry based on production of terramat, a by-product of coconut fibres.

Terramat, used to stop erosion in civil engineering projects, is made by Dylup Industries in the Madang province. The company has been facing problems of marketing, competition and lack of local support.

The PNG Deputy Prime Minister, Sir

Julius Chan, has directed the department to mount a marketing program to increase sales of terramat both within PNG and overseas.

Sir Julius says tests carried out on his PNG terramat show the product to be of superior quality and would compete directly with similar products on the market. Government departments and institutions in the country have been asked to use terramat in civil engineering projects.

☐ **COFFEE QUOTA CHANGE**

THE INTERNATIONAL Coffee Organisation has accepted Papua New Guinea's request for a change in the date of its coffee stock verification from March to December. The change means that Papua New Guinea's coffee quota for next year would increase along with its export earnings.

☐ **HYDROPOWER CONSTRUCTION**

THE EUROPEAN Investment Bank has announced a low interest loan of about \$A3 million for construction of a hydropower plant at Afuilo Falls on the Western Samoa island of Upolu.

The loan, under the third Lome Convention, will help build a 10 million cubic metre storage reservoir, power plant, transmission network extensions and auxiliary equipment.

The project is jointly financed by the Asian Development Bank, the International Development Association and the Commission of the European Communities.

☐ **OK TEDI'S BIG PROFIT**

PNG'S COPPER and gold mine Ok Tedi has reported a big profit increase for the year ending December 31. Ok Tedi Mining Limited, which manages the mine, says profits rose by \$A42 million over the same period for the previous year.

The managing director and chief executive Mr R J Carter says the result is a significant step in the project's progress of improving profitability. He attributed the improvement to a stronger operating performance and the commencement of copper concentrate production. Strong prices for both gold and copper also assisted returns.

Mr Carter forecast further improvement as the mine's construction program nears completion.

BHP is the managing shareholder in Ok Tedi, with other principal parties Amoco Corporation, the Papua New Guinea Government and a German consortium.

☐ **SAMOA FIGHTS FISHING EDICT**

THE WESTERN Samoa Government is protesting to the United States against a Congressional decision to stop funding new fisheries development in Western Samoa.

Congress has said future fisheries development in the region could be financed from the five-year fishing treaty recently ▶



South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation

DIRECTOR

Applications are invited from citizens of member countries for the position of Director of the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC).

SPEC is the Secretariat of the South Pacific Forum which is comprised of the Leaders of the following independent countries of the South Pacific region: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa.

A regional organisation based in Suva, SPEC was established to encourage co-operation in the South Pacific not only between member states in the region, but also between island member states and the more industrialised countries on all aspects of economic development, trade, transport, tourism, telecommunications, and energy.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants should have:

- proven administrative ability;
- wide experience in trade, economic and financial matters affecting Forum countries; and
- an in-depth understanding of the political, social and economic structures of Forum countries.

Applicants should be able to approach the political and economic development of the Region in a bold and imaginative fashion, and to adapt conventional theories of economic co-operation according to the particular requirements of Forum countries. Wide experience in dealing with Governments within and outside the region at the highest diplomatic, political and official levels is also required.

DUTIES:

The Director of SPEC is required:

- (i) To act as Secretary to the South Pacific Forum and its Committees, Councils and Working Groups; and to direct the role of SPEC as Secretariat to the Forum.
- (ii) To maintain continuing contact and consultations with member Governments and regional and international organisations operating in the region at the highest political and official levels.
- (iii) To direct the execution of the work programme, the basic objective of which is to encourage and promote regional co-operation and consultation in the economic development of Forum Island countries through regional trade expansion, regional industrialisation and the development of transport, telecommunications, energy development, tourism and regional development planning in related fields;
- (iv) To direct the preparation of reports and recommendations for consideration by the SPEC Committee and the Forum;
- (v) To participate at Regional and International meetings;
- (vi) To travel within and outside the region in the execution of these duties; and
- (vii) To undertake such other functions as may be decided from time to time by member Governments.

CONDITIONS:

The appointee will be based at SPEC Headquarters in Suva, Fiji. Appointment which is renewable for one more term only will be on a three year contract. Further details of terms and conditions of service can be obtained from the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, P.O. Box 856, Suva, Fiji.

REMUNERATION:

Salary is related to the Fiji Public Service salary structure with various allowances where applicable. Total remuneration is payable in Fiji dollars in Suva free of Fiji tax for non-Fiji citizens. Life, accident and medical insurance schemes are additional benefits.

APPLICATIONS:

Applications close on 30 June 1988 and should be addressed with full particulars to:

**The Chairman
South Pacific Forum
Office of the Prime Minister
Apia
WESTERN SAMOA**

Trade Winds

signed by the United States and the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency.

Government officials in Apia said the decision meant Western Samoan development plans costing more than \$A5 million dollars would have to be funded locally. The plans include construction of a research vessel now being built in the United States.

□ COMMUNICATIONS BANK SLAMMED

PAPUA NEW Guinea's Finance Minister has strongly criticised a decision by the Government's Post and Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) to set up a commercial bank.

According to board chairman Mr Elias Vuvu, the corporation has been prompted by the high profits it is making from its operations to set up the bank, which would operate from 40 branches in the country where the PTC also provides postal and telecommunications services.

The PNG Finance and Planning Minister, Mr Kwarara, says the corporation's first task is to improve services and any profits made should be put into expanding and improving services to more areas of the country.

Meanwhile, the Governor of the Bank of Papua New Guinea, Sir Henry Torobert, says the PTC move is permissible under the country's Banking Act.

□ PROTECTING CARDAMOM

THE GOVERNMENT whip in PNG's Parliament has called for the establishment of a Cardamom Industry Board to protect growers and promote overseas marketing of the crop.

Mr Pawa Sisioka says cardamom has the potential to become a major revenue earner for PNG given the right kind of support and assistance. Papua New Guinea exports about four hundred tonnes of the spice each year.

It is grown as a cash crop by village people in the Highlands and in less than two years' production to September last year, their efforts earned K2.7 million.

The Member for the Highlands seat of Karimui Nomane, Mr Sisioka wants a commodity board set up for the cardamom industry similar to boards for other large rural industries.

Mr Sisioka also says a watch needs to be kept on foreigners who, he claims, are out to make quick money at the expense of village growers.

□ UK CARGO CARRIER FOR TUVALU

A NEW passenger and cargo vessel for Tuvalu has been launched in Britain. The 1200 tonne vessel, the *Nivaga Two*, was built at a cost of nearly \$A7 million from

Britain's overseas aid program.

The vessel will carry children to and from school, patients to hospital, food, consumer goods and the police around the nine islands of Tuvalu.

The ship will undergo sea trials before sailing for Funafuti later this year.

□ GUIDELINES FOR BUSINESS GROWTH

A CONFERENCE in Canberra has been told that the business sector had to be encouraged to make a major contribution to the South Pacific's economic development.

The assistant executive director of the National Centre for Development Studies, Mr Rodney Cole, was opening a seminar on private investment in the South Pacific, held by the centre and the Commonwealth Secretariat and the World Bank.

The meeting considered obstacles to private investment, reviewed the role of Pacific governments and made recommendations on investment promotion.

A special economic adviser to the Commonwealth Secretariat, Doctor Vincent Cable, said debt problems had encouraged more developing countries to seek foreign capital. He said the traditional source of such capital has been the United States and Europe, but in future Japan would be the major source of investment funds.

□ VANUATU DEFICIT

VANUATU RECORDED a balance of trade deficit of \$56 million in 1987. Figures published by the National Planning and Statistics Office put the total value of imports at \$76 million while its exports were about \$20 million. The volume of copra exported by the Republic decreased by 12 per cent from 42,000 tonnes in 1986 to 31,000 tonnes in 1987.

However, total export receipts from copra, Vanuatu's main export earner, increased by 56 per cent to \$7 million. This was due to higher copra prices on the world market.

□ SOLOMONS SATELLITE CONTRACT

THE BRITISH company, Cable and Wireless, has been selected to develop a domestic satellite communications system for Solomon Islands. Cable and Wireless set up the country's international satellite services about nine years ago and holds half of the shares in the operating company, Soltel.

The Minister for Posts and Communications, Mr John Maetia, said he hoped that work on the domestic system would start in about three months.

Five earth stations will be constructed in the major administrative centres in the islands, all of which will be linked to Hon-

iara through the Intelsat satellite. The project is expected to cost about \$5 million.

□ COFFEE SHARE FLOAT

PAPUA NEW Guinea's big coffee producer Angco Pty Ltd, of Goroka, has floated 5 million one kina shares and chairman Mr Kagul Koroka has invited "ordinary people" to buy shares. The company wants capital for agricultural development.

□ COOK ISLANDS BANK SEARCH

THE COOK Islands Development Bank has been advertising locally for a general manager because it cannot afford to pay the salary demanded by overseas applicants. The bank's deputy chairman, Mr Lionel Browne, said the position had been advertised overseas for three months, but the bank was unable to pay the salary asked for as the bank did not now benefit from a salary-supplementary scheme, under which overseas aid was used to fund half the salary of a general manager. Mr Browne said the board was confident that there were suitably qualified locals to fill the senior post.

□ HOTEL CHAIN BUYER NAMES

MR ADRIAN Zecha, a Hong Kong hotelier, is reported to have bought the Southern Pacific Hotel Corporation, owner of 38 hotels in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tahiti, from Singapore businessman Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, who acquired the corporation in 1981 for \$A75 million. Mr Zecha is believed to have paid \$A390 million for the hotel chain.

Tan Sri Khoo, currently believed to be living in Thailand or Taiwan, is alleged to be "wanted" by Brunei legal authorities on fraud charges involving the National Bank of Brunei, the chairman of which, Khoo Ban Hock, son of Tan Sri Khoo, was sent to prison for four years in February for his part in the fraud.

□ OFFSHORE CRIME

AUSTRALIAN CRIME authorities, in Fiji for talks with Mr Sailosi Kepa, Fiji's Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, and others in the judiciary, warned in a press conference in Suva that Australian and other criminals were using offshore banking systems established in islands to "launder" their money. Australia was also becoming increasingly concerned, he said, that Pacific states were being used to reroute drugs, particularly cocaine, to Australia. With the United States market becoming saturated and Europe clamping down very effectively on drug pedlars, the drug cartels were turning to Australia.

New technology is transforming the Pacific: once bedevilled by poor and unreliable communications, the region is being united by television, radio and satellite telecommunications links.

The Communications Revolution Into The 21st Century



Media observer and communications expert Liz Fell profiles the organisations, the problems and the expanding market for telecommunications in a region so broad it encompasses a quarter of the globe.

PACIFIC NATIONS, for so long kept out in the cold by gaps in international telecommunications links, are flexing their muscles as transnational corporations and statutory authorities court their business. Despite the established expertise of Japanese, American and European suppliers, the region's attention is increasingly directed toward Australia, whose three publicly owned communications carriers are searching out new business opportunities as neighbouring countries are moving to update and extend their telecommunications networks.

Telecom Australia has established close relationships with its domestic counterparts in PNG, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand, while the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) is focusing on a regional satellite network for the Forum countries.

Australia's domestic satellite company, Aussat Pty Ltd, already provides communications for NZ and is poised to compete with OTC in the provision of international services for multinational corporations operating in countries covered by its regional "footprint".

The catalyst for much of this activity is SPEC's South Pacific Telecommunications Development Program, which has received an annual \$A600,000 aid grant since 1983 from Australia and NZ, the "Big Brothers" of the region.

The focus of the program is the establishment of rural trunk links to outlying areas and isolated islands, where telecommunication services for health, education — or humble personal telephone calls — are virtually nonexistent.

The 1980 South Pacific Forum meeting agreed that telecommunications, particularly satellite communications, was a high priority for breaking down the social and economic divisions between urban élites and the rural poor, and for encouraging in-

vestment and development in the region.

The original idea behind the SPEC program was to adopt a regional approach so all nations could benefit from co-ordinated planning, equipment standardisation, shared satellite usage and bulk purchasing. Such a regional approach may appear to be efficient and rational but it has sometimes failed to recognise the independent and competitive spirit within the region or its diversity of cultural and political perspectives.

Each nation is actively pursuing its own priorities and timetables for telecom development, a fact that was highlighted when some participants complained about SPEC's unsuccessful attempt to secure World Bank program funding last year. SPEC director Henry Naisali admitted he was shocked at the "almost entirely negative response" to his inquiry about support for World Bank funds when delegates attended the program meeting in Tonga last November.

The World Bank has agreed to examine the funding needs of the two largest countries — Fiji and Papua New Guinea — which are now busy drawing up master plans to meet its criteria for securing loans.

As a first step, the Bank gave \$A650,000 to PNG for a management and network consultancy. Telecom Australia International Ltd (TAI) tendered for the contract, but missed out after making it to the short list of seven. TAI has since secured another contract to develop a PNG policy on private automatic telephone exchanges (PABX), and is now considering opportunities related to the installation of a new fibre optic cable system.

TAI's business development manager, Laurie West, says breaking into international markets is "a tough, competitive business" and there are dangers associated with moving offshore "too hard and too fast".

West, who has developed close working links with telecom executives and engineers in NZ, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji through training and consultancy services, cites the case of Tonga's Telecommunications Commission, which has signed an "agency agreement" with TAI allowing it to tap into Telecom Australia's resources on a commercial basis.

This agreement meant that when Tonga gave Ericsson Australia the contract to supply small digital (AXE) telephone exchanges for rural communications in the Ha'apai and Vava'u island groups, TAI was asked to provide the specialist training. Ericsson has another contract to supply Australian-made rural exchanges for Fiji's telecom authority, with which TAI has a long-term co-operation arrangement.

TAI has completed a tariff study for Fiji that, says West, is now being implemented as part of Fiji's plan to restructure its domestic telephone business. The Fiji administration has announced plans to privatise this business within 12 months; plans that were on the Alliance government's agenda just before it was thrown out of office in the 1987 elections. The privatisation scheme involves forming a limited liability company with initial capital that will, it is hoped, be supplied by the World Bank. The Government will maintain a major share, with a minority holding going to private shareholders.

Fintel Ltd, the company licensed to operate Fiji's international services, is already privatised with a 49 per cent share in the hands of the British giant, Cable & Wireless.

Cable & Wireless (originally Imperial and International Communications Ltd) has a long association with the region, going back to the days when the island nations were British colonies. Aside from Fiji, Cable & Wireless owns shares in the international franchise for the Solomon Is-▶

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lands (51 per cent), Tonga (100 per cent), the Cook Islands (100 per cent) and Vanuatu (33 per cent).

Throughout the region a number of governments have begun to review their organisational arrangements with carriers such as Cable & Wireless and to explore other potential partners.

OTC has moved quickly to take advantage of this opportunity, which would allow it to expand its international business and assist development at the same time. An OTC team guided by Rod Masterton, regional manager for the Pacific and Asia, conducted the right research and let it be known it was interested in managing or operating networks on a joint venture basis with other South Pacific governments. The tiny Republic of Kiribati made the first approach, and on April 1 this year OTC International Ltd (OTCI) commenced a contract to manage Kiribati's national and international network on a commercial basis (see Page 49).

Another opportunity arose in the Solomon Islands, where the Government decided to merge its national and international operations and to examine joint venture proposals from carriers other than Cable & Wireless. Early last year, British Telecom appeared to have ousted its UK competitor, securing the Solomon Islands tender. However, negotiations with BT broke down and the Government reopened the tender. OTC was invited to make a bid along with NEC Japan, British Telecom and Cable & Wireless.

The atmosphere soon resembled an overheated auction, with Solomons politicians playing games with the incumbent C & W until they finally negotiated acceptable terms. In April they announced they had signed a new Memorandum of Understanding with Cable & Wireless.

As another element in OTCI's strategy, it has offered to assist SPEC program members with the design, implementation and operation of their satellite links to outlying islands and rural areas.

Access to satellite capacity was the highest priority in 1979, when Australia rejected a request from Forum countries to provide Southwest Pacific capacity on the planned Aussat satellites. Nearly 10 years later and following an apparently endless stream of requests for help from the US, Japan, Europe and the international consortium Intelsat, the program members finally opted to use Intelsat's satellite system — which they already use for international calls.

The major "unknown" on the horizon is Pacstar, a joint satellite venture involving the PNG Government and TRT Communications in the United States. TRT is owned by United Nuclear Corporation, which produces fuel and reactor cores for the US Navy, services US military aircraft and operates nuclear facilities for the US Department of Energy.

Although TRT appears to be an odd partner, it has offered PNG a deal that in-

cludes free access to satellite capacity for PNG's domestic communications in the early 1990s: the Pacstar system is also designed to provide communications for other small Pacific island countries in a much more cost-effective way than Intelsat or Aussat. At this stage Pacstar is still a "paper plan", but if it eventuates it could be in direct competition with both Aussat and Intelsat.

OTC, Australia's Intelsat member, suggested to a SPEC meeting that cost savings could be gained if all countries "pooled" their domestic and international Intelsat circuits, and OTCI has designed a network model with a demand assignment multiple access (DAMA) switch which, rather than making each country pay for unused Intelsat capacity during off-peak hours, allocates a circuit only when it is needed for a call.

The most controversial aspect of OTCI's model is the fact that the DAMA switch or "hub" would be based in Sydney. This raises sensitive issues of national sovereignty and control, as Masterton readily acknowledges, and unless some arrangement is devised that allows each nation to exercise control over its own national and international circuits, the Sydney hub may prove a stumbling block to acceptance of the OTCI proposal. Masterton says that countries investigating the proposal agreed it suited their requirements when they visited OTC's Sydney facilities in early April.

At the same time Aussat, Australia's third carrier, is anxious to secure a share of the lucrative international market and by doing so poses a direct threat to OTC's present monopoly. In 1985, Aussat reversed an earlier Australian decision and spent a little more than \$1 million modifying its third satellite to beam across the Southwest Pacific. Both new Aussat satellites could provide powerful international services in the Pacific region.

The Australian Government prohibits Aussat providing international services, but all this is expected to change when it announces the results of a current review of telecommunications policy. The NZ Government has also announced major policy changes that will allow other companies to compete with Telecom NZ in both national and international services.

In the face of this potential competition, OTC is racing to create more telecommunications capacity and to tie up private network customers by the early 1990s. One element in its strategy is a high-speed, high-capacity submarine optical fibre cable system between Australia and New Zealand that will be in place in 1991. The next stage is to extend the cable so it joins with other systems to North America and Asia by the mid 1990s. PacRimEast, as it is called, will link NZ to Hawaii and PacRimWest will connect Sydney to Guam. Along the way, other Pacific nations will be able to benefit from enhanced communications links. □

Poor Reception For TV Moguls

Media entrepreneurs' dreams of Pacific empire are faltering. By Liz Fell

AUSTRALIAN brewer and television entrepreneur Alan Bond has encountered some tricky political problems in establishing broadcast services in the politically volatile nations of Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

The Fiji-TV and EM TV services form part of Bond Media's strategy to establish a South Pacific TV network linking a number of small stations in the developing countries to satellite-delivered programs supplied by Australia and North America. In 1984 PBL Pacific TV (then owned by Kerry Packer) came up with the idea of providing the broadcasting infrastructure in each nation in return for a major stake in its service. Piracy of satellite TV signals was thriving and there was a bountiful supply of videotapes recorded

set in place, but when the Bavadra Government came to power last year it announced a review of Bond's 80 per cent stake and the 12-year exclusive contract.

The review did not surface before the Government was ousted by the military,

vision Network (NTN) and Bond Media's EM TV went to air in Port Moresby last year.

No-one expected two commercial TV stations to survive in the small Port Moresby advertising market, where revenue available to all media (radio, newspapers, billboards and TV) is worth only some \$A15 million a year. Parry Corporation's NTN ceased broadcasting early this year, and EM TV is now poised to expand into the major centres of Lae, Mt Hagen, Rabaul and Goroka by mid-year.

Fitzmaurice says satellite technology will eventually be used to reach the potential PNG audience of 3.5 million: but since the majority of people do not yet have access to electricity, let alone television, penetration outside urban centres is likely to be slow.

Meanwhile, the Wingti Government has drafted a new Mass Media Bill that establishes national interest, fairness, and effective PNG ownership and control as basic licensing criteria for all media. The new foreign ownership restrictions would mean Bond must reduce his 50 per cent stake in EM TV by more than half within 10 years.

A special Media Tribunal would also have the power to ensure TV broadcasts have some social, cultural and political relevance, and to establish a local program quota. This may prove difficult. At present, EM TV's locally produced programs comprise a 30 minute evening news, *Kids' Kona* and sport.

Commercials are also produced locally, though their social and cultural relevance may be the first item on the new tribunal's agenda. Some commercials, for example, feature high-tech consumer goods such as pressure packs, security gates and mobile phones — products that are far beyond the financial reach of all but a few Papua New Guineans.

Eighty per cent of EM TV's program menu is produced outside the country, and includes Australian news and sport courtesy of Bond Media's Nine Network and his Sky Channel pay-TV service. Most broadcast time is taken up with old American favourites such as *The Ballad of Andy Crocker*, *Sesame Street*, *Batman*, *Ripley's Believe It or Not* and *Bewitched*.

It's tempting, with such a diet of homogenised Americana, to wonder how viewers unaccustomed to television respond to a program such as *Bewitched* where Samantha — the blonde-haired, witch-cum-all American housewife — is capable of transforming anyone who bothers her into a dog or butterfly with a twitch of her nose. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — MAY 1988 43



Above: Kevin Parry's PNG network is out of the running. Left: Alan Bond's push into Fiji has been halted.

and Fiji TV director Jim Fitzmaurice now says the downturn in Fiji's economy has forced a revision of Fiji-TV's revenue forecasts; the service is "on hold".

"In the existing climate we don't believe it would be commercially viable," he says. "If there are signs of things improving, we'll review our position."

Introducing TV into Papua New Guinea was another touch-and-go venture, and another that triggered accusations of bribery and corruption. PNG Prime Minister Paias Wingti expressed vehement opposition to deals (negotiated while Michael Somare led the

country) that allowed two Australian controlled corporations — one of which was Packer's PBL Pacific TV — to secure broadcasting licences.

Wingti even tried to legislate to stop the services going to air until a public inquiry was complete and legislation in place. "We are being asked to sacrifice our cultural heritage for passing material gain," he said at the time. "No money can buy [back] our languages once they are lost."

His attempt was challenged in the courts, and Kevin Parry's Niugini Tele-

vision in Australia or New Zealand since none of the smaller nations could afford to establish its own station.

The Packer offer, which was inherited by Bond, allowed each nation station to assume some semblance of control by slotting locally made programs and commercials into the predominantly foreign program service.

Fiji's Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, accepted the offer amid accusations of secret deals and before a public debate or legislative framework had been

How Radio Links The Islands

Radio is the most effective — and cost effective — news and entertainment medium for the islands of the Pacific. By Jai Kumar

IN THE MAJORITY of developed countries television is now taken for granted as the prime means of transmitting news, education and entertainment; but for the bulk of the less developed nations of the South Pacific, radio remains the main medium of information and entertainment.

The scattered geographical nature of the region's island states makes radio the most effective — and cost-effective — medium. It plays a vital role in everyday life on remote islands and in many cases is those islands' sole means of contact with the outside world. In most cases telephones simply do not exist and shipping and airline services are of only minor value: neither are they as reliable, or as immediate, as radio.

For these scattered island nations in times of emergency, radio becomes literally a lifeline. When a hurricane or flood strikes, radio is the only workable means of contact with administrators, relief services or medical personnel. And it has a vital social function as well: while residents of cities and larger towns have the luxury of daily or weekly newspapers, the remote villager is totally dependent on radio for news from around the world as well as domestic news. Radio is also firmly established as the main source of entertainment.

FIJI

The Fiji Broadcasting Commission (FBC) provides a national AM service in English, Fijian and Hindustani, and has FM stations in Suva and Lautoka. The FBC broadcasts under the callsign "Radio Fiji" and has repeater stations across the country, enabling it to provide a full coverage to smaller and less populated islands from 5 am to 11 pm on weekdays and to midnight on weekends.

The FBC is semi-commercial, deriving half its income from advertising and the rest from government grants. Fiji has a fully commercial radio station, FM96, which began operation in 1985. FM96's programs are broadcast in English only but the music is mixed, with Fijian and Hindi songs played on a regular basis. FM96 has news bulletins but lacks national coverage — its broadcasts can only be picked up in Suva, Lautoka and surrounding areas.

While Radio Fiji is free from government control, its commissioners are government appointees: their main brief is to provide policy guidelines to the network's management.

TONGA

Radio in Tonga is under the control of the Tonga Broadcasting Commission (TBC), whose main studio is located in the capi-

tal, Nuku'alofa. The TBC's powerful transmitter reaches all of the South Pacific under the callsign "Call of the Friendly Islands".

WESTERN SAMOA

Western Samoa's radio station 2AP has studios at Apia and broadcasts in English and Samoan. It began operation in 1948 and is totally government funded and owned. However, it does accept some advertising. Radio is under the direction of the Communications Ministry.

KIRIBATI and TUVALU

The island group formerly known as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands has separate radio networks. Radio Kiribati is funded by the Government and operates under the Broadcasting and Publications Authority. Its programs are mostly in Kiribati, but news is also broadcast in English. Radio Kiribati derives some revenue from advertising, mostly on a local basis.

Radio Tuvalu operates from Funafuti and is an arm of the Information Department. It broadcasts mainly in the Tuvaluan language, but news broadcasts are also in English.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Broadcasting in the Solomon Islands is administered by the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC), an independent statutory body. Broadcasts are in English and Pidgin, and the SIBC's studios and transmitting facilities have recently been modernised.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) came into being in December 1973, taking over the functions of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, which had operated radio broadcasting in PNG since the end of World War II.

The NBC's main stations are in Port Moresby, but there is a number of regional stations catering to provincial audiences.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

Radio will continue to be a vital source of information and entertainment for Pacific island nations in the foreseeable future. While television is just around the corner for many island governments, it would be prohibitively expensive to provide local broadcasting services and most will have to rely on imported news and entertainment ... with the host of social problems raised by such "media colonialism".

Even with the advent of satellite services from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, television remains largely a dream for most South Pacific states sim-

ply because it is economically not a viable proposition — and is unlikely to be so without massive (and wasteful) subsidies.

In that light, island radio broadcasters are fully conscious of their responsibility of providing more and better news services. However, their greatest problems are lack of trained personnel and lack of adequate funding to maintain existing networks, develop new areas of coverage and install transmitters powerful enough to span the often great distances involved.

Most islands networks provide a domestic news service and a reasonable coverage of local news — but for world news they must rely on Radio Australia's Pacific Reports and relay Radio Australia's current-affairs programs or provide edited versions of these to their listeners. While Radio New Zealand has had ambitions of making inroads in this area, its effectiveness has been held in check by low-powered transmitters.

Perhaps the region's greatest communications problem, at least as far as radio is concerned, is that while most stations can obtain news easily from London, Moscow, Sydney or New York through Radio Australia, the BBC and the Voice of America, they are unable to learn what's happening to island neighbours.

Radio executives and administrators have wrestled with the problem at every meeting, deciding without fail to press for the establishment of a regional news service and to seek national and international support for this badly needed resource. But because of the cost involved (and a host of regional political rivalries) the news scheme has remained firmly on the drawing board, to Radio Australia's continued advantage.

Radio Australia has succeeded in islands radio, and has maintained its firm grip on news services, because of its powerful transmitters (which broadcast 24 hours a day to the Pacific) and its network of reliable stringers.

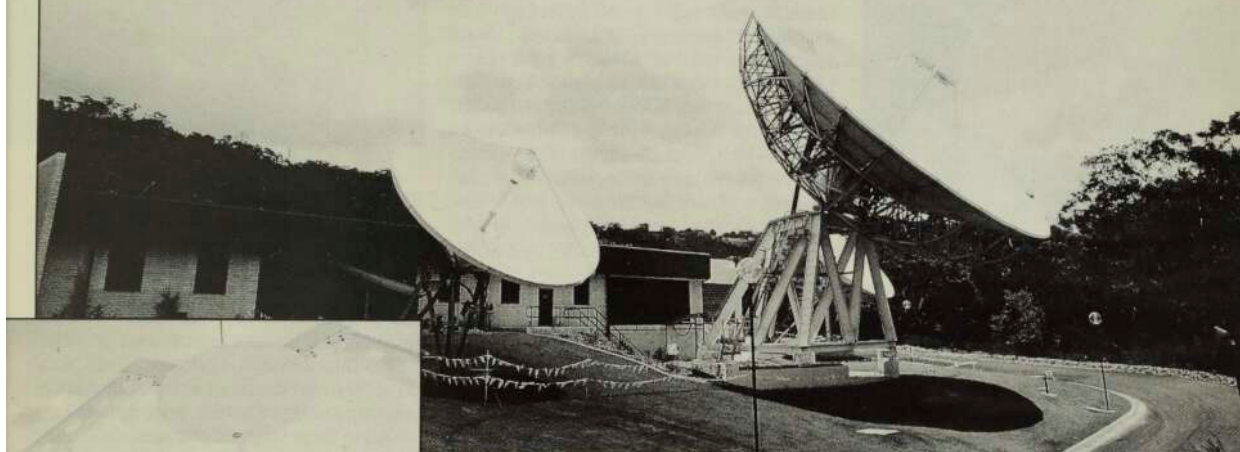
Radio New Zealand also regards itself as a part of Pacific broadcasting, and claims to be better informed than Radio Australia about events in island nations. However, because of its low-powered transmitters it cannot provide an effective Pacific bulletin.

UNESCO and the Hans Seidel Foundation of West Germany have now funded and established a Suva-based training and news exchange service known as "Pac-broad". This unit acts as a clearing house for islands news; each participating country files two stories each day by telex to Suva, where they are edited and compiled into a bulletin that is then redistributed to all radio stations without cost. □

Hi Tech On The High Seas

Ed Rampell attended a meeting of some of technology's best minds at Hawaii's 10th Annual Pacific Telecommunications Conference.

Communications



Above and left: Advanced equipment such as this will propel the region into the 21st century, turning distant islands into close neighbours.



The future came to the Pacific recently with February's 10th Annual Pacific Telecommunications Conference (PTC) — and its message is that the brave world of tomorrow will be one of high technology on the high seas, where remote Pacific islands are intricately connected by a network of computers, video, fibre optic cables, satellites, small dish terminals, earth stations, high-speed data transmission, tele-conferencing, transportable satellite news-gathering stations, teleports, electronic mail, integrated services digital networks . . . and more.

Experts from industry, academics, government and business decision makers from more than 20 Pacific nations gathered at Honolulu for the conference.

Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Forum all sent representatives, while individuals from Samoa and Fiji also attended. Mr Neil Anthony, of PNG's Post and Telecommunications Corporation, told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that Port Moresby sent him to the PTC "as part of my training development and to gather information on telecommunications equipment and applications for PNG. We need better performance . . . and to know what technology is available."

According to the PTC, one of its key objectives is "to provide a forum for discussion and interchange of information, ideas and expressions of views regarding telecommunications in the Pacific." The 1988 Conference focused on "Pacific telecommunications development and the alternatives for the next decade". The convention, at the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel, included slick displays and exhibits of the very latest high technology communications gadgetry. More than 85 papers were presented during the three day symposium.

This information revolution's implications for Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia are major. It promises — or threatens, depending on your perspective — to absolutely alter the Pacific way of life. The isolation that has characterised island societies scattered across a third of the

globe's surface greatly divided by great expanses of ocean, will be much changed. The coming Information Age has the potential to transform the Pacific.

The communications applications linking the islands with each other and the world beyond the reef are manifold. For example, PTC participant Charlie Wilkinson, of the South Pacific Forum's Fisheries Agency, has a surprising — yet extremely practical — use for scientific equipment: "Telecommunications can be utilised for surveillance, to catch poachers illegally fishing within 320-kilometre Exclusive Economic Zones," he said.

Education is another field where islanders can reap benefits with the new technology. Papers on educational television were presented by the Morelos Mexican Satellite System, Japan's University of the Air, and the California State University. Through satellites, earth stations and so on, educational TV programming can reach masses of people who may be unable to attend colleges. With the parallel mushrooming of video-cassette recorders, workers and housewives for example can incorporate higher education into their schedules at their convenience.

Another form of technology enhancing TV's educational potential is tele-conferencing. This live medium of two-way communication enables students and teachers simultaneously to see and hear each other. Thus, the classroom experi-▶



journalism with more up-to-date news.

Another aspect of this mechanisation of journalism is that news from the Pacific can become a regular staple of broadcasts around the world.

At the same time, islanders will be able to keep up with global events as they happen and in more detail than is currently possible. Transportable News Gathering Satellite stations with compact video capacities linked to orbiting satellites can provide spot reporting for intra-island, inter-island and international audiences.

High technology telecommunications can also profoundly speed postal services in a region where planes and cargo ships still deliver mail at a snail's pace. Electronic mail, telefax, and high speed data transmission can become instantaneous, making the postage stamp as obsolete as the Pan-Am Clipper — or the clipper ship.

The telephone can become a mini-information centre in this advanced information society. And telephone service itself will be substantially upgraded,



Above: Delegates in discussion. Top right: Neil Anthony of the PNG Telecommunications Corporation with CE Wilkinson of the Solomon Islands Forum Fisheries.

transmission within a single universal public network . . . greatly reducing the complexity and variety of interface devices required to let computers and people talk to one another . . . ISDN will present the average user with the ability to perform several transactions at once . . . The 28+D interface offers a total of . . . about 20 to 60 times the bandwidth available on existing public switched voice networks."

All of these steps offer tremendous possibilities for government, business and economics. However, Oceania is still a developing area, where electricity and phones have yet to reach large sectors of the population. As PTC participant Billy Misi of the Solomons Post and Telecommunications Agency says: "We are still backward compared with what is here at this convention."

How the islands can afford high technology telecommunications is a legitimate question. But so is: how can the islands afford *not* to invest in this essential field? According to Hawaii's East-West Centre's Michael Ogden and Meheroo Jussawalla in their outstanding PTC paper "Pacific Islands and the Maitland Commission Mandate", telecommunications networks "...have become recognised as an infrastructure that aids economic development anywhere in the world . . . The disparity demonstrated by three quarters of the world's telephones being concentrated in nine countries while the remaining quarter are scattered unevenly throughout the rest of the world prompted the Maitland Commission to state that, 'Neither in the name of common humanity nor on grounds of common interest is such a disparity acceptable' . . . South Pacific Forum leaders see the bridging of the communications gap, in the most expedient and economical manner, as the essential prerequisite to economic development and self-sufficiency."

Thus in this Age of Information, telecommunications is as important a component of development as roads, running water, power and natural resources. As

ence can be simulated via TV, and a professor at UCLA or ANU can instruct pupils at UPNG and USP. Conceivably, a taro farmer at Kapingamarangi Atoll can receive a degree from Harvard, without the trauma of being torn from hearth and home. Tele-conferencing hardware is, however, still quite costly and for now is generally restricted to business and news applications.

High technology has an unlimited potential for enhancing island mass media; in particular news reporting, within and beyond Oceania. Perhaps the greatest advantage will be the increased speed of news delivery. Even live TV coverage of major events such as regional meetings, coups and hurricanes will be made possible by satellite and underwater cable systems.

Telefaxing, computerisation, laser printing and the like also will improve print

through the use of satellites and undersea fibre optic cables systems. Dispersed archipelagos such as Vanuatu, large land masses such as PNG, even islets on a Marshallese atoll will be able to phone isle-to-isle and village-to-village, or place international calls around the world in less than 80 seconds.

The Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) is just one example of the scientific advances that form a backdrop to telecommunications developments. According to Michigan State University's Drs Robert LaRose and Charles Steinfield in a PTC paper titled "Waiting for ISDN: Toward an Agenda for Social Research", this new technology will have immense improvements over the current analogue based telephone systems: "ISDNs will be all-digital and will allow the integration of voice, data and image



PTC observer Samoan Don Sa'aga of the University of Hawaii's Pacific Business Centre says, despite relatively large initial capital outlays, "this is a very cost efficient way to provide information — data, video, voice — for the Pacific islands." Some methods are especially suited to the Oceanic reality, financially and geographically.

Pooling resources is a viable way for the Pacific community to maximise benefits while minimising costs, with less developed islands co-operating with their more industrialised neighbours. High technology hubs concentrate and centralise telecommunication needs for regional sharing. Ogden and Jussawalla say that with the Celstar I and II satellites, the relatively modern American territory of Guam will, by 1991, serve as a communications hub with North America, Hawaii, the South Pacific, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Teleports will be to the 21st century what "shipping ports ... and airports" have been up to now, accordingly to PTC participant John Reiser, of Teleport Communications, New York. "Instead of transporting people or products, teleports will transmit information" from communications capitals. Tele-cottages are mini-teleports on the town hall level for isolated villages. They have worked well in Scandinavia, and could be adopted for mountainous land masses such as PNG.

Australia's Overseas Telecommunications Commission is planning a South Pacific optical fibre submarine cable network that will link islands with Asia and the Americas. INTELSAT, the first satellite series specifically designed for Oceania, continues to expand its services here. Solar-powered small earth stations are ideal for rural and remote isles in the South Seas. And Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellites are also particularly conducive to limited non-urban populations, as this system provides the cheapest and smallest earth stations.

However, telecommunications poses a number of problems and promises for the

Pacific. What Japan's assistant vice-minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Makoto Miura, refers to as the "One World One Network" has its "uplinks" and "downlinks" for the islands. Serious questions must be asked about this technology, which has the potential to radically transfigure the obscurity and isolation of Oceania.

First, does the Pacific really *need* high technology communications? Is there anything inherently wrong with a pastoral, non-technological existence, where people are not directly plugged into "civilisation" and its attendant complications? After all, from Rousseau to Gauguin and beyond, Western man has extolled the virtues of simple living close to nature, exemplified by the South Seas. Will these gadgets make our islands more separate than ever by replacing face-to-face meetings between the peoples of different islands with tele-conferencing, videotex, telefax and so on? Are we heading for a society where everybody watches a screen and reading is taboo?

There are even more ominous aspects of this new-fangled equipment. High technology telecommunications also can have military applications, which is potentially dangerous for a region already becoming a focus of superpower confrontation. In terms of shared teleport and hub facilities, PTC participant and University of Colorado political scientist George Coddington points out that "most sovereign nations would have serious reservations about allowing their domestic telecommunications systems to depend on the goodwill of another state ..."

The deepest source of anxiety is the possibility that this video-computer-cable-satellite data-digital matrix will fall into the wrong hands, creating a totalitarian technocracy. Fiji coup leader Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka has already offered this chilling vision of a Pacific police state by proposing an "intelligence agency, an office of national assessment, where political, economic and the strategic development in and around Fiji can be monitored closely so that intelligence is passed on early ..."

On the other hand, high technology on the high seas has the potential of creating a communications cornucopia. One-dimensional cultures forged out of isolation, distances, and low educational levels could be gone with the trade winds. Fishermen will no longer be lost at sea; farmers will be alerted to weather patterns; natural catastrophes can be prepared for; medical emergencies can be expedited. Electronic town hall meetings can lead to direct, participatory democracy and greater understanding of development programs through broad community participation. Man will be able to connect with his fellow man — a village, islet, island, ocean or continent away. The innumerable scattered atolls and islands will form a single, unified archipelago. □



THE SOUTH PACIFIC TRADE COMMISSION

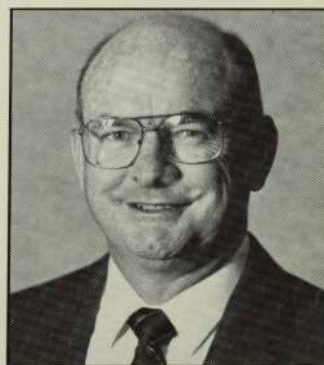
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- Communications.

The latest initiative — the Pacific Sunrise program — is broadcast weekly by Radio Australia, bringing trade and investment news to the Pacific region. In addition, a monthly Pacific Sunrise newsletter is distributed to Forum Island countries, helping to strengthen the communications network in an area largely affected by isolation.

For further information contact:



W. T. McCabe, Senior Trade Commissioner
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Fit To Print

Press standards in the region are threatened by growing government intervention. By Danielle Robinson

THE EDITORIAL independence and sophistication of publications in the South Pacific are as diverse as the region's economic and social development: local publications can be as unashamedly domestic as the *Tuvalu Echoes*, which carries the 1987 livestock and poultry census as front-page news, or as sophisticated as Papua New Guinea's biggest-selling daily, the *Post-Courier*.

They can be as outspoken as Papua New Guinea's *The Times*, which unashamedly plasters the faces of MPs who "fail to perform" on its front page, or as apolitical as the community-oriented *Norfolk Islander*. According to academics and editors who have worked in the region, the difficulties facing the press are complex and so ingrained that there is little prospect of rapid change — not least because consumers are by and large, receiving the coverage they want from their press.

There is a surprisingly large number of publications in the region, from regular dailies of varying sophistication to randomly printed weeklies, bi-monthlies and small news-sheets.

But only a handful can afford or attempt the publication standards of the Australian or American papers, and excluding the French Pacific region, sophisticated dailies are confined to Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

Western Samoa and the Cook Islands print regular newspapers, but their facilities (and, of course, their potential audience) cannot be compared with anything in more populous PNG or Fiji.

The coups in Fiji last year forced the closure of its most outspoken newspaper, the *Fiji Sun*: its remaining newspaper, the *Fiji Times*, agreed to a policy of "self-censorship" of potentially divisive stories solely, as editor Vijendra Kumar has said, in order to continue to provide coverage of international and domestic events to Fiji's news-starved public. There have lately been signs of an easing of censorship in Fiji, and more open critical comment on the state of the economy is beginning to creep back; but politically sensitive subjects must perforce wait for easier times to be addressed in full.

Mr Philip Harkness, publisher of the *Fiji Sun*, is presently trying to sell the paper to local interests, but doubts it will return to its former outspoken ways in the near future. He believes that once something like freedom of the press is beaten down, it is doubly hard to ever return to the same level.

In PNG, contentious new media laws

aimed at diluting foreign control are threatening editorial freedom, and the existing media has recently come under attack from the government for its outspokenness: PNG *Post-Courier* editor Luke Sela has even been threatened with charges of sedition.

The general manager of the *Papua New Guinea Post Courier*, Mr Don Kennedy, responded to the proposed bill with a statement that is typical of the opposition it has inspired: "This is the sort of legislation you would expect to find under a dictatorship, not in a democratic country such as PNG."

"Despite Government assurances that freedom of the press would not be interfered with, such a proposal provides a mechanism by which the control of the Press can be implemented."

The French Pacific territories have well-established newspapers and magazines such as *Les Nouvelles Calédonniennes* and *La Dépêche de Tahiti*, though they are understandably supportive of their governments.

The bulk of the South Pacific must likewise rely on small local publications which, if not government offshoots, are usually dependent on official support.

Mr Harkness pointed out that the definition of freedom of the press differs markedly in Australia and America from what exists in the South Pacific region. "You'll find most South Pacific publications will lean toward the Singaporean model, which is far less aggressive than in Australia," he says.

The social conservatism of the South Pacific acts to restrict freedom of the press, according to Professor Grant McCall of the University of New South Wales. "The smaller publications have to operate under a kind of self-censorship so they don't offend the chiefs, for example, or offend the church: the missionary movement has been very strong in the region," he says.

Apart from the political and social problems facing newspapers, there are practical problems choking the growth of the press — sheer economic disadvantage is enough to prevent commercial publishers expanding into the region. "If there is no economic growth there is no market for the goods companies would want to advertise in the papers," says the University of Sydney's Dr John Connell.

"I am not very confident that the press will become any more open than it is at present. The role of the press is really in its infancy, and whether it grows to be an adolescent remains to be seen." □

New Island Satellite link

Behind a telecommunications giant's plan for a regional satellite network for the Pacific. By Carson Creagh

DISTANCE HAS always been the Pacific's greatest tyrant: just as colonial administration was made almost impossible by the thousands of nautical miles that separated coloniser from colony, independent government is made incredibly difficult by the hazards of transporting goods, services, people — even new political and social philosophies — to scattered land masses.

Advances in transport technology have removed many of the problems associated with the movements of goods and people, but the transmission of ideas, instructions, requests and everyday conversation is hampered by weather, transmission costs, equipment breakdown... and again, sheer distances.

But it seems that efficient telecommunications networks for the Pacific may no longer be a dream. OTC, Australia's international telecommunications carrier, has plans for a regional satellite network serving the Pacific currently under review by the South Pacific Telecommunications Development Program (SPTDP). The program's working group will examine all aspects of OTC's planned regional satellite communications system and if the proposal is accepted at the South Pacific Forum meeting in September, the network could be operational by the end of next year.

Improvement in telecommunications services for Pacific island nations has been a major concern for many years, especially as traffic has grown by more than 30 per cent in some areas, and in 1982 a benchmark study sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand Governments identified satellites as the preferred technical solution for providing links between remote rural areas and the capital cities. The SPTDP was established at that time to focus attention on the telecommunications development needs of the region and to co-ordinate development activities for the benefit of individual countries.

Recent economic studies have highlighted the economic, social and strategic benefits that flow from the provision of basic telephone services in developing countries: major industries such as fisheries, tourism and agriculture, for example, benefit immediately from improved access to market information and financial services. In the Pacific, telephone services have traditionally concentrated on urban centres, although the bulk of the population lives in rural areas; satellite technology will provide a more accessible rural and urban telephone system that in turn will help promote economic development, as well as overcoming inequali-



"The Sydney satellite earth station will ensure efficient operation of the regional system"

ties exacerbated by lack of communication between city and country.

OTC is confident it has the credentials to help provide a workable approach to the region's telecommunications needs. It is the sixth largest shareholder in INTEL-SAT (the global satellite telecommunications network), the world's third largest owner of submarine cable systems and is respected for its progressive commercial practices, which have seen recent annual turnovers in excess of \$A500 million.

The concept behind OTC's regional network proposal is that available Intelsat satellite circuits will be pooled for use by the whole network. A Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) switch located in Sydney will allocate circuits as required to users in the network; as Rod Masterton, project manager for OTC's push into Southeast Asia and the Pacific explains, this represents a significantly more efficient utilisation of satellite capacity than if individual nations were to open permanently assigned circuits to cover peak

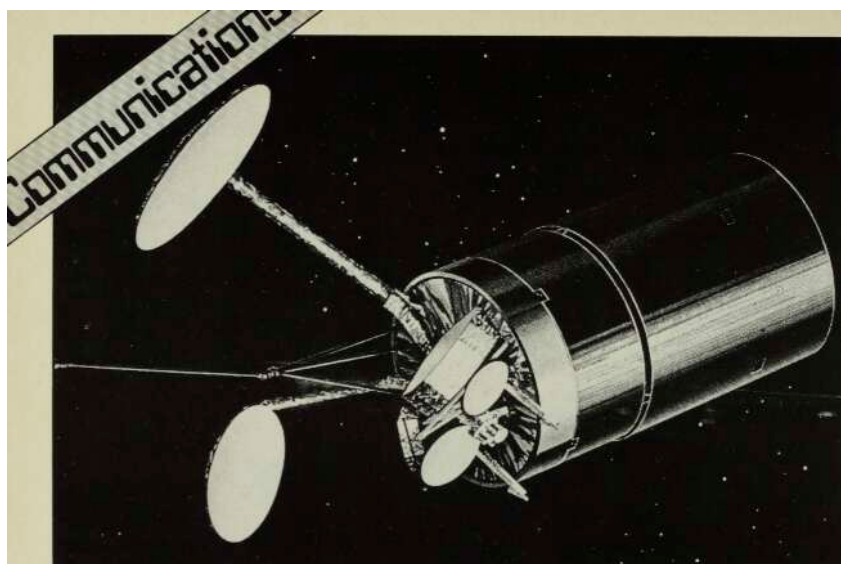
demand. It is also much cheaper, since individual nations will not have to pay for circuits that would be unused during off-peak periods.

The network will utilise three levels of satellite earth station:

- Remote centres will have a small dish earth station to which individual subscribers will be connected through a local telephone network;
- The existing international capital city earth station in most island nations will be used as the hub station for that country, and will normally be used as the main communications point for traffic with other countries in the region or for international traffic;
- The Sydney Satellite Earth Station in Australia will be the DAMA centre. It will allocate circuits between users, meter their usage for accounting purposes and ensure efficient operation of the system.

A key feature of OTC's network proposal is that the placement of the DAMA switch in Sydney does not mean actual telephone traffic must also pass through Sydney. Once the DAMA centre allocates a circuit, a direct link is created *via* satellite between the users at each end, and the DAMA centre will simply monitor how long the circuit is in use. Any circuit will involve no more than one satellite hop, which ensures high quality telephone communications circuits and is cheaper than a circuit requiring extra satellite hops.

The Sydney hub will also give access to OTC's extensive submarine cable networks for international traffic; again, meaning international connections involve no more than one satellite hop. ►



INTELSAT, the global satellite communications network.

Under the terms of the proposal, OTC will structure a network tariff on a per minute basis to cover both the satellite and network switching costs.

OTC plans to have full backup facilities at its DAMA control centre in the event of technical failure. An additional level of backup capacity will also be built in to ensure the network is virtually failure-proof.

As well as installing and maintaining facilities, OTC is to train local personnel to manage island installations.

Another issue of concern to some nations relates to the question of national sovereignty and the level of control they will have over a network managed from abroad. "OTC is sensitive to these concerns, and won't be seeking absolute con-

trol over the network," says Masterton. "In fact, our network proposal includes plans for a management board composed of participating nations, which will be responsible for determining (in consultation with OTC) the structure of the network and future directions for its development."

As part of the current examination by the SPTDP working group, an expert consultant will be looking at this and other institutional issues.

Masterton is confident OTC's proposal will be viewed favourably, especially since Kiribati has recently signed a two-year contract to develop its telecommunications network to an international capacity.

Aside from the region's growing need for communications, the OTC proposal represents a hard-headed business proposition: at a cost of \$A3 million for installation and initial operating costs it is a major investment, but Masterton anticipates a net return of 12 to 14 per cent to OTC, after an introductory period in which establishment costs will outweigh profits. "We are looking at a 150 to 300 per cent increase in traffic," he says, "especially where networks simply do not exist at present. Communications will be the world's single largest industry before the end of this century — and OTC aims to be providing a significant amount of communications hardware and services by that time." □

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UNIVERSAL ELECTRONICS

The Island Press

Reports from the papers, compiled by John Carter

THE ORGANISERS of Sunday's peace march say that it is to bring people to the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, yet they have some funny ideas. Powes Parkop said they were marching on Palm Sunday morning "just like Jesus marched into Jerusalem". Either Mr Parkop doesn't know his Bible too well, or donkeys will be handed out at the start of the march.

— From Tok Pilai in the University of Papua New Guinea's *Uni Tavur*.

A KUNDIAWA rugby league official has laid a complaint against Police Minister and Chimbu MP Peter Kuman for indecent exposure and inciting a riot.

Brothers rugby league team coach Wally Yegiora, who is also a reserve policeman, filed the complaint with police station commander Mr Robert Kalasim on Sunday.

The provincial police commander, Chief Inspector Allan Kundi, confirmed yesterday that complaints had been laid against Kuman.

Mr Yegiora alleges that Kuman bared his private parts publicly during the main rugby league fixture between Souths and Brothers on Sunday and incited a riot.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby.

IT IS COSTING the Government nearly K12.5 million a year to keep its vehicles on the road.

That is far too high, says personnel management secretary Wep Kanawi, and he is determined to do something about it. For starters, he has issued strict instructions to departmental heads at both national and provincial level to control the use of government vehicles.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby.

THIEVES AND vandals have been active in recent weeks and the incidence of property-related offences is increasing.

These offences include:

- Three reports of the theft of fuel from motor vehicles;

- More than \$1000 worth of goods stolen from the jetty during unloading of the last ship;

- Three reports of stolen motor vehicles;

- \$500 worth of malicious damage to plant and equipment belonging to a local industry;

- The annual theft of palm seeds has started;

- A new one for Norfolk — visitors had their clothing stolen from a clothesline at their holiday accommodation.

— From *The Norfolk Islander*.

DURING THE Cabinet meeting earlier this month, child abuse was one of the issues that generated serious discussion. It was pointed out by directors whose departments are involved with the handling of child abuse cases that one of the reasons behind the increase in child abuse is that parents, especially mothers, do not spend enough time with their children. One director pointed out that many mothers work during the day then rush to the bingo games, thus having no time at all for an end-of-the-day family get-together or evening prayer.

— From *The ASG Report of the American Samoa Government*, Pago Pago.

EUROMARCHÉ, the giant low-priced supermarket and department store in the Moana Nui Shopping Centre in the Commune of Punaauia, came up with an original idea for celebrating the Chinese New Year. Its pastry kitchen prepared a cake 30.25 metres long! And it was one solid piece of cake that was later cut into 3000 pieces and given to Euromarché customers on February 13.

— From *Tahiti Sun Press*, Papeete.

ALL PUBLIC officers have again been reminded about the type of dress they wear to work. In a circular from the Ministry of Public Service, the Permanent Secretary, Mr James Saliga, reminded all public officers to dress properly in a manner that would draw respect to their offices. "It is noted with pity that some officers have been wearing jeans, T-shirts, soccer and rugby jerseys and boots to work," Mr Saliga said.

— From *The Nius*, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

RESULTS OF the 1987 Livestock Census for three islands have been released by the Agricultural Division. The pig population of Tuvalu has shown a decline of 923 pigs since the 1986 Census, a drop of more than 11 per cent. The greatest changes have been in Nukulaeae, where pig numbers have dropped by 1024 since 1987 to a total of 347, a drop of almost 75 per cent. On Funafuti pig numbers have reached 1736, an increase of 1016 since 1986 or an increase of 141 per cent. On Vaitupu the number of pigs has dropped from 2139 to 1130 or by 47 per cent since last year.

— From *Tuvalu Echoes*, Funafuti.

Transition

Appointed: New Zealand's new High Commissioner to Western Samoa, Mr J R Martin. He succeeds Mr Brian Absolum, who has been appointed New Zealand's Ambassador to Fiji.

Mr Martin was previously head of the Middle East and African division of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Wellington.

Appointed: Australia's new ambassador to Fiji, Mr Robert Cotton, who arrived in Suva at the end of March. Mr Cotton is a career diplomat who has served in Sri Lanka. He is the son of former Australian Government Minister and diplomat Sir Robert Cotton.

Appointed: Mr Neil Paparella, general manager of Morris Hedstrom, the Carpenter Group's retail division, has been appointed a director of Carpenters Fiji Ltd, the group's principal operating company. Mr Dennis Cuthers, chief accountant and corporate secretary of Carpenters Fiji Ltd, has been appointed to the boards of W R Carpenter (South Pacific) Ltd, and Carpenters Fiji Ltd. He has also been made a

director of Morris Hedstrom Samoa Ltd and Morris Hedstrom Tonga Ltd.

Mr Hector Hatch, general manager (administration) for Carpenters Fiji Ltd, has become a director of W R Carpenter (South Pacific) Ltd. Mr Hatch, who has been with the Group for 13 years, continues as a director of Carpenters Fiji.

Appointed: Toshihiko Nomiyama, as Japanese guest relations manager for the Sheraton Fiji Resort. Mr Nomiyama was formerly the operator of Uncle Inc restaurants and coffee shops in Tokyo and sales promotion assistant manager for the Westin Akasaka Prince Hotel, which is also located in Tokyo.

Sheraton Fiji Resort general manager Chris Goring said the new position reflected a renewed interest by the Japanese in Fiji as a destination.

"With a new Air Pacific 747 service expected to start between Japan and Fiji in October, as well as an additional Air New Zealand flight between Auckland, Nadi, and Japan in April, the number of Japanese into Fiji should increase substantially". □

Book Reviews

FROM HUDSON BAY TO BOTANY BAY: THE LOST FRIGATES OF LAPÉROUSE By Russell C. Shelton. Preface by Robin Inglis, forward by Admiral Maurice de Brossard, NC Press Limited, Toronto, 1987. 228pp.

Reviewed by Darrell Tryon

IT WAS AN extraordinary coincidence that Jean-François Galaup de Lapérouse, the French explorer and navigator, should drop anchor in Botany Bay on

precisely January 26, 1788, just as the British fleet under the command of Captain Phillip was preparing to move around to Port Jackson to establish what was soon to become the city of Sydney. Just as Australia is celebrating its bicentenary this year, so too is France celebrating and remembering the historic voyage of exploration undertaken by Lapérouse from 1785 to 1788, culminating in Australia with the opening of the Lapérouse Museum in Botany Bay on February 23 by French Defence Minister André Giraud, President of the French Australian Bicentennial Committee. While the occasion was a joyous event it was also a solemn one, since Botany Bay was Lapérouse's last known landfall.

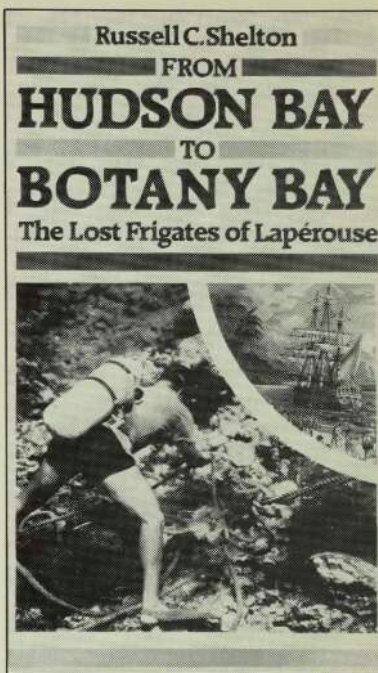
On March 10, 1788, he sailed away in his two ships, the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole*, never to be seen again.

Shelton's book takes up the story at this point. His account is a compelling one, told with verve and enthusiasm. He provides a succinct but graphic account of the royal patronage of the Lapérouse expedition, setting it in an ambience of international scientific collaboration where scientific instruments from Cook's expeditions were made available to the French despite prevailing Anglo-French hostility.

The book, accurately and painstakingly researched, falls into two main sections. The first details the main events in Lapérouse's marathon voyage from France around the Horn and into the Pacific, to Easter Island, Hawaii, Alaska and the west coast of North America, across to Macao, Japan and Kamchatka, down to Samoa and finally to Botany Bay to rest and re-equip. Shelton evokes Lapérouse the scientist, but also Lapérouse the humanitarian. By the same token he is not afraid to show us Lapérouse the debunker of 18th century sentimentalism regarding the so-called "noble savage". Shelton does the English-speaking world a service here, as though ample documentation on Lapérouse exists in French (De Brossard's *Lapérouse: des Combats à la Découverte* (1978); Bellec's *La Généreuse et Tragique Expédition Lapérouse* (1985)), there is little available in English, apart from Dunmore's *Pacific Explorer* (1985).

The second part of the book concerns the search for the wrecks of Lapérouse's ships, which remained lost until 1827, when Captain Peter Dillon mounted an expedition to Vanikoro in the Solomon Islands on the *Research*, having the previous year been alerted by his discovery on neighbouring Tikopia of a silver sword guard and a number of other items of European manufacture, which were said to have been recovered from a ship wrecked on Vanikoro.

Interest centres, however, on more re-



cent events, principally on expeditions to Vanikoro since 1958, when Vanuatu-based diver and salvage expert Reece Discombe rediscovered the site of the wreck of the *Astrolabe* and achieved further fame and distinction by his discovery of the wreck of the *Boussole*, Lapérouse's own ship, in 1962. Shelton details the various salvage expeditions to Vanikoro over the past 30 years, including the most recent one, mounted by the Queensland Museum team led by Ron Coleman, working jointly with the Association Salomon (based in Nouméa) and the Solomon Islands Museum. The account of the unravelling of the mysteries and puzzles posed by the two wrecks and the problems of interpretation raised are treated with sensitivity. In fact the gradual piecing together of the evidence raised from the depths reads rather like a gripping detective yarn.

From Hudson Bay to Botany Bay will have undoubted appeal for Pacific island and Australian readers. It does, however, contain a small error, based on a misreporting of a paper written by the reviewer. This, simply, was that the *maras* (whom the two reported survivors who had died before Captain Peter Dillon's arrival were called) derived their name from the French *marin*, "sailor" and not *matelot*, as reported.

Shelton is to be congratulated on his fine research and engaging narrative style. His book is a welcome addition to Pacific writing, especially welcome in this, Australia's bicentennial year. □

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Shipping Schedules

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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 (266 0633); Tlx AA121369; Fax 267 1148; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Rodwell Road, Suva (31 1777); Tlx FJ2168; Fax 31 1804; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Lautoka (60 777); Sato SA, Avenue James Cook, BPC 2, Noumea, Cedex (28 1122); Tlx 163 NM SATO; Fax 27 8532.

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 Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600).

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 a four-weekly cargo service Sydney-Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island.

Details Hetherington Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600).

AUSTRALIA — KIRIBATI

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

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 1221143.

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 (232 2277); Tlx 1221143.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

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

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 1221143.

AUSTRALIA — NORFOLK ISLAND — LORD HOWE ISLAND

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates a 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 (232 2277).

AUSTRALIA — COOK ISLANDS

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates a 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 (232 2277).

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 (231 3700).

AUSTRALIA — NAURU

Nauru Pacific Line operates a 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 (653 5709). Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St Sydney, (20 522).

AUSTRALIA — SOLOMON ISLANDS — VANUATU

NGAL/PNGL joint service operates a monthly service.

Details from Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20 522).

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 (225 7333) and ANL Shipping Agencies, "World Trade Centre", cnr Flinders and Spencer Sts, Melbourne (611 2323) or New Zealand Line, Pastoral House, 96 Lambton Quay, Wellington (72 2245).

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 (239 9000) for NSW; reservations and inquiries (008 42 2277); rest of Australia, reservations and inquiries (008 22 2277).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — TONGA — VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA — SOLOMONS — SAMOAS — TAHITI

P&O Liners call at Auckland, Bay of Islands, Honiara, Lautoka, Noumea, Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Papeete, Port Moresby, Santo, Savu-Savu, Suva, Vava'u and Vila on cruises from Australia.

Details from P&O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh St, Sydney (237 0333).

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 (20 547); Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20 522); New Guinea Express Lines, 37 Pitt St, Sydney (241 3991); Vila Agents PO Box 27, Port Vila (2456); Tlx NH1011.

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

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange, Sydney (241 3991); 127 Creek St, Brisbane (221 9333); 84 William St, Melbourne (602 5544); Port Moresby (21 4572); Steamships Trading (agent), Rabaul (92 1400); Bougainville Agencies Pty Ltd Kieta, (95 6089); Steamships Trading Co, Madang (82 2446); Garumut Enterprises, Wewak (86 2106); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, Kavieng (94 2133); Alotau Stevedoring and Transport, Alotau (61 1318); Ngatia Wholesalers Pty Ltd, Kimba (93 5102) and Tradco Shipping, Mandana Avenue, Honiara (2 2588); 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 (31 2244); Fax: (679) 31 4572; 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, Fiji (31 2244); Fax: (679) 31 4572; Tlx FJ2199; Burns Philp, Suva, (311777); New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customhouse Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington (72 7865); Cables ENZUE-MAN WELLINGTON, Tlx NZ31340, NEDLNZ, or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney (20 522).

FAR EAST — MID-SOUTH 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 (22 0283 or 22 0289).

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 (223 1600); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (31 2244); Tlx FJ2199.

GUAM — NORTHERN MARIANAS

Saipan Shipping Co 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 322 9707); Tlx 783619; Fax (670) 322 3183; Guam agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd. ▶

HAWAII — SAMOAS — TONGA — COOK ISLANDS

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

Details from Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc, PO Box 3264, Honolulu HI 96801-3264 (808 531 4841).
Details from Morris Hedstrom (Samoa) Ltd, PO Box 189, Apia, Western Samoa (21 355, 22 722), Tlx 224 (MORISHED SX), Fax 24 279; Union Citco Travel Ltd, Rarotonga, Cook Islands (682 21 780); Tlx 62024 (UTRAV G); Fax (682) 20 859; Kneubuhl Maritime Services, PO Box 39, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, (684 633 5121) x 782505; Fax (684) 633 5100; Union Maritime Services Ltd, PO Box 4, Nuku'alofa, Tonga (21 644/5); Tlx 66227, Fax (676) 21 645.

JAPAN — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co 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 (31 2244), Tlx FJ2199, and Burns Philp, Suva (31 1777).

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 (259 1000).

Saipan Shipping Co operates a monthly service from Japan to Saipan, Guam, Truk, Ponape, Majuro (Kosrae and Ebeye on inducement).

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, PO Box 8, Saipan, CM 96950 (322 9706 or 322 9707), Tlx 783619, Fax (670) 322 3183. 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 (42 3642, 42 3811), 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.

Details from Robert Laurie Company Pty Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae (direct: 42 3642 or a switch: 42 3811), Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager & Marketing; Tlx NE 42508, Fax 42 3801.

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 (21 1174), Tlx 22269.

PNG — UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line and 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 (27 2041), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE 44171; or lines' local agents.

SOLOMONS — UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line and 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 (27 2041), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE44171 Tradco Shipping Ltd, Honiara (22 588), 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, Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then New Zealand.

Details from Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae; Sullivans 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 (39 2650); Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Rarotonga 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 (771 2213), Tlx 60633; MV Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd, Private Bag, Suva (31 1056).

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

Details Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs St, Auckland (77 3279), PO Box 3614, Tlx NZ2313; Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (25 141), 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 (73 9029); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva (31 1777), Tlx FJ2168 Burship.

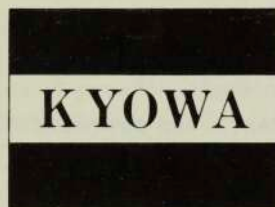
NEW ZEALAND — FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA

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 from Auckland to Nuku'alofa, Vava'u, Apia, Pago Pago fortnightly carrying general and freezer cargoes and FCL Dry.



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◀ Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, Downtown House, 21 Queen St, Auckland PO Box 3 (39 0229). Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554f; Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Mealelel (Western Samoa) Ltd, Private Bag Apia, Western Samoa, Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, PO Box 129, Pago Pago, American Samoa (633 2709), 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 (39 0229). Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554; Fax 32 931.

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

Polish Ocean Lines operates semi-container type vessels to the following ports: from Papeete, Noumea, Santo, Vila, Yandina, Honiara, Auckland, Rabaul, Lae, Singapore, Port Kielang, 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 (39 0931, 39 0727, 32 104), Tlx 21 517.

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 trans-shipment.

Details from Sotama, BP 9170, Papeete (42 7805), Tlx Sotama 373FP; SATO: BP, C2 Noumea Cedex (27 2094), Tlx 163NM; Universal Shipping Agencies, PO Box 2282 Auckland (30 930), Tlx 21517; Vanua Navigation, PO Box 44, Vila (2027), Tlx 1033; Melan Chine Shipping Co, PO Box 71, Honiara (21 678), Tlx 66335; Steamships Trading Co Ltd, PO Box 85, Lae (42 4666), Tlx 42423; Union Steamship Co NZ Ltd, PO Box 50, Apia (21 781), Tlx 225; Warner Pacific Line, PO Box 93, Nuku'alofa (22 088), 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 (27 3801); Carpenters Shipping, 1st Floor, Harbour Centre Bldg, 100 Thomson St, Suva (31 2244) Tlx 2199FJ and Vetari St, Lautoka (63 988), Tlx 5215FJ.

UK — EUROPE — W SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line and 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 (27 2041), Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE 44111 or Line's local agents.

UK — EUROPE — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line and 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 (27 2041), Tlx AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx: NE 44171; or Line's 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.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (27 2041), Tlx AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE 44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

US — HAWAII — MICRONESIA — PNG

PM&O Lines operates two fully self-contained container vessels on a sailing frequency of every 30 days between the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Majuro, Ebeye, Kosrae, Ponape, Truk, Saipan, Yap, Palau, Cebu, Davao, Lae, Kieta and Rabaul.

Details from PM&O Lines, 353 Sacramento St, San Francisco, California 94111 (415 421 5400), Tlx 278016 PMO UR, owner's Representative PO Box 803, Saipan, NMI 96950 (234 6819), Tlx 783605 CMCAA.

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Please contact our regional offices for further information:

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Phone: 42 3466/42 3287
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OUT OF THE PAST

A "True Man" Remembered

Bill Gammage pays tribute to PNG explorer and administrator John Black.

EARLY next month, a party of Papua New Guineans and Australians will set out from Mount Hagen to retrace the route of the longest and most arduous patrol in the history of Papua New Guinea's exploration — the 1938/39 Taylor-Black patrol, which traversed some 3000 kilometres of the most mountainous and difficult terrain in Papua New Guinea, and which was responsible for bringing many thousands of people within the mantle of PNG's administration and protection.

Led by Assistant District Officer James Lindsay Taylor and Patrol Officer John Russell Black, the 1938/39 patrol lasted almost 16 months and was remarkable, in those frontier days, for the virtual absence of bloodshed and the positive impression it made on Highlanders.

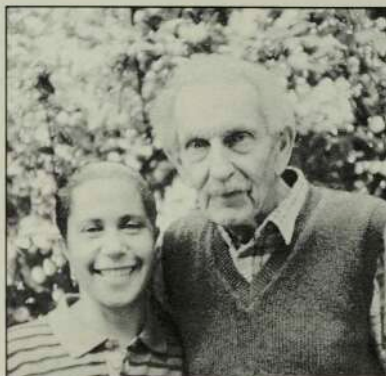
James Taylor's daughters Meg and Daisy, Australian National University historian Bill Gammage and former *kiap* Barry Taverner have worked out for months to plan the 50th anniversary reenactment of Taylor's and Black's achievement, following Jim Taylor's death in Goroka in June 1987.

Their task has been made easier and more stimulating by the enthusiastic participation, encouragement and experience of John Black, who supported their endeavour from his home in Adelaide and was planning to welcome the 1988 Hagen-Sepik patrol's return to Goroka in August.

Tragically, John Black died on April 6 on his way to work in Adelaide, only a month before he was to celebrate his 80th birthday. Bill Gammage pays tribute to one of the truly great men in the history of Papua New Guinea and its evolution into a leader of Southwest Pacific affairs.

JOHNN BLACK is perhaps best known as second-in-command of the 1938/39 Hagen-Sepik patrol, which Jim Taylor led from Mt Hagen to Telefomin and back. Black played an epic part in that patrol, leading a section that set out northwest from Hoiyeva (near present-day Tari) past Koroba, across the fearsome Strickland Gorge to Sembati near Oksapmin, then on to Telefomin.

John stayed at Telefomin until Jim Taylor returned, then followed the Om and Lagaip Rivers back to Wabag, on his way discovering the rich Porgera goldfields now being developed by Placer. John's journey took him through some of the most magnificent — and the roughest — country in New Guinea; when it is told, the story of the patrol will better Hollywood's most imaginative adventures, but although John



Taylor's daughter Meg with John Black.

considered the patrol his most momentous work in PNG, he did not regard it as his most important work.

That was to come later. John had an instinctive eye for policy, whether or not he was involved in its formulation, and related events and issues to farsighted principles of government.

By 1945, John was convinced that the future of New Guinea should lie within its indigenous people and he joined the new Provisional Administration as Assistant Director of Planning, committed to furthering indigenous interests. At the same time Papua New Guineans such as John Guise, Advent Torossi and Willie Gavera would gather at John's home near Hanuabada to discuss their country's political and economic future ... and even independence. Many of the Territory's whites thought of John Black as a ratbag and a communist, and he encountered considerable hostility from some senior administration officials.

When he resigned in 1948 he was still only a substantive patrol officer, but John was confident that in those early postwar years he and like-minded colleagues had achieved something of major importance for Papua New Guinea.

"Many of those prewar officials who came back after the war wanted to turn the clock back to 1939," he would say, "but we stopped them. By the time we left, they had no choice but to prepare the country for eventual independence." This, thought John, was his greatest contribution to Papua New Guinea. It was indeed a significant achievement.

John Black was born in North Adelaide on May 12, 1908, the eldest of five children. After leaving school, he worked and studied for a year under Sir Douglas Mawson at Adelaide University, then went

on to farm at Mount Compass until late in 1932, when he saw an advertisement for cadet patrol officers in New Guinea. He was one of more than 2000 applicants ... and one of only 10 selected.

On reaching Rabaul in July 1933, he asked to do bush work and there seems no doubt that his strength and intelligence made an instant impression on his superiors. He was sent to Morobe and soon after was on exploratory patrol — something unheard-of for so new a cadet. The patrol, led by Keith McCarthy, found the site of present-day Menyamya in the Morobe mountains, and during a skirmish at Menyamya Black was hit in the forehead by an arrow.

This was bad publicity for a young cadet, so McCarthy radioed that he was sending Black out to have a boil treated. Down on the coast, the doctor remarked drily that it was the first time he had treated a boil with pieces of wood in it, then sent Black back to Menyamya.

John Black was the natural choice as second-in-command to James Taylor on the Hagen-Sepik patrol. When the patrol ended it was he who urged military intelligence in Australia to suppress its records, in order to conceal from the Japanese possible airstrip sites in the Highlands. He also handed over to the AIF his beautifully drawn map of the patrol's route, and did not see it again until he discovered it in Canberra six days before his death.

On the Hagen-Sepik patrol and during World War II, John Black came to know New Guineans man-to-man, with the "cloak of colonialism", as he called it, drawn aside.

There is much more to John Black and the life he lived. In 1944/45 he was one of Alf Conlon's policy men in the influential Directorate of Research; in 1945/46 he was, in effect, military governor in turn of Brunei, Labuan and Sarawak in British Borneo. In 1946 John married Dawn Reid Smith, and it was her family's land near Maitland in South Australia that the Blacks farmed after they left Papua New Guinea in 1953.

John Black spent the rest of his life in South Australia, and died leaving five children. He once said he could never have the courage Dawn had shown before she died of cancer in June 1986, but he was in every way an exceptional man — brave, tough, humane, to the last ranging a lively and critical intelligence over the issues of the day. His ideal was the "intellectual in action", and his life exemplified that ideal to the full. John Black was, as they say in Papua New Guinea, a "true man". □

The advertisement features a large image of the Pioneer Avante 9100R stereo system. The system is housed in a dark wood-grain cabinet with a central rack of components and two large side speakers. The components visible in the rack include a turntable, tuner, amplifier, and CD player. The background is a dark, abstract image with blue and orange light patterns. The Pioneer logo is in the top left, and the slogan 'Avante. More than a symbol of soaring power.' is in the top right. A green banner on the right side of the speakers reads '350W/ch. MUSIC POWER'. The text 'AVANTE 9100R' is printed below the central rack. The main body of the advertisement contains several paragraphs of text describing the system's features and power output. At the bottom, there is a section for contact information in various Pacific islands, followed by the Pioneer logo and slogan.

Avante. More than a symbol of soaring power.

350W/ch. MUSIC POWER

AVANTE 9100R

That's right, Avante is more than a symbol of soaring power. It is power itself, and can bestow power on you.

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Avante 9100R, but of any Pioneer product with the "SR" logo.

Not only that, it brings a full-logic double auto-reverse cassette deck, a quartz-PLL synthesized tuner with 24 random-access station presets (FM/AM), a fully automatic turntable, and a 4-way speaker system that boasts rich, heavy bass, stunning mids, and crystal-clear highs.

But the Avante 9100R is more than the sum of its superior parts.

It's the "pure sound" component system so sophisticated, that it simply began as state-of-the-art technology, ending as a welcome addition to any music lover's home because its wood-grain cabinet blends so beautifully with home decor.

The Avante 9100R, with power, real power—the kind of power it takes to make music come alive—and your spirit soar!

Note: The PD-M40 Multi-Play CD player and EX-9000(BK) Dynamic Expander, shown in this ad, are available as options.

The Avante 4100R (350W/ch. PMPO) and Avante 3100 (270W/ch. PMPO) are also available. Ask your Pioneer dealer for details.

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For further information, please contact:

Australia: Pioneer Electronics Australia Pty. Ltd. (Incorporated in Victoria), P.O. Box 295, Mordialloc, Victoria, 3195 Tel: 580-9911

Fiji Islands: Brijlal & Company, G.P.O. Box No. 362, Suva, Fiji Islands Tel: 22258

New Zealand: Monaco Distributors Ltd., 41 Poland Road, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand Tel: (09) 444-9144

Norfolk Island: Burnt Pine Traders Ltd., P.O. Box 21, Norfolk Island

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Nauru Island: Jacob Enterprises, P.O. Box No. 4, Republic of Nauru

Tahiti: Tahiti Hi-Fi, P.O. Box 848, Papeete, Tahiti

New Caledonia: Menard Pacifique Sarl, B.P. 3899, Noumea, New Caledonia Tel: 27-62-23

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