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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol. 59 No. 13

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

January, 89

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As Nicolas Rothwell Reports, painter Paul Gauguin was very much a self-invented (if not self-made) man: he set out to create around himself his own mythology of the South Pacific, and succeeded in a way that has only been seen in this century in the likes of James Michener. Now, for the first time, international collectors and museums have put together a major exhibition of Gauguin's masterpieces, lesser-known works and the astonishingly fruitful results of his South Seas voyage of self-discovery.

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OPINION

Aid's real meaning

Major metropolitan powers are beginning to find Pacific nations less willing to accept the 'strings' that go with economic assistance.

RECENT news stories about the purported 'theft' of a United States guided missile warhead in the waters of Kwajalein Atoll highlight an intriguing change in the balance of power in the Pacific. The news stories spoke of a missile test that attempted to hide military secrets from the Soviet Union by recording navigational data on board the missile rather than broadcasting such information.

Apparently, the experiment went wrong when the US Navy vessel detailed to recover the missile's nose-cone failed to retrieve the all-important flight recorder. Sabre-rattlers in Washington immediately suspected foul play. A Russian mini-sub, they said, must have stolen the flight recorder.

Leaving aside such obvious conclusions as a Pentagon attempt to sway public opinion in favour of increased spending on defence, what emerges from the incident is the United States' decreasing ability to bestride the world with military and economic might. No less experienced a columnist than the *Times*' Bernard Levin (a commentator hardly noted for his pink views) is meeting little argument over his claims that both the USSR and the USA are beginning to lose their 'empires'.

Domestic financial, agricultural, social and ethnic problems, Levin argues, are turning the Kremlin's interest inward in what amounts to a repetition of an isolationism that has been seen many times already in Russian history. But Washington faces different problems: increasing indifference to its Cold War philosophies, dissatisfaction with its role as guardian of liberty; and concern over its approach to Third World debts in apparent defiance of other financial centres' misgivings.

These factors — and others — are beginning to make their effects felt in the Pacific. It would be premature and inaccurate to detect any great movement away from alignment with the United States and toward the Eastern bloc; rather, more and more Pacific nations are refusing to ally themselves with any of the so-called Great Powers except when they can derive some direct advantage from the relationship.

The trend can be seen throughout Oceania: in coups in Fiji, where the Melanesian population sought to throw off what it perceived as the shackles of a colonial imbalance in opportunity; in New Zealand, where the Labour Government's refusal to countenance a nuclear-armed US presence resulted first in the threats of economic isolation and then in the realisation that the country *could* survive without American assistance; in New Caledonia, of course, where France has by all appearances realised that its proud possessions may become liabilities after all.

However, such developments must also be examined in the light of reality for many of the smaller, resource-poor Pacific nations. It is no insult to the people of Tuvalu, Tokelau or Kiribati to say that they will always be recipients of aid. They can argue with vigour those more fortunate — who spend so much on 'necessities' of the most vapid nature imaginable — have a duty to their fellow human beings to help them build the best life possible.

This is perhaps the nub of the matter: that becoming an aid recipient does not, morally should not, render one a client of the person or nation providing that aid. The time is coming fast when the world will be too crowded, its environment too degraded and its resources too valuable, for notions of empire to persist. Just as the smaller nations of Eastern Europe are hurling defiance at their Soviet 'masters', so are the thankfully independent nations of the Pacific learning that power is transitory . . . and that even the tiniest atoll is sovereign territory, not to be abused as a plaything or bargaining chip for others. □

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OPINION

DESPITE advances in television and publishing technology, radio remains the most effective medium for speedy and widespread transmission of news and information. Radio requires none of television's costly and unwieldy apparatus, can provide entertainment or a portable, life-saving link in times of emergency. It has been a unifying medium throughout the 20th century, bringing to listeners the 'first draft' of history as it happens; and in times of war and disaster it has been used to send messages of encouragement to survivors and coded instructions to resistance fighters behind enemy lines.

Radio is a medium that bridges great distances economically, and with the introduction of satellites its scope is now unlimited. In the Pacific, vast stretches of ocean separate small islands served by often irregular mail and transport operations — barriers that can defeat timely newspaper coverage and make television an expensive, impractical service. But it is for such a place that radio was invented.

One person acutely aware of this is New Zealand's Russell Marshall, the Foreign Affairs Minister (and head of that country's new External Relations and Trade Ministry) who took responsibility for the former Island Affairs portfolio in the wake of the sacking of Richard Prebble. Last December, Mr Marshall listed as one of his first priorities the upgrading of Radio New Zealand's shortwave service. He hopes the 1989 budget will allow spending on the service, a hope shared by many thousands of radio listeners throughout the South Pacific.

Most international broadcasters use transmitters generating 100,000 watts or more — but Radio New Zealand relies on two 7500 watts transmitters that have been in service since the 1940s. Their signals are almost inaudible in the vast Pacific, and program standards are generally poor; the shortwave service has no budget of its own and generally relays one of the domestic radio networks.

This neglect of responsibility cannot continue. As one of the region's most articulate nations, New Zealand has a duty to provide a quality shortwave service with news, information and entertainment programs. Small island states cannot afford the cost of equipment and international coverage and look to their more developed neighbours who can — and should — foot the bill for such a vital service. The cost to New Zealand will be comparatively small and the benefits substantial. "I am under no illusion of its importance in foreign affairs," Marshall said recently.

Radio Australia recognises the importance of the region and improvements to its Pacific service are imminent. A new Pacific service begins on March 6, based on the results of a recent listener survey. Radio Australia already has the biggest audience in the region, and its new service will further consolidate that lead and extend Australia's sphere of influence.

Radio New Zealand must move urgently to redress the imbalance and to ensure a diversity of voices and opinions. The nations of the Pacific have the right to hear the voice of New Zealand on a quality shortwave radio service. □



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FORUM SECRETARIAT (formerly South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation [SPEC])

Applications are invited from citizens of member countries for the following positions within the FORUM SECRETARIAT (formerly the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation)

CHIEF ECONOMIST

The Nineteenth South Pacific Forum held recently in Tonga gave priority to the continued development of a strong and effective Economic Services Division within the Secretariat to assist Pacific island member countries of the Forum to improve their capabilities in economic analysis and planning. A crucial step in this initiative will be the establishment of a new position of Chief Economist to assume responsibility for directing the activities of the expanded Division which, it is envisaged, will eventually comprise a team of five economists.

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced, senior economist to make a substantial contribution to the economic development of the Pacific region. Applicants should possess a sound, working knowledge of the economies of Pacific island countries, including an appreciation of the problems of both the subsistence and monetised sectors. They should also possess advanced academic qualifications in economics or a related field, as well as proven abilities to work under pressure, to set priorities among a wide range of options and to manage staff effectively. Familiarity with donor government and agency procedures would be an advantage.

MANAGER REGIONAL PETROLEUM UNIT

The Regional Petroleum Unit (RPU) is being created under the auspices of the Secretariat to provide specialist assistance to its member governments to improve existing petroleum supply and pricing arrangements on an on-going basis. The RPU will assist in ensuring that the costs of supply and marketing operations, in and between member countries, are minimised. It also aims at harmonizing the relationship between Governments and the oil companies represented in the South Pacific region, and at reducing the dependence of governments on short-term consultancies.

The RPU Manager will be required to direct and supervise the work of the unit and keep the Director of the Secretariat briefed on regional petroleum issues and the activities of the RPU. The manager will plan, direct and participate in studies concerning the supply of petroleum in the South Pacific; advise Member Governments as requested on issues relating to petroleum, particularly in relation to price control and contract negotiations. He/she will also represent the RPU on committees and meetings and maintain liaison with other groups working on petroleum issues in the Pacific.

The successful applicant will have tertiary qualifications in engineering, economics, or other suitable qualifications associated with the oil industry. He/she must have at least 10 years experience in the oil industry and/or government positions associated with the oil industry, with particular experience in dealing with issues relating to both government and the oil industry. He/she must also have the ability to manage and relate to people from a wide range of backgrounds, have good written and oral communication, and be willing to travel frequently throughout the region.

GENERAL INFORMATION

These senior level appointments will attract substantial remuneration packages, tax-free for non-Fiji citizens and payable in Fiji dollars, including housing or housing allowances, education and child allowances, superannuation payments and medical, life and travel insurance benefits. The appointees will be based at the Secretariat's Headquarters in Suva, Fiji, but will be required to undertake extensive duty travel. Appointments would be for two years initially, renewable by mutual agreement.

Applications close on 10 December 1988. As it is intended to make the appointments as soon as possible, the successful applicants must be able to take up the positions shortly afterwards. Applications should contain full information on education and career backgrounds and should list names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicants have been associated in professional capacities.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Director
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GPO Box 856
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Telephone: 312600; Telex: 2229 FJ; Fax: 302204

All enquiries should be made to Mr Rene Wilson, Deputy Director, on 312600 extension 202.

FIJI

Gentle Budget for Fiji

The interim Government cuts duties and seeks to encourage the private sector, but a mini-budget later this year could bring new taxes. By Vijendra Kumar

FEW FIJIANS expected any surprises in the interim Government's 1989 national budget; but they were in for a pleasant surprise when Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica presented his gift-wrapped package to the nation last month.

There was to be absolutely no increase in any duty or tax, he announced; on the contrary, there were to be significant cuts in duty on a number of imported goods from cars, clothing and kerosene refrigerators to food mostly imported for tourists.

And as icing on the Christmas cake, Kamikamica announced full restoration of Civil Service salaries, cut by 15 per cent after the coups of 1987.

It was a unique budget; for the first time in Fiji's history, such consumer goods as beer and cigarettes, traditional targets for treasury officials, were spared any tax or duty increases. In his \$F539 million estimates, Kamikamica budgeted for a \$112 million current account deficit to be financed by local and overseas borrowing. Capital spending of \$118.6 million, to be raised mostly from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, will focus on roads, water and electricity.

The public reaction to the budget was generally favourable: for the first time Fijians did not have to pay more, but less, for the goods they would be buying. But there were some observers who were not so sure about this largesse: there had to be a catch somewhere, they felt.

And, sure enough, there is.

A new Customs tariff system known as the 'harmonised commodity description and coding system', introduced this month, will result in higher charges for some imports. The Government hopes to boost its Customs revenue by about \$9 million and this amount will obviously come from the pockets of consumers.

The warmest welcome for the budget came from car dealers. They had been pleading with the Government for years to reduce penal rates of duty on vehicles, and many were facing serious difficulties because there was virtually no market for new cars: duty on a car with an engine capacity of more than 2000 cubic centimetres was as high as 185 per cent. A Toyota Cressida or a Mazda 929 cost about \$F90,000 — twice as much as a family home.



Finance Minister Kamikamica: a surprise Christmas 'gift'.

Kamikamica has slashed duty on cars by as much as 105 per cent. Cars over 2000 cubic centimetres now carry 80 per cent, those below about 60 per cent, light vehicles 30 per cent and heavy vehicles 20 per cent.

The lower duty will also enable taxi and bus companies to upgrade their fleets; they have until now been attempting to keep vehicles working well beyond their normal lifespans. Soon after the budget new cars began appearing on the roads and the used car market, which had been booming, experienced a slump.

Other duty cuts were on clothing, from 80 per cent to 30 per cent kerosene refrigerators (now totally duty-free) and such tourist fare as cereals, chocolates, confectionery, jams and sauces. These latter measures are aimed at boosting the tourism industry, still recovering from the slump of 1987.

Kamikamica painted a fairly bright picture in his preview of the new year's economy. The Gross Domestic Product is expected to grow by at least 3.5 per cent after falling by 7.8 per cent in 1987 and 2.5 per cent last year (both negative growths). Inflation is expected to level off at about eight per cent this year after hitting a peak of 13 per cent last year.

The Government is awaiting a report from a Fiscal Review Committee before instituting major changes to the tax structure. The Committee is expected to hand down its report early

this year and Kamikamica is certain to present a mini-budget by mid-year, spelling out more clearly the Government's new revenue-raising measures.

The budget seeks to give the private sector a larger and freer role in the economy and already a start has been made on scrapping a plethora of restrictive regulations. Deregulation is the new word in the country's economic lexicon and manufacturers and other entrepreneurs are urging the Government to accelerate the dismantling of restrictive regulatory policies.

"The focus of the Government's budget strategy will concentrate on enabling the private sector to lead the economy on to a sustained path of economic growth," Kamikamica said in his budget speech.

On the surface, the economy is now on a sound footing. Foreign reserves are at an all-time record of \$390 million and are expected to hit the \$500 million mark this year. Exports of locally made garments are booming along with mainstays such as sugar and gold, while fish and forestry products are becoming major export commodities. Commercial banks are also flush with money; about \$100 million in surplus funds is sitting interest-free in the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

This is an enigmatic situation, reflecting both the strength and the weakness of the economy. There is very little borrowing by the private sector which, in turn, indicates a low level of investment. The construction industry — a major indicator of investment — is virtually at a standstill; projects worth millions of dollars are in the pipeline, but investors are obviously nervous about the future.

Most seem to be waiting to see what sort of constitution the country adopts, and whether there will be a return to parliamentary democracy. The interim government is committed to returning power to an elected government by the end of 1989, but the road is long and not without pitfalls.

One of the Government's main aims this year is to restore investor confidence by offering attractive incentives, especially in its Tax Free Zones. Its main task, however, is to give the country the political stability for which it was noted before 1987.

For, as a former Finance Minister once remarked, political stability is a prerequisite of economic stability. □

THE REGION

France's new-look diplomacy

David Robie reports on changes in Paris's policies in the post-Flosse era.

THE GASTON Flosse era in the South Pacific was a paradox. Faced with mounting allegations of corruption and deepening resentment at home in Papeete, the former French Secretary for Pacific Affairs was eventually forced to resign from the French Polynesian presidency. Then the government of his conservative ruling party, Tahoeeraa Huiraatira, collapsed after rioting in October 1987 exposed growing unemployment and social problems in Tahiti.

But things were different for Flosse in the wider South Pacific arena. Former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's reward for his lieutenant, through the creation of a well-funded secretariat of Pacific Affairs, was a gamble that had paid off handsomely: many Polynesian politicians were impressed with the fact that a Pacific islander (Flosse is part-Tahitian) was now speaking on behalf of France; they liked his charming style of diplomacy and the 'gifts' dished out by his office.

They seemed not to care that Canberra and Wellington thought Flosse arrogant and his methods questionable. They appeared unconcerned by his alleged role in the controversial repatriation to Paris of *Rainbow Warrior* bombers Alain Mafart and Dominique Prieur from Hao Atoll. Nor did those politicians seem concerned that one of Flosse's key priorities was to blunt South Pacific support for the Kanak independence movement in New Caledonia and opposition to nuclear testing in the Tuamotus.

Flosse managed to remain popular with Polynesian governments despite the suspicion with which other Melanesian states regarded his activities and his involvement in a controversy in the Solomon Islands that led eventually to an embarrassing government crisis. Cook Islands, in particular, piqued at perceived neglect by New Zealand, was happy to encourage the French connection while Flosse was still, in effect, roving ambassador. "Flosse is regarded very highly in the Cook Islands," wrote *Le Monde's* Oceania correspondent Patrice de Beer after a recent visit. "... a totally different perception from how he is seen in Papeete and France. He has established many positive links with Polynesian leaders."

Now, however, there is a problem: while socialist Prime Minister Michel

Rocard is keen to foster better relations with Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific nations, the Secretariat of Pacific Affairs is defunct and Flosse is out of a job. Instead the South Pacific Council, set up under the previous socialist administration with one-time revolutionary ideologue Regis Debray at its head, has been dusted off and revived. Philippe Baude, French delegate to the South Pacific Commission, has been named secretary of what will probably be a low-profile agency.

Rocard has written to Alexandre Leontieff, president of French Polynesia's territorial government and Flosse's former right-hand man, asking him to organise a study of the evolution of protection for fisheries resources in the South Pacific. The assignment, observers say, makes Leontieff France's roving ambassador for economic, scientific and cultural exchanges in the region. The *Tahiti Sun Press* reports Leontieff will be expected to monitor fisheries decisions made in the region — including French territories — and the decisions of international organisations. He will be assisted by French diplomats and officials in the region and in Paris. Rocard has also asked Leontieff to organise co-operation between national and territorial research organisations in the South Pacific.

It is an irony that while the so-called Matignon peace accord appears to offer some hope for New Caledonia, politics in Tahiti are becoming increasingly fragile with Leontieff struggling to hold together his coalition government. Three of his cabinet ministers recently resigned to ensure he would have a majority in the budget debate. Deputy President Georges Kelly, Social Affairs Minister Huguette Hong Kiou and Labour and Employment Minister Napoleon Spitz stepped down from the 10-strong cabinet so they could resume their places in the 41-seat Territorial Assembly before the debate began. Leontieff is threatened by the recent formation of a centre group of six dissident politicians led by businessman Quito Braun-Ortega. Though Braun-Ortega was once Flosse's bitter foe, it is possible the group will join forces with the Flosse Opposition.

One week before the November 1988 referendum on French policy on New Caledonia, a public opinion poll produced some interesting statistics on

attitudes to modern French colonialism. The IPSOS Institute asked a representative sample of the French population "do you accept or reject the idea that the French overseas territories and departments should be granted independence within the next decade?" The results, published in the news magazine *Le Point*, showed a majority supporting independence for all territories — French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Reunion, St Pierre and Miquelon, and Wallis and Futuna. Guadeloupe drew the largest vote for independence (48 per cent for, 35 per cent against), and the figures were similar for New Caledonia and French Polynesia. In the wake of this majority popular response Pacific-based observers now ask why France does not give independence without delay to her last Pacific colonies.

In Tahiti, which to some extent shares similar colonial problems to New Caledonia, local political leaders were even more concerned than those in France over the ambiguity of the Matignon accord ballot. Voters were not being asked to approve a direct question such as "are you for or against independence for the Kanaks?" Instead they were being asked to endorse Rocard's vague peace plan that would eventually lead to still another referendum on self-determination in 1998 — a ballot the opposition Gaullist Rally for the Republic has already pledged to scuttle if and when it returns to power.

But most of Tahiti's nine major political parties and the influential Evangelical and Catholic churches eventually endorsed a Yes vote. They argued that Rocard had at least temporarily introduced peace to New Caledonia following the bloodbath on Ouvéa during the May presidential elections. At least 6000 Tahitians live in the territory, most supporting French rule because they fear being repatriated after independence.

Pro-independence leader Oscar Temaru's Tavini Huiraatira party was the only group to support the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS). Flosse's Tahoeeraa called for an abstention in the vote, claiming Rocard also had secret plans to make Tahiti independent. But Polynesian voters gave the Rocard plan a slightly higher endorsement (82 per cent) than voters in metropolitan France. □



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THE REGION

Cautious approval for PNG economy

Westpac finds abundant promise but advises careful management of the PNG economy. By Robin Bromby

RECENT MINERAL discoveries in Papua New Guinea show the country has abundant economic potential but that national and provincial Governments must take great care in their management of the economy. This was the cautious prognosis from Westpac Bank PNG Ltd, published in its 1988 annual report. But the responsibility for realising this potential does not fall only on governments, the report said. The private sector also must make significant contributions.

Westpac PNG recorded an after tax profit of K4.400 million, up 14 per cent in the previous year. The return on shareholders' funds was 21.3 per cent, compared with 16.8 per cent in

the previous year.

The bank found PNG's more favourable trade figures were due largely to a significant increase in gold and copper receipts. A trade surplus of K137 million was recorded in the first half of 1988, compared with a K3 million deficit for the same period in 1987. Cocoa prices sank to their lowest point in six years, and coffee receipts also dropped. It was mainly increased mining activity, the report says, that pushed imports to record levels.

But Westpac found fault with revised lending guidelines, announced by the Government early in 1988, which required commercial banks to focus on wholly or predominantly



Westpac regional head John Stone: Papua New Guinea has 'abundant economic potential'.

PNG-owned enterprises and to give high priority to housing and agriculture, saying this type of government regulation overrides market forces and can create more adverse than favourable consequences.

Inflation in PNG fell from 5.3 per cent in 1986 to 3 per cent in 1987, but Westpac expressed increasing concern about the accuracy and composition of the country's statistical database. The report warns that meaningful economic analysis will become increasingly difficult unless adequate resources are allocated to upgrade that data base.

Westpac also advises caution on recent gold discoveries. The report notes that feasibility studies are still being carried out on the Lihir and Porgera fields, and that production on the highly promising discovery at the Iagifu field in the Southern Highlands is unlikely to begin for several years. The bank also warns of "mountainous and swampy terrain, high rainfall, earthquakes and lack of infrastructure" all of which will contribute to the high cost and likely slow pace of mineral exploration and mine development.

Westpac PNG's performance over the year was influenced by a firm monetary policy that focused on restraint in the growth of private sector credit. At the beginning of 1988, the Bank of Papua New Guinea introduced a limit on kina advances to an upper level of seven per cent (when the real rate of inflation was possibly running at a similar level) and this prevented any of the trading banks operating in PNG realising significant increases in their market share. □

NEW ZEALAND

Health units win reprieve

David Robie reports on efforts to keep Auckland's Maori-run health clinics in operation.

THE CONTROVERSIAL health clinics run by Maori nationalists at a major New Zealand psychiatric hospital won a High Court reprieve last month, four days before they were due to be shut down.

The Whare Paia ('place of sanctuary') and the Whare Hui ('meeting place') and Kohanga Reo ('language nest') at Auckland's Carrington Hospital have been the target of a political tug-of-war for two years (see *PIM*, December).

A judge gave an interim order preventing any action to close the units or dismiss the 41 staff pending a full judicial hearing, expected to go before the High Court next month. The new Auckland Area Health Board defended the decision to close the units, saying it would fight to have the court injunction lifted. Not surprisingly, Maori activist Titewhai Harawira hailed the court ruling as a "victory for all Maoridom". Harawira has been suspended as co-ordinator of the Whare Paia unit pending a court hearing of charges against her and four other staff of assaulting a patient.

The interim judgment cited several factors. Staff members at the Maori health units were not allowed to see or comment on a controversial report by the former Race Relations Conciliator, Hiwi Tauroa, which prompted the medical authorities to order the closures; and were not allowed to defend themselves at the Auckland Hospital Board hearing that ordered the shutdown. The closure date, December 5, actually fell after the Hospital Board ceased to exist and was replaced by an area health board as part of a Government restructuring of statutory health authorities.

Meanwhile, Harawira and other Maori involved with the health units have threatened to sue Tauroa for defamation. Tauroa was commissioned to carry out an inquiry into Whare Paia following a wave of alleged assaults, threats and accusations of misuse of public funds. Citing what he called the "mechanics of manipulation" for personal and ideological gain, Tauroa warned that, in future, recognised Maori leaders would need to challenge "false Maori views". □

HAWAII

'United front' on ethnic rights

Native Hawaiians gather to formulate civil rights policy. By Ed Rampell

THE DECOLONISATION process that began with Western Samoa's independence in 1962 has spread throughout the Pacific, and has now reached even Hawaii. Hawaii — today the United States' 50th state — was an independent Polynesian kingdom until 1893; five years later it was 'officially' annexed by the USA and in the years since then, Hawaiians have become a disadvantaged minority in their own land. Ninety years later, however, they are again speaking out on the issue of self-determination.

On December 4 and 5 last year, six Hawaiian groups participated in a Hawaiian Sovereignty Conference held at the State Legislature building, Hawaii's seat of political power. More than 200 indigenous panelists and participants discussed programs for Hawaiian self-determination in an event sponsored by the University of Hawaii's centre for Hawaiian Studies. A group calling itself Ka Lahui Hawaii — the Sovereign Hawaiian Nation — proposed the creation of a 'nation within a nation'. According to Ka Lahui Kia Aina (governor) Mililani Trask (see *Pacific Islands Monthly*, November and December 1988), this would give Hawaiians the same rights and legal status as American Indians, who live on reservation lands under tribal systems. Many Indian tribes are exempt from numerous US federal laws and can make rules of their own native American lands, enjoying a unique 'government to government' relationship with Washington.

While Ka Lahui advocates a democratic representative form of government to guarantee self-determination, other conference participants disagree. Two islander groups, Ohana O Hawaii and the Council of Hawaiian Organisations, call for the restoration of deposed royalty and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy (under which Hawaii was ruled throughout most of the 19th century).

The United Nations-linked Institute for the Advancement of Hawaiian Affairs advocates outright independence, while a fourth separatist group, Na O Iwi O Hawaii, favours setting aside two or three of the archipelago's islands for the exclusive use of Hawaiians. But most conference participants point out that independence from the United States is unrealistic — that the US would do anything to prevent secession.

Fifteen groups in all were invited to

take part in the conference, based on expressions of their stand on the sovereignty issue within the past year. Most — such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a state agency — declined to send a representative. Others, such as the Hou Hawaiians — an ancestral indigenous extended family — were not invited on the grounds that organisers were not aware if the Hou had a position on sovereignty.

However, according to Hou elder counsel Kamuela Price, the tribal group does have a stand on sovereignty that is strongly reflected in the Hou's legal and legislative work on behalf of the native Hawaiians. "We've always believed that we already have sovereignty," asserts Price. "It is implicit in Washington's inclusion of Hawaiians in the Native American Religious Freedom Act."

Price believes that full Hawaiian sovereignty can be realised through the legislative and legal framework of the American democratic process: the

Hou is currently in federal court seeking access to up to 486,000 hectares of land set aside to benefit Hawaiians in the Statehood Admissions Act.

The various Hawaiian groups disagree on what form sovereignty should take; some believe self-determination should be only for those with 50 per cent or more Hawaiian blood, while others feel anybody with any Hawaiian blood should be entitled to play a role in the process. However, all stress the importance of the return of land to the mainly landless Hawaiians as essential, and concur that islanders need greater political empowerment and that self-determination is the way to achieve it.

Until now the Hawaiian movement has been divided and without a unifying leadership. The Hawaiian Sovereignty Conference may have provided a significant step forward in creating the united front needed to continue Hawaii's indigenous political and land rights struggles. □



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GENERAL INFORMATION

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Landowners resort to sabotage in Panguna

Bougainville landowners force the shutdown of PNG's largest revenue earner as they turn to violence in their quest for compensation. by Wally Hiambohn

IN APRIL last year, when landowners of Papua New Guinea's giant copper mine on Bougainville Island lodged a K10 billion compensation claim for their land (or what was left of it), no-one took them seriously.

Understandably so; it was thought the claim was ludicrously far-fetched and that no-one in the world — much less in PNG — had that kind of money. So the matter was left to die a natural death. No-one expected the landowners, generally known as quiet and easygoing, to press on with their claim to the extent of violence.

Almost all negotiating parties were therefore unprepared when the threatened violence did erupt at the end of November. Bougainville Copper Limited (BCL) and the National Government were left stunned as a handful of landowners, led by former BCL surveyor Francis Ona, set about burning buildings and destroying vital communications and electricity supply installations.

Equipped with a massive quantity of explosives and walkie-talkies thought to have been stolen from BCL, the

landowners became guerilla fighters and, operating from thick forests, set about crippling PNG's largest revenue earner. For a fortnight they continued sporadic attacks on mine property, leaving no clue to their whereabouts. A police squad of 200 men specifically trained to quell trouble and led by Police Commissioner Paul Tohian left to chase without success the saboteurs, who were described as "terrorists" and "Rambo-style rebels". And up to the end of December last year, the police were still searching in vain for the saboteurs.

The troubles began on November 22 when a group of armed men held up security guards at BCL's explosives magazine and stole 228 items of explosives, including detonators and fuses. Before the company or the Government could act they struck on November 24, burning an administrative block, a helicopter and its hangar, and a guest house.

The attacks continued on November 26 when an electric shovel used for digging ore was damaged and attempts were also made to destroy

other installations at the Panguna mine site. The total cost of the saboteurs' actions was estimated at K700,000.

While police reinforcements were called in from Rabaul, BCL chairman Don Carruthers flew to Port Moresby to assess the situation and to hold urgent talks with Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu. Mr Carruthers later issued a statement that promised CRA, the majority shareholder in BCL, would "seriously reconsider" its future investments in the country; CRA is the major developer of an alluvial gold deposit at Mt Kare in the Highlands and Hidden Valley in Morobe Province. Carruthers said the weekend "acts of terrorism" at Panguna were the result of "unrealistic expectations".

"There could not be anything more damaging to PNG's reputation as a place to invest than an attack on Bougainville Copper, which has been operating here for many years and always tried to do the right thing," Mr Carruthers' statement read. "Raising money for future investments in any sector would be almost impossible if international backers thought explosives might be used on equipment or innocent people."

The impact of a CRA withdrawal from exploration and gold mining would be felt severely in PNG. The company spends K10 million a year in exploration, had planned to invest K200 million this year to develop Hidden Valley and was reinvesting K250 million a year from 1988 to 1990 to extend the Panguna mine's lifetime.

Mr Namaliu reacted to the statement with resentment, describing it as a "regrettable over-reaction". He called for a "mature and considered response", saying "problems at the mine site are hardly confined to PNG, as CRA would well know."

"I seem to recall numerous Australian mining companies having difficulties with local tribal landowners, environmental groups and even state and national governments. We want to maintain harmony with the mining industry, but we must do so on a basis of mutual co-operation and an understanding of important local problems such as land tenure," the Prime Minister said.



Flashback to 1975, when police and paramilitary forces were called in to quell riots at Panguna: the recent outbreak saw an even greater response.



Bougainville Copper's Panguna operation: focus of a multi-billion kina mining boom — and festering resentment over compensation.

The same day Father John Momis, a leading figure in the renegotiation of the BCL agreement, urged that it was time landowners who had been ignored for too long were taken seriously. He called for a tripartite agreement in which the Government, the company and the landowners all played an active role in the venture.

The troubles were far from over. On December 1 another magazine store belonging to the Bougainville Development Corporation's Arawa limestone quarry was broken into and a large quantity of explosives stolen. The theft raised fears that parts needed to complete a major act of sabotage had now been taken and, the following night, a power transmission tower was blown completely off its base and sent crashing down a cliff.

The blast plunged the Panguna mine into total darkness and its huge machines, including the ore crushers, conveyor and concentrator, all ground to a halt.

Mine workers laboured around the clock to set up a temporary pole to restore power on Saturday; but the mine by then was virtually under siege. A repeater station linking the mine to the outside world was burned to the ground, and on Sunday a second power transmission tower was blown up, causing a second blackout at the mine and forcing a complete shutdown of operations for six days.

Opposition leader Paias Wingti reacted predictably, putting the blame

on Mr Namaliu and his Government for "complacency" in handling the crisis and saving the Government's disregard for Mr Carruthers' concern about the situation and its failure to deal firmly with the landowners had led to the escalation of the violence. Mr Wingti also claimed Father Momis has "implanted false expectations" in the minds of the Panguna landowners.

Mr Namaliu appointed a ministerial committee, led by his deputy Akoka Doi, and ordered it to Bougainville to meet landowners, the company and the provincial government and settle the matter. Police Commissioner Tohian, on arrival at Panguna, ordered his men to shoot and kill saboteurs if necessary, while PNG Defence Force soldiers were mobilised to be deployed if the crisis deepened.

The Doi delegation, though meeting with company officials and provincial government representatives, failed for a week to bring Ona and his men to the negotiating table: he refused point-blank to come out of hiding unless police were withdrawn.

In the meantime, on December 7 saboteurs bombed a BCL maintenance building in Arawa, causing an estimated K350,000 damage.

Patience was running out and the deployment of soldiers seemed inevitable: in Port Moresby PM Namaliu warned the saboteurs "our patience is not unlimited" and the company, despite restoring power to the mine, refused to continue production, fearing for the safety of its workers. The Government delegation finally met Ona and his men on December 8 and received a guarantee of peace from the

landowners. The delegation left for Port Moresby with high hopes of a settlement, but BCL continued to refuse to open the mine with a large quantity of explosives still at large.

In Port Moresby the Government considered declaring a curfew in the mine area and its immediate locality, but gave the saboteurs until 5pm on December 12 to hand over the missing explosives or come under severe restrictions on freedom of movement.

The saboteurs responded and surrendered a quantity of explosives before the deadline.

A personal assurance from Mr Namaliu saw Panguna return to production on December 11. Five days later, the Government appointed a second team, again headed by Mr Doi, to take part in the renegotiation of the Bougainville Copper Agreement. Carruthers and the Prime Minister also met again in Port Moresby to make peace — a meeting Carruthers called "amicable and constructive".

At that meeting Mr Carruthers gave his assurances that the company would work out the problems affecting mine operations and would co-operate in reviewing the agreement. He also said that despite its problems, BCL was looking forward to an "excellent year".

In 1964, an Australian colonial administrator went to Panguna, on Bougainville Island, to negotiate acquisition of the copper-rich land. In one sentence he told the landowners, "You get nothing", climbed back into his helicopter and left.

Now, 24 years later, the legacy of that attitude is at last being felt, both in Australia and PNG. Deprived of



BCL mines around 200,000 tonnes of material per day, using electric shovels. The centre of the dispute is what happens to the 99.52 per cent of rock that does not contain valuable minerals.

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their land, their river, their hunting grounds and other resources and left with only a consolation prize of compensation and royalties. Panguna landowners justify their sabotage by saying they have suffered long enough and that they are determined to pursue their demands which, if not met, must result in the closure of the mine.

The wealth they had anticipated from the mine being established on their land has still not eventuated, yet they are paying dearly: they fear they will be left with no more than a giant hole in a valley that once provided excellent hunting and garden sites, and a heavily polluted river. Take a trip down the Jaba River, where millions of tonnes of waste is dumped to become floating filth and it is not difficult to appreciate their sentiments.

"My people have become nomadic," says Perpetua Serero, the leader of the matrilineal landowners. "We don't grow healthy crops any more, our traditional customs and values have been disrupted and we have become mere spectators as our earth is being dug up, taken away and sold for millions.

"Our land was taken away from us by force: we were blind then, but we have finally grown to understand what's going on."

The Bougainville Copper Agreement was signed in June 1967, and renegotiated in November 1974 to accommodate a better deal for PNG. Now BCL is owned 53 per cent by CRA Ltd of Australia and 19 per cent by the PNG Government, while the remaining 27.3 per cent of share capital is held by public shareholders, all foreign. The PNG Government, while holding only 19 per cent of the shares has, apart from dividends, benefited immensely from royalties and taxes. In fact, the Government's earnings from these revenues amount to nearly K1 billion over the past 16 years. The company in that period has produced concentrates containing 2.8 million tonnes of copper, 285 tonnes of gold and 715 tonnes of silver, with a total value of K4.4 billion, representing approximately 44 per cent of the country's total exports over the same period.

The mine's contribution to the national purse amounts to 17 per cent of internally generated Government revenue. But Panguna's landowners within that same period received K17 million in all forms of compensation, royalties and social services.

The company believes strongly that it has paid its dues. According to managing director Bob Cornelius, it has met all compensation requirements and has been in constant liaison with the local people through its public affairs division, headed by Bougainvilian Joe Auna. "We do not think it's fair to think we have ignored the peo-

ple," he said. "I do not know the answer to the new violence: my only conclusion is that expectations have been built up."

Mr Cornelius is not free to make decisions to accommodate the people's demands, even if he wanted to. He is bound by the Bougainville Copper Agreement, which can only be changed in a review due every seven years. One such review was due in 1988 and the events of November and December certainly forced the company and the Government to act.

One strong belief held by observers is that the PNG Government should relinquish some of the benefits it has been accepting on a central basis to the Panguna landowners.

Already provincial governments and landowners are pressing vigorously to play prominent roles in mining activities. They want increased compensation and royalty payments in what is expected to be a multi-billion kina mining boom.

In fact, proposals from a recent provincial premier's conference are now before the National Government seeking 25 to 30 per cent of its tax revenues for the province, plus agreement that both landowners and provincial governments be equal partners in negotiations over development and that local people and businesses be considered first in spin-off commercial developments.

The Wingti Government supported the proposals, but Mr Namaliu has kept quiet about them. However, in a policy statement to Parliament as Opposition leader only two days before being elected Prime Minister, he said that a government led by him would make landowners shareholders in resources exploitation instead of merely recipients of royalties. Premiers also addressed a rather complex constitutional question of land and property ownership, referring it to the Justice Department to seek a Supreme Court interpretation.

The Constitution basically states that everything on the ground belongs to the people and that everything beneath the ground belongs to the State. The Namaliu Government is considering the establishment of a special commission to address the issue, the indications so far are that it is keen to change this aspect of the law.

Deputy PM Doi was recently quoted as describing the law as "nonsense and useless", and prominent national lawyer Peter Donigi, another proponent of change, contends that state ownership of the country's national resources is unconstitutional.

He has put forward a 56-page submission titled *The State and Property Rights in Papua New Guinea*, in which he says the wording of the particular provision in the Constitution was



After crushing and extraction, waste materials are dumped on what has become a mountain of tailings. The Jaba River has been transformed into a 'sewer' of silt from the tailings and toxic chemicals from extraction operations, destroying virtually all river life.

formulated by foreigners with vested interests — they wanted the land tenure system in PNG to be compatible with that in Australia, Britain and other Commonwealth countries.

Another leading Papua New Guinean, former politician Tony Siaguru, recently summed up the constitutional situation as a "symptom of a much wider problem confronting every part of our country where significant mining is possible. I am bound to say there is no easy solution," Mr Siaguru said. "Indeed, even the wisdom of Solomon would be tested to the extreme in solving it."

If the country were to develop its vast resources, Mr Siaguru said, a climate of harmony must be created in

which landowners, governments and mining companies can live in harmony. "The alternative is chaos and a dangerous slide toward total anarchy," he warned.

"Just as all the good players are not in the one football team, no one side in this issue has all right and wisdom on its own; the rights of landowners, including the protection of their environment, must not be ignored.

"Equally, miners must be able to proceed without the wilful destruction of costly key facilities."

The very thing Mr Siaguru warned of has happened in Bougainville; and none of the parties involved can countenance a repetition of that destructive fortnight. □

FIJI

A century of service

The Fiji School of Medicine faces an uncertain future as it celebrates 100 years of service and achievements. By Professor Harry Lander

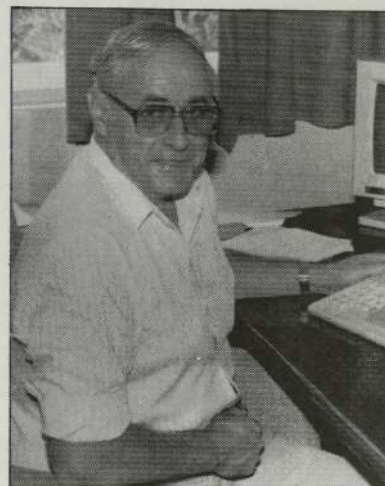
THE FIJI School of Medicine in Suva is justifiably proud of its record of service and achievement to the South Pacific. Its alumni have made notable contributions to health services and in the political arena and public service. Several have become leaders of considerable stature, including Fiji Prime Ministers Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara — who spent two years at the school — and Doctor Timoci Bavadra. Other alumni include Tuvalu's Prime Minister, Doctor Tomasi Puapua, the vice-president of the Federated States of Micronesia, Doctor Hiroshi Ismael, the former Speaker of the House in Papua New Guinea, Doctor John Kiri, and the deputy Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Doctor Terepai Moate.

The school grew out of a program to teach natives basic medical skills launched by Doctor (later Sir) William MacGregor, the colony's Chief Medical Officer during the 1870s. The paramount chief of the day, Ratu Seru Cakobau, had returned with his en-

tourage from a visit to Sydney with many of the party incubating measles. The disease was spread through the country by those who had gathered to welcome the returning chief, and Fiji's immunologically virgin people of the islands were devastated by a virulent epidemic that killed at least 40,000 — almost a third of the indigenous population — in just three months.

Subsequent epidemics of dysentery and respiratory diseases killed many more and caused a severe labour shortage. The practice of 'blackbirding' — luring natives from neighbouring Melanesian islands to work the cane-fields and coconut plantations — failed to ease the shortage and a system of indentured Indian labour was introduced. But, tragically, the first boatload of Indian workers to arrive in 1879 brought cholera and smallpox. Doctor MacGregor quarantined all on board and trained three young Fijian men as 'vaccinators' to go into the country and inoculate communities most at risk.

The Colonial Office refused, on grounds of cost, MacGregor's requests for additional medical assistance just as the vaccinators returned from outlying communities with alarming



Professor Harry Lander.

accounts of disease and lack of hygiene. He eventually won funding for a scheme to train Fijians in Western medicine and eight young men began a three-year course in 1885. The program became known as the Suva Medical School, and its first graduates were licensed to practise in 1888: they succeeded in introducing

Medical students leave a class in the 1928 Central Medical School Building in Suva's CWM Hospital.





Fiji Medical School graduates today (above) and the first graduating class of 1888 (right) with lecturers.

basic public health concepts and did much to improve the health of island peoples but they were not allowed to examine women and children — a situation that was not to change for another 50 years.

The success of the scheme attracted students from adjacent islands and, with the particular support of Queen Salote of Tonga, a Rockefeller Foundation grant was obtained and The Central Medical School, as it became known, acquired new buildings in the grounds of Suva's Colonial Hospital in 1928. It trained practitioners from virtually every major island group but the French possessions, began teaching dentistry in 1945 and soon established courses in a range of ancillary medical and scientific skills.

The 1950s and 1960s saw expansion of the school's facilities and new buildings funded by the British Government and charitable organisations. In 1961 the institution's name was changed (amid great debate) to the Fiji School of Medicine. It was claimed the move was yet another example of Fijian nationalisation of a regional institution; but regional students continue to account for up to 45 per cent of the student body. By the early 1950s the course had been extended from its original three years to a five-year diploma program. By 1984, 789 medical practitioners and 148 dentists had graduated from the school.

The University of the South Pacific



(USP) has repeatedly been urged since its establishment in 1968 to take over medical training, but it was only in 1981, after an agreement was reached between the Government and USP, that the Government took over responsibility for staffing and maintenance; USP has responsibility for maintaining academic standards and awards external degrees for what is now a six-year course.

Only a handful of determined people created the school; a paucity of support that caused so many of its problems in the past and now threatens its future. The Fiji Government has done a great deal in recent years to increase staff levels and to improve accommodation and facilities, but much still remains to be done.

The school has a complex system of appointments and conditions of service that makes staff difficult to attract ... and retain. Continuity of teaching and courses is threatened and, with only two tutors in each of the major disciplines, no research or private study is possible.

It has long been suggested that USP incorporate the school as a separate and distinct School of Medicine; no less than ten major reports since 1966 have recommended the move and, early in 1985, USP was approached formally on the by-now thorny question. The University replied it would take over the school only if a medical manpower study showed the needs of the region were best served by continuation of the degree program in



Above: FSM Council members Dr Neil Sharma, Mrs Esther Williams, Dr Sefanaia Tabua and Dr Peni Rika. Right: Dr Tomu Uluilakeba, a 1934 graduate, still works in the CWM Hospital's eye department.

Fiji. The survey is of limited value for projecting future needs (who would have predicted, for example, the exodus of 40 per cent of Fiji's doctors since March 1987?) and its results could be manipulated to support pre-conceived plans of action. There can be no doubt Pacific nations will continue to require doctors trained in the region, but to suggest these doctors' study in neighbouring metropolitan nations is absurd.

The Fiji Government has emphasised it will maintain its present financial support for medical training if USP takes over the school. A 1986 audit showed an operating cost of \$F1.12 million for its medical course, of which the Government provided \$0.78 million. USP has said it will require \$2.75 million to operate a suitably upgraded program each year. The \$2 million shortfall is peanuts in today's Pacific.

The failure to merge is a result of complex political considerations. The Government is committed to continue training doctors and ancillary personnel in Fiji and the school is by definition one that serves the needs of Fiji and the region. As the Government foots most of the bill, it has behaved in the past as if the school owes little to its regional neighbours, so it is hardly surprising that the Government's request for USP to incorporate the school is viewed with suspicion by those neighbouring nations who view the move as an additional financial burden to be imposed on them.



A co-ordinated move by interested donors could raise the additional funds if all the nations involved made a combined request.

The South Pacific's various ministers and directors of health and education must forget past differences and begin to co-operate, perhaps under the auspices of the World Health Organisation, which has already taken a lead in

this matter. They must work toward a sensible long-term solution to the problems of medical education in the region, recognising that such a step will be of benefit to all. □

Harry Lander is a former head of the Fiji School of Medicine, and is now Visiting Professor of International Health at the University of Hawaii.

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VANUATU

Lini quashes coup attempt

Vanuatu's latest power struggle ends with the dismissal of the country's first president and the arrest of several MPs. by David Robie

WITH last month's abortive attempt to become the nation's power-broker, observers believe Vanuatu president Ati George Sokomanu has at last exposed his political ambitions by naming rebel politician Barak Sope as caretaker Prime Minister. Within hours of Sope and his interim administration being sworn in on December 18, paramilitary police arrested Sope, and Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini, was once more firmly in control.

The next day, the Supreme Court upheld the legality of the elected Lini Government and ruled that the President had acted unconstitutionally in attempting to dissolve Parliament on December 16. Ruling on a petition from the Parliamentary speaker, Chief Justice Frederick Cooke issued an injunction banning the President from trying to entrench his rebel 'government'. Both Australia and New Zealand declared their support for the Lini administration.

Later that day, Sokomanu publicly admitted he had acted against the Constitution. Defending his move, he declared that he was right to appoint an interim government "although it was against the Constitution", and to push for a new general election. "Why should I wait for the advice of the [Lini] government when I know that things are not going well?" he asked. The President added that he expected to be sacked from office.

Two days later, on December 20, Parliament actually moved to dismiss Sokomanu, accusing him of gross misconduct. The parliamentary resolution invoked the republic's Electoral College for a review of the crisis two weeks later and called for the dismissal of the President for attempted treason. The Electoral College comprises the 46 members of Parliament and the 11 presidents of local government councils.

Sokomanu is related to Sope, and is a former deputy prime minister in the Lini Government. He has been accused in Vanuatu of "betraying" the impartiality of his office as ceremonial head of state ever since the year-long power struggle between Lini and Sope erupted in public. In a surprise speech at the opening of Parliament following



Father Walter Lini — another crisis averted.

the controversial by-elections for 18 seats, Sokomanu tried to dissolve the chamber and call an election for February. He warned that because of the boycott of the by-elections by the opposition Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) and Sope's Melanesian Progressive Pati, a one-party state would

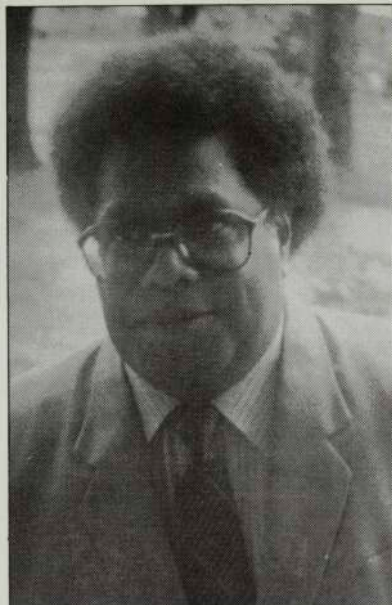
emerge if events continued along the same path. "This is not, in my opinion, democracy at all and this must be obvious to any reasonable person looking at events as they are unfolding," Sokomanu said. "We have a Constitution which, I believe is being flouted in every respect, and the actions of

everybody involved in the politically turbulent past six months or so, irrespective of the technicalities involved, are a sad legacy to our intentions when we founded our republic."

Though his words sounded noble, critics cited as evidence of political bias the speed with which he appointed his protegee, Barak Sope, as "Prime Minister". Sope had been sacked from Cabinet and ousted by the ruling Vanua'aku Pati. The Lini Cabinet regarded him as the instigator of anti-Government rioting last May which caused the death of one man and \$A2 million dollars damage in the capital.

After making his address, Sokomanu picked up his papers and stormed out of Parliament. But less than half an hour later Parliament was reconvened for a speech by the Prime Minister. Lini condemned the President, described him as a "disgrace and a political fraud" and called on him to resign. Branding the move a "political coup", Lini added that the attempted dissolution had no effect.

Guarded by armed paramilitary Vanuatu Mobile Force troopers, MPs gathered in the chamber next day in defiance of the President for the start of the Budget session. Under the Constitution, Parliament can only be dissolved by the President after a resolution by a two-thirds majority of MPs



Sope — power bid ends in court.

or on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.

As tension mounted, the President was barred at gunpoint from making a broadcast on government-controlled Radio Vanuatu and the security forces set up roadblocks around the capital.

A 22-year-old Australian tourist was wounded after the car in which he was travelling failed to stop at a roadblock outside Port Vila.

A "hit-list" was reportedly circulated by close supporters of Sope naming leading members of the Lini Cabinet and senior civil servants as revenge targets. Written in Bislama and signed 'Mr Black Dog', the list warned that a man had already been 'martyred' for land rights and that if anybody else died 'one of you will either die or will disappear without trace'.

Politicians and civil servants named on the list were Home Affairs and Police Minister Iolu Abil, Lands Minister William Mahit, Finance Minister Sela Molisa and Lini's private secretary and spokesman Joe Natuman. Also included were Prime Minister's Office deputy secretary Grace Molisa, deputy Foreign Affairs secretary Raymond Malapa and Police Special Branch Chief Superintendent Waimini Perei. Vietnamese businessmen named included the owner of Dovair, Dinh Van Than, a major financial supporter of the Vanua'aku Pati and one of Lini's closest associates, and Rene Ah Pow, owner of the Au Bon Marche supermarket. Luan Van Dinh was said to have "already been dealt with" as an example to the other 16 people named on the list. Dinh's photo-

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graphic shop was wrecked by protesters during the anti-government rioting last May and, in November, he was beaten up by a gang of Sope's supporters. He was flown to Noumea for surgery with a badly smashed jaw.

At least two of Sope's colleagues, David Trene and Albert Sanday, were reportedly arrested in connection with the list, along with 16 people arrested in the purge. Sope, putative deputy Prime Minister Maxime Carlot and three other ministers of the short-lived interim government were charged with sedition — which carries a three-year jail term — and taking unlawful oaths. They were remanded until January 4 when a Port Vila court, packed with their supporters, committed them to stand trial. Sokomanu also appeared on January 4 to answer a charge of inciting mutiny; if convicted he could face a maximum life sentence. All six were due to stand trial on January 13 in Port Vila.

Even as Sokomanu faced the court, the Electoral College met to decide whether he should be dismissed from the presidency. But with several council heads stranded by Cyclone Delilah the College failed to attain a quorum and resolved to reconvene on January 10 when Sokomanu was dismissed.

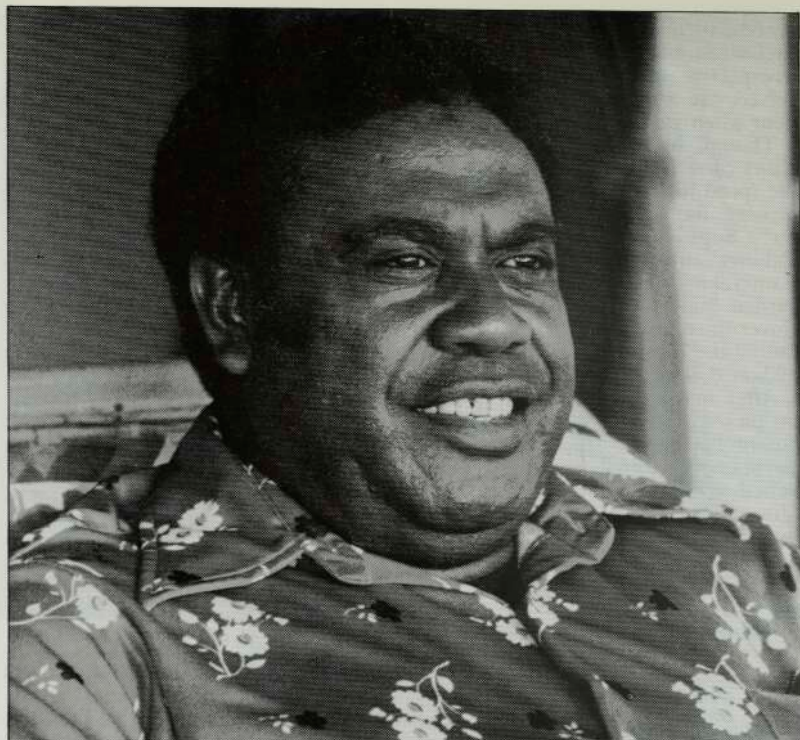
When Sokomanu called in late November for the by-elections to be scrapped and a fresh poll held, Prime Minister Lini prevented the plea being broadcast on Radio Vanuatu and accused the President of meddling in political affairs; then he went further, claiming Sokomanu was trying to use his office to back Sope's bid to overthrow the Lini Government.

Supporters of Sope have in turn accused the PM of trying to create a dictatorship or a one-party state. In response, Lini and his supporters counter that Sope has been trying to subvert Vanuatu's democratic process through coercion, opportunism and increasing corruption.

Sope was once one of the most powerful ideologues of the Vanua'aku Pati and its secretary-general for 14 years. He is an ardent admirer of Fiji's Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, and, on a visit to Suva in October, joined Rabuka in a bitter attack on Australian (and, by implication, New Zealand) diplomacy in the Pacific.

Following a series of constitutional law challenges to the Lini administration, Sope's New Zealand-born lawyer, Peter Coombe, was given one month to leave the country. Though he petitioned Lini to revoke the order, the Prime Minister refused to reconsider and Coombe was forced to leave the country three days after the attempted dissolution of Parliament.

Lini did not reveal the reason for the expulsion, but Government sources claimed Coombe — along with



George Sokomanu — Vanuatu's first president, sacked after the failed 'coup'.

an American and a West Papuan both declared *pesona non grata* — had been interfering in the internal politics of Vanuatu. Coombe denied the allegation, claiming an interest "purely in offering legal advice and service".

Coombe had given legal representation to about 40 of the 120 people arrested during the post-riot purge in Port Vila — including two brothers of Barak Sope who were last month jailed with sentences ranging from 11 to 14 months. Three others also charged were given suspended sentences, and all had been arrested for rioting and causing malicious damage.

Six years ago, Coombe's former wife Christine was expelled from Vanuatu after publishing an anti-government newspaper, *The Voice of Vanuatu*. The republic's only other paper is the government organ *Vanuatu Weekly*.

Coombe failed in July to win three constitutional challenges on behalf of Sope and his renegade MPs, the so called Gang of Five, and the 18 opposition UMP members who had been expelled from Parliament. But he later won a Court of Appeal judgment. Shortly after Sope and his four Melanesian Progressive Pati MPs — William Edgell, Charles Godden, Anatole Lingamat and Jimmy Simon — were reinstated in Parliament they resigned, declaring they had no confidence in Speaker Onneyn Tahi. Sope claimed in a statement that Tahi had "disgraced" the office of Speaker, while Tahi had repeatedly warned the

five they would have problems retaining their Parliamentary seats for the Budget session because they had missed three consecutive sitting days in late July 1988.

The resignations coincided with the closure of nominations for the by-elections for the 18 vacant UMP seats. The move meant Sope's Melanesian Progressives — who would have formed a token Opposition had they remained in the chamber — joined Opposition leader Maxime Carlot's boycott of the elections to honour their deal. The Vanua'aku Pati, however, was not the only contender. The Tan Union and Nagriamel, the Santo-based party which attempted secession at independence in 1980, as well as a handful of independents also contested the by-elections.

Nine of the vacant seats were filled unopposed — six to the Vanua'aku Pati and three to the Tan Union. This meant the VP already had a 29 seat majority [one seat for Santo Rural remained vacant because there were only three nominations for the electorate's four seats]. The VP now has 35 seats, Tan Union five, while the Santo seat and five Melanesian Progressive seats remained vacant.

In last year's general election, Sope won his seat by just three votes. At the time, he challenged Lini for the Prime Ministership, attacking the leader's ill health after he had become partially paralysed as a result of a stroke 10 months earlier. □

THE REGION

Teachers Fight Sex Taboos

Population explosion, a jump in teenage pregnancies and rising sex-related crimes are troubling South Pacific societies. By David Robie

SOcial restraints once essential to survival on small South Pacific islands, including customs that curbed population growth, have eroded rapidly over recent decades, and the consequences are beginning to alarm many of the region's leaders and educators.

The collapse of traditional customs, alienation between generations and a desire to sample the modern 'good life' as portrayed on television and in videos have in several countries fostered a youth culture with disturbing sexual trends.

Both the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands, at least, are headed for population explosions that will sorely tax their limited economic and social resources. Elsewhere in the region, particularly in Tahiti and on Ebeye Island in the Marshalls, the shadow of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is looming.

Sex is a touchy or taboo subject in many Pacific cultures; though some countries have programs in sexuality education, they are frequently too formal and ineffective.

Pacific educators focused on these problems and examined possible strategies at a seminar on family life education organised by the Suva-based UNESCO Pacific Office, in collaboration with the NZ Family Planning Association, in Auckland last month. Twenty officials and educators participated, representing the Cook Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

"Seminar isn't really the right word for it," said Family Planning Association education director Barbara Lusk. "We really got to the nub of the issues, approached them practically through workshops and experienced some of the methods at several Auckland secondary schools with many Pacific islanders."

"Teaching styles need to change in the Pacific. Rather than a formal teacher-up-front situation, learning is done with discussions, activities, games, role playing, videos and case studies. Rather than concentrating on the abstract ideas parents might be thinking of, the issues are approached more from where the kids are coming from — the sort of questions they are asking, such as, 'Am I normal? What

is happening to me? How will I know when I've reached puberty?'"

Seminar participants studied ways to improve sexuality programs in Pacific schools and other community venues, to share ideas and resources such as special Pacific videos in sex education, to talk to Pacific students at Auckland's Seddon High School about their experiences in sexuality education, and the planning of national programs and strategies.

"Many Pacific nations are faced with growing problems of teenage pregnancies, illegitimacy, sexually transmitted diseases and sex-related crimes," said Dr Allan Kondo, Suva-based regional adviser for population education in the Pacific. "It is vital that sexuality education is expanded more effectively among teenagers."

But that is easier said than done, when the subject is so sensitive even a New Zealand *Sunday Times* headline on a report about the seminar saying Pacific people had gathered to "talk sex" caused concern.

sexes. If you mix them . . . no, no!" Later, he was heard to defend rape as being the "natural sexual urge" of young men; several other men rejected the notion of rape within marriage.

Among countries that have well-advanced family life education programs is Fiji, which has been stirred into action by reports on alarming sexual behaviour among the young. Under the headline 'Teen Mothers Baby Shock', *The Fiji Times* reported that of 8093 births in Suva during 1984, 13 per cent of mothers were under the age of 19. Of the total births, 1617 babies were illegitimate.

Also, 65 per cent of the mothers suffering from STDs bore illegitimate children. "Recent disclosures about the problems of teenage pregnancies, illegitimacy, sexually transmitted diseases, juvenile delinquency and psychological problems have caused alarm in Fiji," says Kaminieli Tagica, the Education Ministry's family life education project co-ordinator. "This has stimulated the

"Sex education is part of a cultural taboo, a subject that cannot be talked about openly"

"Sex education is part of a cultural taboo — a fearsome subject that cannot be talked about openly," said Margaret Ratu, a senior curriculum officer of Papua New Guinea's Education Department. "Urban children miss out on cultural values that have disappeared with the modern lifestyle."

While most educators agreed on the need for more widespread and more useful sexuality education among teenagers, they got a negative response from Tonga's director of education, Paulo Bloomfield.

"Sex education in our view should never, never include being taught how to practise it," he said. "It is sacred, it is Godly — a matter between male and female. It should not be learned from books."

"It should be from the right teacher, not the wrong teacher," Bloomfield added, condemning an American educator who had taught sex education in the Tongan language and who had "fortunately" now left.

"There should be a father figure and a mother figure. Never mix the

introduction of family life education — including sexuality education — into the schools."

Fiji authorities have produced a documentary video called *Better Safe: A South Pacific Drama*, which tells the story of Jone, a fun-loving young man popular with teenage girls, and how he spreads STDs. Sponsored by the Family Planning Federation of Australia, the video also gives up-to-date information on AIDS.

Another video, a 45-minute program called *Talanoa* ('Telling Stories'), shows students talking about family planning, teenage sex, abortion and STDs. The videos are now being widely used in the Pacific. A pilot program expanding sex education in schools has now been adopted in all 141 schools in Fiji, and steps have been taken to introduce community counselling. "This word sex education sets bells ringing," says Bogden. "But the issues are deadly serious for the Pacific and it is important to reaffirm positive values where culture is breaking down." □

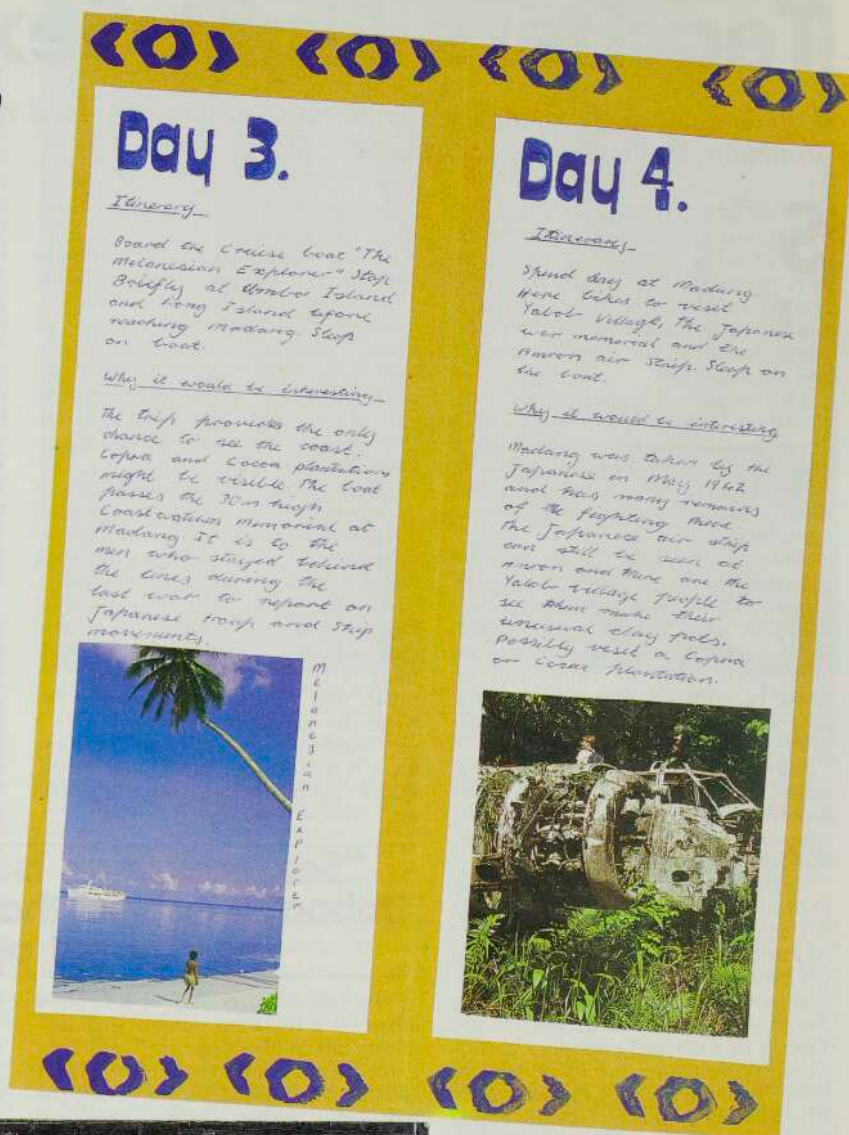
AUSTRALIA

Students win in PNG contest

AUSTRALIAN school children were quick to respond to a contest held by the PNG Government in 1988 to promote awareness of Papua New Guinea. This innovative promotion was announced by PNG's Sydney consulate and entries were sought from students in New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

Consulate information officer John Hunter said the competition had been devised to counter a lack of knowledge about PNG among young Australians. "It was designed to encourage Australian school children to find out more about Papua New Guinea," he said. "The questions in each division encouraged them to use their imaginations and to conduct some research on the country."

Entries were judged in three age groups, with juniors (11 and under)



Above: Colourful and informative, this tour itinerary wins 12-year-old Gillian Mitchell of Sydney a trip for two to PNG. Judges praised her unmatched creativity. Left: Artwork from senior division winner Shirley Higgins, 16, who examined PNG's role in the Pacific Region.



DAY 3

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DAY 4

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Above: Middle Division winner Federica Rossi's vivid itinerary. Left: A PNG villager as seen by junior winner Casey Mowett. Judges rated junior entries highly.



required to draw a PNG village; middle divisions entrants (12-15 years) were asked to devise an itinerary for a touring party to PNG; and seniors (16 and over) were asked for 1500 words on PNG's role in the southwest Pacific. Cash and book prizes were offered in each division, and the best overall en-

try was awarded a package trip to PNG for the winner and an adult companion.

Judging was made difficult by the overall high standard of entries. Jeff Harte, of the Geography Teachers' Association of New South Wales, supervised the judging and said the

junior entries in particular were of an excellent standard.

Twelve-year-old Gillian Mitchell of Gladesville, NSW, was declared overall winner for her colourful travel itinerary. Mr Harte said Gillian, who entered the middle division, had displayed a creativity unmatched even by more senior entrants.

Winners of the cash and book prizes were; Senior — Shirley Higgins, 16, of Thornlands, Qld; Middle — Federica Rossi, 15, of St Ives, NSW, Kellie Lethbridge, 15, of Normanhurst, NSW, Elliser Chan, 13, of Strathfield, NSW; Junior — Casey Mowett, 8, of Leeton, NSW, Justin Norris, 7, of Stockton, NSW, and Rowan Ziesing, 7, of Wanniasa, ACT.

The contest was sponsored by Air Niugini, the PNG Government, Niugini Tours Pty Ltd, Robert Brown and Associates (Australia) Pty Ltd, the Australia-Papua New Guinea Society and the Geography Teachers' Association of NSW.

Pacific Islands Monthly is proud to reproduce some of the winning entries on these pages.

PACIFIC ARTS



COURTESY REUNION DES MUSEES, PARIS

Paul Gauguin: The self-created man

A major exhibition of the works of artist Paul Gauguin has opened in Paris. Nicolas Rothwell finds the Pacific dream that inspired Gauguin and other modern masters.

STARING mutely from lustrous canvas, Paul Gauguin's *Tehema-na* mirrors that unanswered question her creator pondered in Tahiti's dreamland. Her face, both cliché and enigma, has become the Pacific stereotype, and Gauguin himself has become a caricature of the tortured artist-hero.

He has at last found a true memorial in the Paris from which he fled to distant exile, in a monumental exhibition of his life's works. More than 240 paintings, drawings, ceramics and sculptures, including most of the artist's masterpieces, have been brought together from collections around the world.

The exhibition is presented on a scale so sweeping and so fine in detail

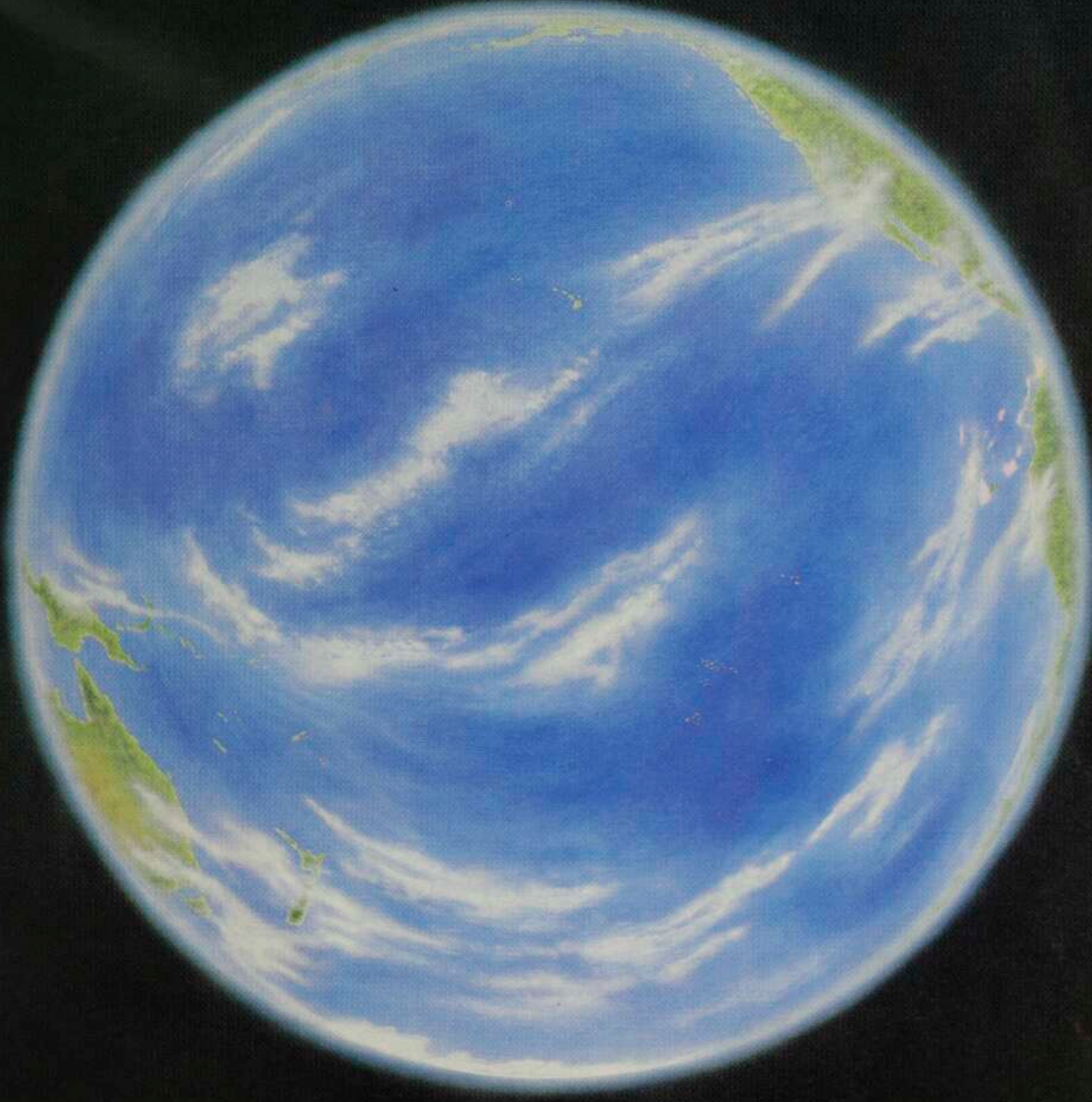
that its like will certainly not be seen again in our life time.

The exhibition is jointly organised by the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC and the Reunion des Musees Nationaux of France. After six months in the United States, it is on display until April 20 in the spacious galleries at the Grand Palais, on the right bank of the Seine.

This retrospective is both a reverential bid to recapture the artist's lost world and a contemporary cultural event of the first rank for much of modern art seems to find anticipatory echoes in Gauguin's work. Through the sweep of this display of artwork and the accompanying wealth of background material, the convenient myth of the South Seas lotus-eater can at

last be set against the truth of the painter's hectic achievements. The myth, of course, is perfect: the story of a Parisian stockbroker who throws over his commitments and flees to a life of pleasure in Tahiti. This is the tale Gauguin himself told in his book *Noa Noa*. "I have escaped everything that is artificial and conventional," he wrote. "Here I enter Truth, become one with nature. After the disease of civilisation, life in this new world is a return to health."

But Gauguin was in truth the ultimate self-created artist. His journey to his Tahitian fantasy land was, in fact, only a prelude to a spell of remarkable and carefully directed activism of an artistic and intellectual nature. His last golden period in Polynesia is put



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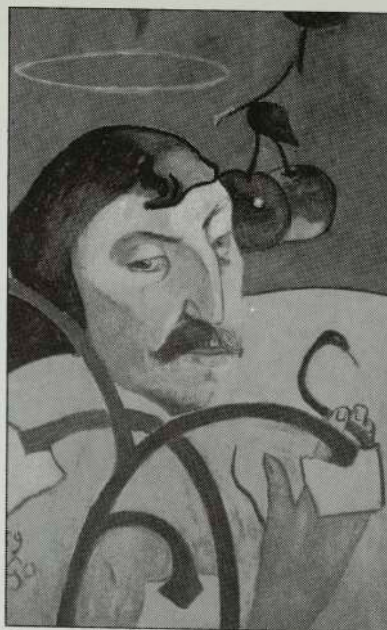


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nicely in perspective by one of this show's curators, art historian Richard Brettell: "During the eight years between Gauguin's final departure from France and his death on the island of Hiva Oa in the Marquesas, he was in the hospital at least four times, often for prolonged periods, claimed to have committed suicide once and perhaps succumbed to its temptations in 1903. He built three houses, fathered at least three children, edited one newspaper and wrote, designed and printed another. He completed three book-length texts, sent paintings and drawings to many European exhibitions, finished nearly 100 paintings and more than 400 woodcuts, carved scores of pieces of wood, wrote nearly 150 letters and fought both civil and ecclesiastical authorities with all the gusto of a youth."

Hardly a relaxed existence, yet the Tahitian idyll was merely the final stage in a life measured by displacements and drama. Gauguin spent time in Brittany, where he composed some of his most famous canvases; on the French Caribbean island of Martinique; in Denmark and Panama. He painted beside Van Gogh in Arles and absorbed the lessons of the early impressionists. All these cycles in his career are set in perspective by the exhibition catalogue, a marvel of engaged scholarship. Quoted in its pages is one of the key formulations of Gauguin's Pacific credo: "Primitive art comes from the spirit and makes use of nature. So-called refined art proceeds from sensuality and serves nature. Nature is the servant of the former and the mistress of the latter."

This characteristic yoking of abstract



Gauguin's 1889 Self-portrait, replete with symbolism, was painted shortly before his first Tahitian idyll.

idea with the artist's personal sense of mission could stand as an emblem for the creative processes explored in the exhibition, but Gauguin was no simpleton shedding the influences of Paris the moment he reached Papeete. All too aware of Western art's achievements, he fled to put a necessary distance between himself and the icons of Western culture.

Strangely transfigured by their creator's journey they return, however, to populate what he saw as his im-

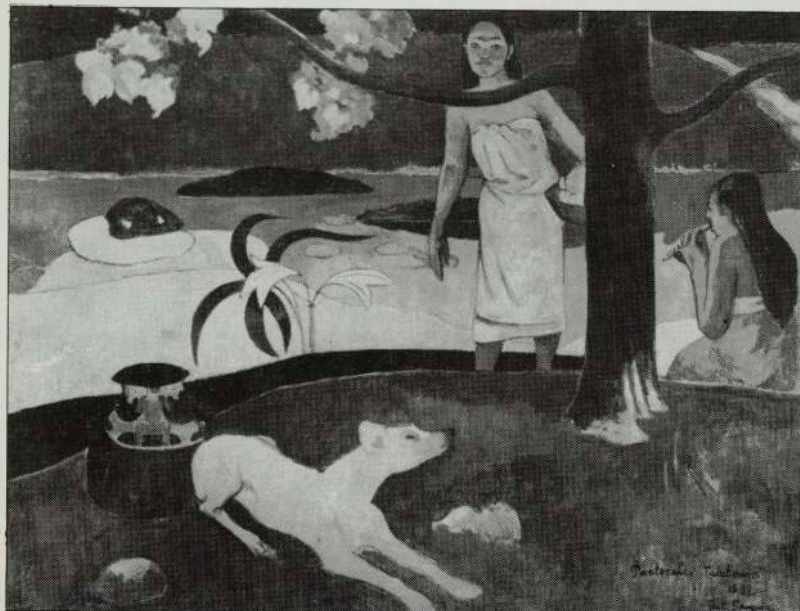
ages of Tahiti. Gauguin's obsessive recasting of established themes is what gives his work its 'hallucinatory' quality of synthesis: in the borrowed rituals of Polynesia, in the last dramas of Marquesan life, Europe is seen anew.

But this retrospective exhibition for the first time shifts the emphasis away from the legend of the doomed artist and comes to rest squarely on the evolution of Gauguin's thought, traced in his writings and letters. Here, too, in a pioneering enterprise treatments of a common theme in different media are compared and by such devices, the artist's processes of work are explored as well as the end product. The curators rightly focus on Gauguin's internal struggles and the exhibition catalogue's introductory essay examines the artist's series of self-portraits and concludes he was the hero of his own history: "Gauguin also saw himself as the hero of painting of his age, which seemed to him decadent," it offers. Hence the artist's urgent desire to seek external sources of inspiration, to infuse the exotic into the commonplace, in short, Gauguin's need for the Pacific.

Only in the wake of the pioneering exhibition of primitive art held in the early 1980s at the New York Museum of Modern Art has it been possible to judge the extraordinary and almost decisive shaping influence of Pacific arts on the development of modern sensibility. Other key masters of our age turned inexorably to Pacific sources: Picasso's proto-cubist painting *Les Femmes d'Alger* is now known to have been conditioned by the painter's knowledge of a Vanuatu mask; and Henry Moore, the shaper of 20th century sculpture, took much of his inspiration from such sources as Papua New Guinea's Malanggan carvings. Gauguin is merely the best known of many artists to reveal a Pacific influence in their work.

But for Gauguin (at least during his early days in Tahiti) the ocean was essentially a key to unlock what he saw as the secrets of the spheres. The more primitive, the better. He even conceived himself as a kind of primitive figure, proud of his distant Inca ancestry and self-conscious about the correct style for the work he hoped to produce. As a seeker after a new art and inventor of his own myth, he startled the Tahitians on his arrival in 1918. As a contemporary observer recalled, Gauguin drew catcalls and looks of astonishment from the natives, especially the women. "He had a tall, straight, powerful build, and managed to preserve an air of profound disdain despite his curiosity about Tahiti and his keen anticipation of the work he would do there."

The twin peaks of this exhibition are the periods Gauguin spent in



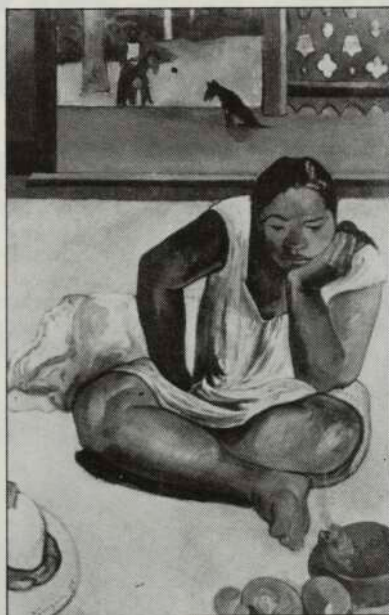
Tahitian Pastorals, 1892, has a graphic intensity characteristic of Gauguin's best work.



Polynesia; the first, from April 1891 to July 1893, yielding paintings of a greater immediacy than the haunted finale of the artist's career from mid-1895 to his death in November 1903. Neatly bisecting these two Polynesian spells is Gauguin's intriguing return to Paris, an interval that produced several of his most aggressively modern masterpieces. Their quality suggests the artist operated with equal ease away from his imagined paradise or within its confines.

Virtually every sketch, painting and carving included in the show is subjected to a complex analysis by the curators. It is an extraordinary pleasure to trace, through their work, the steps of Gauguin's art and in this unusual respect the exhibition is both hard work and a delighted reward. Its chief task, like all such prestige international retrospectives, is to document, to establish, to pin art's butterfly to the mounting-case. In a sense, its very thoroughness defeats this aim: Gauguin was a versatile artist whose imagination consumed and assimilated all it found and a painted canvas could not hold him.

Gauguin's carvings receive their due place here. The most obviously Pacific influenced of his works, together with



his virtuoso woodcuts they display his fearless enthusiasm for new forms of expression. The exhibition gives correct prominence to his series of wooden idols, including the object *Oviri* and a bizarre enamelled *Mask of*

Aha oe feii? (What? Are you jealous?), above, and *Te Faaturuma*, left, reveal the sensuality that so shocked Paris audiences. Today they are regarded as masterpieces.

a Savage rescued from obscurity on Reunion. Partially reconstructed for the exhibition is *The House of Pleasure*, a startling assemblage of symbols and a totem of his own artistry carved in Atuona on Hiva Oa.

Paul Gauguin rose to an extraordinary challenge when he sought to bridge the two worlds of Europe and the Pacific. His strange life was a helter-skelter of deftly chosen myths and legends, which yields a legacy of the artist's inexhaustible visions. The exhibition catalogue notes that "he still lies buried in Atuona, with a small bronze cast of *Oviri* now on his tomb, but his art can be found on every continent, in socialist and capitalist countries, in public and private collections and, in reproduction, on the walls of hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of rooms across the world. In this exhibition, we can once again study him in the original".

There is certainly no substitute and, perhaps, the time has come at last to return some of these masterpieces to the islands that gave them birth. □

'Radio Oz' Plans Pacific Changes

The shortwave service moves to increase its audience. by Robin Bromby

RADIO AUSTRALIA is considering changes to its South Pacific service that could include the introduction of a special English language program for the region. No details of the proposed changes have yet been made public, but it seems some Radio Australia programmers feel a need for transmissions with high Pacific content in addition to the general world service on shortwave (Pacific islanders currently hear the same English language program that is also beamed to Asia, Europe and North America).

It is understood that the proposal will not be taken any further until Radio Australia, the external service of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, completes a listener survey in the region.

The survey has been completed in all the smaller island states, including Micronesia, but not in Papua New Guinea or in New Caledonia.

One trend to emerge from the listener survey is that shortwave listening climbs steadily in times of political crisis: the coups in Fiji, Kanak troubles in New Caledonia and political tension

in Vanuatu have each led to a rush on shortwave-capable radios in local shops as the public tries to tune in to Radio Australia and other international broadcasters for news and information not available on local stations.

At other times, however, shortwave listening in the islands does not reach the proportions it has in Asia. Most island stations broadcast on the medium wave (except in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands). Listeners just do not turn to shortwave as they do in Indonesia and China, where Radio Australia's phenomenal audience figures are explained by the fact that much local broadcasting is on the shortwave bands because of the great distances the signals must travel. In the Pacific, most radio stations carry local announcements such as boat arrivals, cyclone warnings and deaths and the majority of islanders rely on this form of communication for all their news.

One problem for the Radio Australia survey is that most English-speaking South Pacific broadcasters relay programs from Melbourne; some respondents were unable to dis-

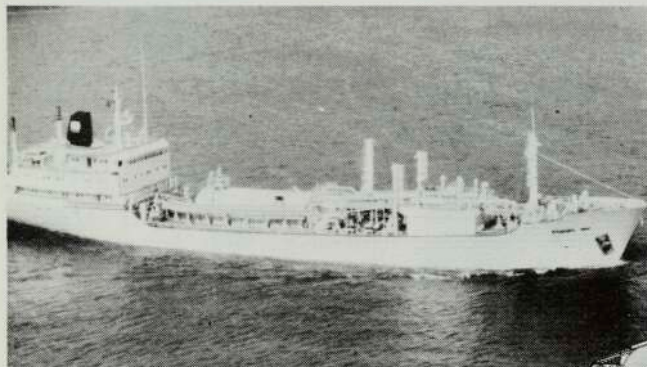
tinguish between listening to direct broadcasts from Radio Australia and hearing a relayed transmission through their local station.

The Pacnews system has allowed island broadcasters access to news from other Pacific states, thus diminishing the need to tune to Radio Australia to hear regional news. But the Australian broadcaster does offer a level of international coverage not available on local stations. Advocates of a more specialised English-language program for the region feel such a service will bring listeners back to Radio Australia.

STOP PRESS

Radio Australia has confirmed changes will be made to its Pacific service from early March. Results of the listener survey have been examined by Radio Australia in Melbourne and have enabled programmers to make informed decisions. Details of the changes are still being finalised: *Pacific Islands Monthly* will report on them and the listener survey in the February issue.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL.

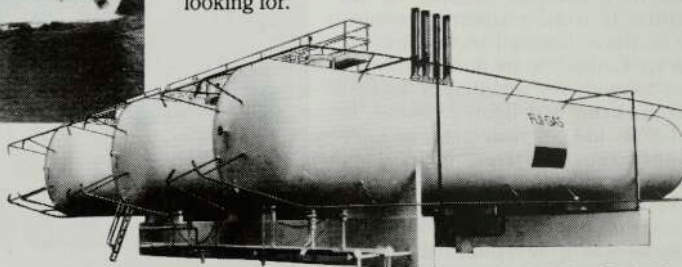


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Plantations to re-open

Robin Bromby reports on the resurrection of the derelict plantations of PNG's New Ireland province.

ABANDONED and derelict plantations in Papua New Guinea's New Ireland province will be brought back to life by a major new palm oil and cocoa project. Venture company Poliamba Pty Ltd has secured a K14.5 million loan from the European Investment Bank (a financial arm of the EEC) to fund the scheme which will be a major boost to the local economy and provide much-needed employment.

The region has been in decline for about ten years, due largely to a downturn of international copra prices. Planning for the new project has been underway since 1986 and Poliamba has been buying up derelict plantations along the old German-built Buluminski Highway 75 kilometres from the port of Kavieng, the capital of New Ireland. Some 4300 hectares of palms, an oil mill and about 1000 hectares of cocoa will be established on the plantations and surrounding bush and scrub.

Most of the land has traditionally been used for growing coconuts and a small amount of cocoa. Total budget for the project is K44 million, includ-

ing a new wharf at Kavieng.

Poliamba's general manager Martin Collins said the Papua New Guinea government will have a share in the venture, as will the New Ireland Development Corporation and the London-based Commonwealth Development Corporation.

The first palm oil is expected to be available in 1991 and the mill will have the capacity to process 30 tonnes of fresh fruit bunches every hour. When the plantation and mill reach full capacity in the year 2000, an annual output of 22,500 tonnes of oil, 5000 tonnes of palm kernels and about 750 tonnes of cocoa is expected. But Mr Collins said these projections are too conservative and will be exceeded. Most of the produce will be exported to the US and Europe.

The rehabilitation of the old plantations has boosted local employment opportunities, with about 1000 people currently employed on the project. Mr Collins expects most of the workers, including the manual labourers, will work on contract. "The New Irelanders don't mind working, but they don't like having to work," he said.

Fish and fruit are plentiful so a daily wage is not a major or sufficiently exciting incentive. Most workers have instead been employed as contractors, giving them the feeling they are independent entrepreneurs rather than wage earners.

Rather than live in a company compound, local workers live in their own villages which are close to the plantation area. Mr Collins said the company had been well pleased with the number of young New Irelanders who had signed work contracts with Poliamba.

Unlike copra, palm oil has been bringing good prices, with the Bank of Papua New Guinea's first quarterly report for 1988 indicating a steady rise in palm oil export prices fuelled by continuing strong demand from India, the world's largest palm oil consumer, and fears of a coconut oil shortage. In the March 1988 quarter the f.o.b. price of palm oil averaged K358 a tonne (against K226 for copra) and 28,000 tonnes was exported at a value of K10 million. It is anticipated that the New Ireland project will markedly increase PNG's palm oil exports. □

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NEW CALEDONIA

How the men of Mare went to war

Dr Stephen Henningham chronicles the Pacific's unsung WWII heroes

IN RECENT years, historians of World War II and the Pacific have begun paying more attention to the involvement of Pacific islanders in the war. In such research, due recognition needs to be given to those islanders who went off to fight for the Allied cause in strange and distant lands. And not least among them were the men of Mare, the southernmost of the three islands in the Loyalty group in New Caledonia.

Visitors to Mare nowadays are more likely to be impressed by the charm of its people and its relaxed pace than by its martial heritage. These days more than 80 per cent of the island's population (which is 99 per cent Melanesian) favours the independence of New Caledonia from France; but in 1940 the people of Mare rallied strongly in support of General de Gaulle following the fall of France. More than 300 men out of a population of only a couple of thousand went off to serve in the Free French forces.

Like the few photos from that time that have survived, the old soldiers and sailors of Mare are aged and weather-beaten. But the veterans remember those days with pride and are keen to talk of their experiences. One photo shows some new recruits marching earnestly — if untidily — along the waterfront before departing by boat for Noumea.

The veterans recall that their staunch loyalty to Free France was not matched among some sections of the European population in Noumea. In the uncertain days of mid-1940 some colonial officials, many policemen, most army officers and some local families supported the Vichy-regime, which had come to terms with the German invaders.

Meanwhile, others sat on the fence, but eventually the more numerous local supporters of Free France prevailed, their hand strengthened by the arrival of the Australian cruiser HMAS *Adelaide*. Nevertheless, considerable uncertainty and disorganisation continued.

When the Mare volunteers arrived at their barracks in Noumea in late 1940, they found there had been no preparations for their accommodation. They also recall placing flowers on the

Noumea war memorial in memory of the dead of World War I — including some of the soldiers from Mare — and discovering that theirs was the only wreath.

With little French equipment on hand to outfit the Mare recruits, they were kitted up in Australian-made uniforms and armed with British and Australian weapons. A few remained

on garrison duty in Noumea, where they were soon impressed by the wealth, generosity and democratic style of the American personnel who arrived in tens of thousands to use New Caledonia as a base for the defence of the Solomon Islands and the drive north against Japan.

However, the rest of the volunteers travelled further afield. Most of them, along with settlers and islanders from New Caledonia and French Polynesia, became part of the Pacific Battalion, which fought bravely in North Africa, Italy and Southern France. A dozen or so served in the Free French navy, which consisted mostly of British-provided ships under French flags serving in the Atlantic, the North Sea and the Mediterranean.

The casualty rate for those serving abroad was heavy, both from battle and disease; indeed the islanders suffered particularly heavily from disease, perhaps as a result of culture shock in alien environments.

Back on the home front, on Mare the absence of most of the able-bodied men meant extra work for everyone else in fishing and agriculture. Times were difficult, but hardship was some-



Left: Nidoish Naisseline with de Gaulle's letter. Below: Mare veterans with wartime souvenirs. Right: Naisseline, High Chief and Kanak nationalist.





what ameliorated by the money sent back by the soldiers and sailors abroad and by those men and women who went to the mainland to take up jobs provided by the large Allied presence. And US supply boats also called at Mare, paying good prices for local produce to feed their troops on Grande Terre.

When the Mare veterans reminisce, their thoughts turn to funny incidents that lightened the hardships of war and so the details of their traditional foods of Mare. One old sailor remembers, while serving along the coast of West Africa, once again eating yam: but the yams of Africa were bitter, not like the succulent yams of home. Only a few of their generation received much formal education, and as they wam to their tales they shift from their barrack-room French into the native language of Mare. They learned some English during their service: one recalls acquiring the phrase "Where are we?" when this question was asked repeatedly as a troop train dawdled across Scotland.

The war over, the soldiers and sailors of Mare returned home readily picking up the threads of their lives. One of them said simply: "Our High Chief, Henri Naisseline, said we should go to war . . . so we went. After the war he told us to settle back into life here . . . so we did."

But as the years went by some began to ask questions. They had fought, and some of their friends and kinsfolk had died, for the liberty of France. But was France honouring their commitment, respecting their own right to liberty?

Certainly, the war brought an end to fully fledged colonialism in New Caledonia. The French Government removed restrictions on movement by Melanesians and abolished their obligation to provide free labour. New Caledonia was legally redefined as a territory rather than a colony. Melanesian ex-servicemen and some other categories of Melanesians were given the right to vote. But it would be ten years before the vote was extended to

all Melanesians. Admittedly, at that time constitutional and other reforms affecting the indigenous people of New Caledonia were well ahead of those in neighbouring countries, but the trend was abruptly reversed around 1960 under a conservative government in France presided over by none other than General Charles de Gaulle, at whose call the men from Mare had rallied in 1940.

The Government sharply reduced the extent of territorial self-government and broke the power of the then triumphant Union Caledonienne that stood for autonomy and for social reform, including a better deal for the Melanesians.

On Mare, Henri Naisseline — High Chief of Tadin, the largest of the three chiefdoms on the island — remained a supporter of de Gaulle. But things would be different for the new generation. In the late 1960s Naisseline's son Nidoish became one of the founders of the Kanak nationalist movement in New Caledonia. These days his stance is more moderate, but he makes it clear that he remains a strong advocate of independence, which he hopes can be obtained through co-operation with the settler communities and with France.

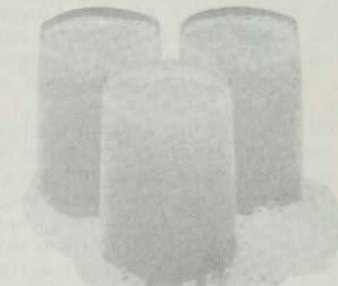
Yet he is also proud of his people's traditions and history, and cherishes photos and other souvenirs of the war. The most treasured relic is a letter from de Gaulle to High Chief Naisseline, thanking him and his people for their support. Times and circumstances change, but for the people of Mare the dedication and courage of the men who marched off to war in 1940 remains an inspiration. □

Dr Stephen Henningham, a Research Fellow in the School of Political and Social Change at the Australian National University, is researching a book on France and the South Pacific and visited Mare in August 1988. He is grateful to Mr Nidoish Naisseline for his hospitality and for arranging a meeting with some of the veterans from Mare.

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Tropicalities

"SERIOUS DISTORTIONS"

I AM writing to correct serious distortions of my country's policies and actions in the Pacific published by your magazine in its September and November issues. I refer to "Behind the Celebrations" (September), concerning the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Tonga-United States friendship treaty, and "Invasion, American Style" (November), concerning the construction of water tanks in Tuvalu.

Your story on the Tongan celebration makes the assertion that in July of this year the United States and Tonga "... sign(ed) a United States-Tonga Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation", and goes on to claim that this alleged treaty is a "military agreement" guaranteeing "transit of nuclear-armed craft in the Tongan archipelago". To put it plainly, no treaty was signed at the July commemorative ceremony, dealing with warship transit or anything else. What was signed was a mutual declaration commemorating the centenary of the 1888 friendship treaty and reaffirming the spirit of peace and friendship that had led the United States of America and the Kingdom of Tonga to sign the original agreement.

Not only was no treaty signed, but on the contrary it was mutually agreed beforehand that the declaration was not to be taken as a treaty or other binding international agreement. Had your correspondent bothered to check with either this Embassy or the Government of Tonga, he could easily have obtained the facts.

As to the question of US warship visits to Tonga, the United States has never sought from Tonga or any other South Pacific country a written agreement permitting visits by US naval vessels. In arranging for these visits, we rely entirely on the goodwill of the government and people of the country involved. In keeping with the very close and friendly relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Tonga, His Majesty's Government has always welcomed visits by our naval vessels.

Your story on the US Army's assistance project to construct water tanks in Tuvalu was also seriously distorted. The project in question was a successful test run for a new assistance program being implemented by the US Army Western Command in Hawaii. Under this program, US Army Engineer units undertake construction projects in the region.

As a pilot project, the Tuvalu exercise was quite successful. In addition

to finishing the water tanks ahead of schedule, the Engineers built a new road along the runway and carried out other road repairs and improvements, at the request of the Tuvalu Ministry of Works. Also, at the request of the Government of Tuvalu, the USAV *Clinger* delayed its return to Hawaii in order to deliver medical supplies to the island of Niu, where a flu epidemic was in progress.

Your correspondent seems to have missed the point of the speech made by Mr Benzinger (not Benzinga) of this Embassy. Mr Benzinger did indeed emphasise the importance of the logistical achievement in getting the people and material to Tuvalu across the long distance involved. The main point, however, is that the experience gained from the water tank project makes it feasible to plan more ambitious projects for the future. We have already invited the Government of Tuvalu to consider what projects they might wish our Army Engineers to undertake now that we all are more familiar with the capabilities involved. We have every expectation that they will take us up on the offer.

As to the water tank project itself, your reporter's estimate of the life of the tanks would appear to be based on the life of ordinary sheet iron tanks. The tanks installed were coated with an epoxy-based rust preventive and lined with corrosion-proof plastic. Our engineers anticipate that the tank should last several times your correspondent's estimate. As to the alleged rubber-eating "knicker beetles", we have verified with engineers that no insect found in the region should represent a threat to the synthetic rubber washers used in the Tuvalu tanks.

Your story grossly exaggerates the scale of the exercise. The Engineers set up a small camp on about 100 yards of the unpopulated side of the runway. This was a simple necessity, since Funafuti lacks accommodation for 25 people. The exercise was designed to be self-contained, so as to minimise the disruption to everyday life on Funafuti. Your estimate of the cost is also absurdly overstated. The project cost a fraction of the figure claimed in your story.

Leonard Rochwarger
US Ambassador
to Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Tonga

Mr Rochwarger is, of course, entitled to respond to any story that appears in Pacific Islands Monthly. However,

his own letter contains 'distortions' of our coverage that are as 'serious' as those he identifies. Ed Rampell's story on the celebrations for King Taufa'ahau's 70th birthday made no claim that a 'new' treaty was signed; in fact, it stated specifically that the occasion commemorated and renewed an agreement originally signed in 1888.

As well as a mutual declaration of peace, amity and friendship, both the 1888 and 1988 versions of the treaty contain references to a relationship that could only be construed as of a military nature: indeed, Mr Rochwarger is himself quoted in the story as referring to the training of Tongan military officers in the US — and Congresswoman Patricia Saiki refers to the "strategic" nature of Tonga's relationship with Washington.

Mr Rampell's story was a piece of journalism; not an expression of government policy or an attempt to have a government's policy perceived in the way that government — any government — would prefer. Thus Mr Rochwarger's comments about the November story, 'Invasion American Style' cannot pass unchallenged.

That PIM "missed the point" of Mr Benzinger's speech is, frankly, an evasion. Our correspondent, as an islander, interpreted Mr Benzinger's words in his own way. That might not have been the way Mr Benzinger hoped his speech would be received, but it was nevertheless a legitimate response. In other places the 'United States' activities would have been interpreted as a display of military might or, if the correspondent were of a particular political hue, as imperialism.

Lastly, Mr Rochwarger is guilty of obfuscation over the cost of the project. Our story carefully states that the "whole operation is estimated to have cost about . . ." (emphasis added). No exact figures were quoted because, despite our enquiries, none were made available. But that is not the point. Even if the cost of the exercise were reduced by an order of magnitude, to "about" \$A500,000, the fact remains that the United States succeeded in installing fewer water tanks having less capacity than those installed by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church . . . at almost 20 times the cost!

And that, surely, should have been the real point of the operation: not to demonstrate military capability, or to repair some roads, but to provide badly needed assistance for a small nation whose fisheries resources are exploited without reasonable recompense by nations such as the United States. □

THE TRUTH ABOUT JOYITA?

IN NOVEMBER 1955 I was a 23-year-old ship's writer aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *RFA Derwentdale* on a passage from Colombo to Suva. At around about the Thursday Island passage we received a signal to keep a lookout for anything unusual on the remainder of the voyage to Suva. Submarine activity was mentioned but we were not told the reason and it was not a high priority lookout — or that was my impression.

On arrival at Suva we were told the facts of the *Joyita* as they were known at the time by L/Cdr Peter Trent, the Royal New Zealand Navy Liaison Officer at Suva — our cargo of oil was for the Admiralty fuelling station there. Peter Trent took me down to the Customs shed to the roped-off area where the collection of material, personal effects and so on taken off the *Joyita* was put, simply in a pile. Nobody was allowed to go near the stuff; I was lucky just to be shown it at all. Among the conglomeration of the material there were some bunk mattresses all sodden with salt water, but with distinct evidence of charring or burning. Peter Trent told me these had been found on the engine, soaked in kerosene or some similar accelerant. He said it appeared they had been put down in the engine room by somebody and set alight.

Surely, then, this is evidence of fire. Of course it isn't what one normally means by accident caused by fire, but did not the enquiry come to some conclusion of foul play? I still have my diary of that voyage, but unfortunately must have been too interested in the sights of Suva to write it all up — we had been at sea for 25 days.

Two years later I went to Fiji again, this time employed by CSR on their sugar estates where I stayed until 1971. I am still a citizen of Fiji and will always be stirred by any resurrection of this mystery. I feel that someone, somewhere, knows the answer.

John Barnes
Auckland
New Zealand

Fiji adds 'flesh and blood' to a turbulent history

DARYL TARTE, the author of *Fiji* (Pascoc Publishing), is a member of an old Fiji colonial family and thus has the credentials to properly flesh out his story which, as he says, "blends facts with

fiction, real life characters with imaginary people". All this is accomplished with skill to "add dramatic emphasis to the fascinating events . . . and to put flesh and blood on the colourful characters to have contributed to the evolution of Fiji".

In his nothing short of epic novel, Tarte covers the history of Fiji from the time of its first European sighting by Abel Tasman in 1643, to 1987's military coups. Here are all the great names of Fiji history: Ratu Seru Cakobau, the Tui Viti, Maafu, the Tongan who conquered the eastern Lau islands; the ill-fated British Consul, Pritchard; Williams, the American Consul whose greed led to the ceding of Fiji to Queen Victoria; the rip-roaring days of the old capital, Levuka, and the era of the blackbirders.

We are witness to momentous changes, from the inter-tribal feuding and its accompanying orgies of cannibalism to the acceptance of law and order under Ratu Seru Cakobau and on to today's emphasis on Christianity among the Fijian people. The strength and nobility of Cakobau is clearly shown at the Ceremony of Cession on October 10, 1874. As Daryl Tarte paints the scene: "Before finally ceding this country to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the King desires through Your Excellency to give Her Majesty the only thing he possesses that may interest her. The King gives Her Majesty his old and favourite war club which, until lately, was the only known law in Fiji. In abandoning club law and adopting the form and principles of civilised societies he laid by his old weapon and covered it with the emblems of peace . . ."

From such beginnings Tarte follows, always faithfully, the broad outlines of Fiji's often turbulent, always interesting history — including the impact of the British decision to bring in Indian labour for the sugar fields and the growth and power of the sugar companies. Through it all we feel the concern of the Fijians for their land, their customs and way of life.

Also threaded through the book is the equally fascinating story of the pioneering Chamberlain family and the development of the family estate on the lovely 'garden island' of Taveuni. Tarte admits that he used his own family as a model: "They did settle on Taveuni," he says. "However, the Chamberlains are intended to represent a composite of the pioneer families who settled in Fiji, and who remained involved for generations in the development of the islands."

The fortunes, both waxing and waning, of these pioneers followed the pattern of the crops grown in Fiji, first

cotton, then copra and finally sugar. But these early settlers were not only attracted by the chance of fortune, nor is the story that of their trading success alone.

They were a lusty lot, and the local maidens were willing. Even the respectably married Henry Chamberlain succumbs to the beauty of Salote, daughter of the powerful Maafu.

There are fascinating pen pictures of outstanding figures in Fiji's development, such as the legendary statesman Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna, and of prominent present-day leaders. In fact, all the major figures on all sides of the recent conflicts are there, thinly disguised by fictitious names.

It is difficult to write recent history as fiction, and much of the dramatic events in *Fiji* are still 'news'. As yet they have not had the advantage of time to be put into perspective, but this well-crafted novel adheres to history so faithfully that it must be of absorbing interest to all who aspire to some knowledge of the growth of Fiji as a nation and of particular interest to those who have already delved into the country's turbulent history. It's recurring theme is one of concern over land: the needs of the Indian farmers, and the passionate attachment of the Fijian people to their land. The conflict of course, is decades old, and centres on the conundrum of land being owned by the Fijians yet cultivated by others, the Australian sugar giant CSR and the Indian farmers. Tarte's probing into the many facets of Fijian life and history is manifested by clever development of the forces responsible for shaping the events that have overtaken Fiji. He provides compelling insights into the way of life, the feelings, the history and the different customs that make up multiracial Fiji, and gives a clear picture of the inevitability of the events of the past two years.

In reference to recent events, Tarte offers his opinion in a publicity release accompanying *Fiji*: "Brigadier Rabuka gave the Fijians the opportunity to voice their feelings, reassert themselves and pursue a course of action that deposed Western-style democracy.

"The Western world expected, indeed demanded, that Fiji conform with the Western brand of democracy. But is this suitable for Fiji?"

Fiji is a big book; an absorbing book. Its conclusions and the prominence it has given to living people and to recent events will inevitably make it a controversial book, but it is enjoyable reading and to be heartily recommended. It is sad, however, to see a book of such scope and quality printed on such poor paper!

— Victor Carell

Pacific Report

□ TONGA TV SCRAMBLE

TONGA'S only television station, ASTL-3, is scrambling its signals so viewers can no longer enjoy free broadcasts. The privately owned station presents mostly news and US-made programs to its 300 paid-up subscribers, but a much larger audience had been enjoying its services for free. The scrambled signal can only be translated by a decoder available from the station; without the device, viewers see only blurred images.

Station director and proprietor Latu Tupouniua of Nukualofa says he needs a minimum 500 subscribers to break even.

"I'm presently operating at a loss but I love the idea of providing such a service to the community," he said.

□ NAURU UPGRADES LINKS

THE Republic of Nauru will upgrade its telecommunications network with the assistance of Australia's OTC International. The two signed a five-year agreement of technical co-operation in December.

The Nauru government decided to upgrade its telecommunications network so as to continue its link with Intelsat, the international satellite network. Nauru is now building a new earth station and modernising the network that now consists of one earth station built in 1975.

Nauru's Minister for Finance Kinza Clodumar and OTCI director Peter

Shaw signed the agreement at Nauru House in Melbourne after many months of talks.

Under the agreement, OTCI will provide necessary consultancy services for the project.

□ ADB BACKS ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) will co-sponsor next month's Asia-Pacific Development Conference with a technical assistance grant of \$US50,000. The Conference will be held during February in Okinawa, Japan. Other sponsors are the Government of Japan and the Tokyo-based Organisation for Industrial,

Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA International), Asia's largest international non-government body.

Faced with widespread poverty in many of its developing member countries, the Bank is keen to foster involvement by non-government bodies such as OISCA to assist with the implementation of ADB-financed projects which address the needs of the regions' most disadvantaged citizens. "We recognise the role of non-government organisations to assist in the formulation and implementation of projects responsive to the needs of the poor and alleviate poverty at the grassroots level," an ADB spokesman commented.

OISCA works closely with the Japanese Government to provide aid programs, through affiliates in Asia and the Pacific, to many nations in the region. It provides assistance for projects to support rural development, environmental protection and improvement, education and technical training and assistance to women and young people.

Organisers hope the Conference will promote understanding and co-operation between the ADB, the Japanese Government and various non-government groups. Major conference sessions will focus on the training of women for productive enterprises in rural areas, development of local technologies for low-income, upland and fishing communities and the development of community-based environmental management programs.



□ CROC INDUSTRY TALKS

THE Papua New Guinea Government will move to improve management of the country's crocodile industry. Environment and Conservation Minister Jim Waim announced the initiative at the recent Crocodile Specialists' Group conference hosted by PNG attended by 100 delegates from 21 nations. Mr Waim said PNG's crocodile population was in danger of extinction in the late 1960s but this had been averted and the industry is now in a period of growth. But improvements are necessary in the management of the K3.25 million a year industry, he said.

□ LAKEKAMU GOLD

MINING operations on the Lakekamu alluvial gold deposit in the Gulf province of Papua New Guinea will begin in 1991. City Resources Ltd is likely to commence an equal partnership with Ludgate Holdings Ltd, an American-based mining concern, to exploit the deposit which is expected to produce 35,000-40,000 ounces per annum.



Top: Japanese PM Takeshita — increasing aid presence in the region through funding in PNG and a conference in Okinawa. Above: Puk-puk farming gets a boost in PNG.



King Taufa'ahau Tupou opens Tonga's earth station in 1983: now scramblers have been installed to prevent TV reception 'piracy'.

☐ ADB GRANT FOR WESTERN SAMOA

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$US270,000 technical assistance grant to Western Samoa to assist in the privatisation of selected government corporations and activities.

The grant will be used to implement three privatisation programs approved by the Government of Western Samoa and implement privatisation programs for nine other commercial enterprises that were identified under an earlier ADB grant.

A state-owned Enterprise Monitoring Unit (EMU) will be established under the scheme and two Samoan Treasury officers will be trained to run the unit.

☐ LAW AND ORDER

AMID growing concern over crime rates, the Papua New Guinea Government has made an allocation of K10 million to its ministerial sub-committee on law and order. Prime Minister Rabibie Namaliu said the funds would be

used to implement nationwide law and order projects over the next four years. Cabinet also has approved 10 per cent budget increases for all departments, organisations and agencies involved in the prevention of crime. Committee chairman and Justice Minister Bernard Narakobi said the over-riding theme of law and order policy is integral human development.

☐ NEW HOSPITAL FOR PORT MORESBY

THE Port Moresby General Hospital is to be rebuilt at a cost of K22 million in a project funded by the Japanese Government. The new hospital will accommodate 700 patients and will include an operating theatre, a cancer ward and a nutrition centre. Construction will begin in March and is expected to take two years.

PNG Health Minister Robert Suckling says a further Japanese grant of K37 million will be used to build a new hospital at Wabag and redevelop hospitals at Mt Hagen, Lae, Madang, Kerema, Daru and Kundiawe.

The Washington Pacific Report

ANZUS
Jeannette Diana
SPNFZ
Greenpeace
The Dobb Report
The Pons Plan
The Vladivostok Initiative
Reinscription
Soviet-Kiribati Fishing Treaty
Rainbow Warrior
SPREP
FLNKS

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The Island Press

Reports from the papers, compiled by John Carter

NAUSORI farmer Meli Baleilakeba told the Constitutional Inquiry and Advisory Committee that women should not be allowed to drink liquor.

He told the committee that drunken mothers produced drunken children and blamed nightclub-wandering mothers for having produced the drunken youths of today.

Asked if males should be stopped from drinking liquor, he said if fathers were drunk, mothers could look after the family, but if mothers got drunk, the children would have nowhere to go.

— From the *Fiji Times*, Suva

AIR PACIFIC's early Sunday morning Tokyo service was first delayed because of mechanical failure and finally cancelled because the flight engineer had consumed liquor.

About 100 stranded passengers were flown to Tokyo on Monday by Air New Zealand.

— From the *Fiji Times*, Suva

THE DEBATE in the House on Wednesday flared into name-calling when the Prime Minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana, called Fuima-ono Mimio a "dog" and was branded a "pig" in return.

— From the *Samoa Times*, Apia

A LITTLE boy with a big heart for the needy, 10-year-old musical prodigy Christian Gante has given K3000 to the PNG Rehabilitation Centre and the Cheshire Homes.

Christian raised the money by giving a solo piano recital at the Port Moresby Travelodge last month. He said he wanted to use his natural talent to help the poor, and on Thursday he went to the Rehabilitation Centre to hand over his Christmas gift.

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

AIR IN the Cook Islands is among the best in the world, says American atmospheric researcher, Dr Dale Hurst.

Dr Hurst, of the University of California, Irvine County, has been involved in atmospheric research throughout the Pacific for the past five years.

He says the air samples taken from here show better, clearer results because of Rarotonga's isolation in the Pacific Ocean, and because of the lack of industrial development.

— From the *Cook Islands News*, Rarotonga

THE MAJORITY of wheelchairs used in the Pacific have been designed for and donated by 'developed' countries.

Chairs fall to pieces at an alarming rate; arrive with no spare parts and no instruction or training provided for upkeep; become a 'barrier to mobility' because they cannot cope with Pacific environmental factors, and suitable design adaptations need to be made.

— From the *South Pacific Disability Council magazine Lali*, Apia

WITH everyone asking what the future holds for this troubled nation, I decided to drag out the old crystal ball and have a quick preview of the year ahead . . .

January: Torrential rains wash most of Irian Jaya into PNG. The Indonesian army follows on the principle of defending its sacred soil. The PNGDF is unable to respond because it is busy burning people's homes in Milne Bay province.

February: The Prime Minister of a much-reduced PNG is toppled in a vote of no confidence. Somebody replaces him.

March: The new Prime Minister resigns in the wake of allegations about an improper relationship with a women's soccer team. He is replaced.

April: The new Prime Minister resigns because he has lost confidence in the Parliament. The women's soccer team forms a coalition government.

May: The Government is pack-raped during an inspection tour of rural sporting facilities.

June: PNG's first rape crisis centre is established in Waigani. LoMet troops burn it down.

July: New liquor restrictions are introduced in the NCD in response to the alarming rise in rape and arson.

August: The new liquor laws are revoked. Black marketeers march on Parliament and, finding it vacant, take over.

September: The Government succeeds in selling Bougainville and Enga to CRA, thus preventing total economic collapse.

October: The Government awards itself massive salary increases.

November: There is a total economic collapse.

December: The Government is deposited in a vote of no confidence in itself.

It's not all bad, of course. The Kumuls finally win a game and Miss PNG is crowned Miss World (but is subsequently defrocked when she turns out to be a 42-year-old mother of ten).

— From a letter signed 'Nostradamus' in the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby



Trade Winds

□ JAPAN RECOGNISES MARSHALLS

THE Japanese Government has formally recognised the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. The explicit acknowledgment of the island states as sovereign self-governing nations was announced in mid-December 1988. Tokyo will accredit a non-resident ambassador in each nation. Japan is the tenth nation to grant formal recognition of the nations.

The Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Northern Marianas were part of the US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) established under a United Nations agreement in 1947. The US offered them a number of options to end the trusteeship. The Northern Marianas chose to become a Commonwealth of the US, while in 1986 the Federated States and the Marshall Islands chose a compact of free association with the US, effectively becoming sovereign states. Beset with domestic legal and civil problems, Palau remains undecided on its future relationship with the US.

□ US RESUMES FIJI AID

THE United States Government will resume economic assistance to Fiji suspended following the May 1987 coup. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the decision follows recent developments in Fiji viewed favourably by the US, citing the suspension of the Internal Security Decree and Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's commitment to the restoration of constitutional government.

"Our goal is to encourage steps made in returning Fiji to representative constitutional and civilian rule," she said.

"The restoration of our \$US1.3 million economic assistance programs will enable us to help address important development problems that affect all of Fiji's communities."

At a Washington press conference in late December 1988, Oakley said the State Department will work closely with the Fiji Government to provide "commodities in the health sector". But she was unable to state when the resumption of aid would take place.

□ RECORD PEARL SALES

JAPANESE buyers accounted for the biggest share of record sales at the 11th International Pearl Auction held last November in the Tahitian capital of Papeete. Fifty-nine of the 69 lots of black pearl offered were sold, setting

records of 85 per cent sales success and a \$US2,720,000 revenue.

Japanese buyers were most active in the eight-hour opening session, accounting for 84 per cent of purchases. Chino Jewelry was the biggest Japanese buyer, spending \$US545,228 on 1627 of the increasingly famous black pearls. They are now officially known as "Tahiti's Pearl" and industry sources say they are on the verge of gaining international prestige, particularly in Europe.

□ UNESCO CONFERENCE

TWENTY delegates from South Pacific nations attended a recent conference on education at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College near Sydney. The College was chosen to host the conference because of its involvement in other educational programs in the Asia-Pacific region.

UNESCO joined with the Australian International Development Aid Bureau (AIDAB) to sponsor the three-day event. Workshops and discussion papers on current educational issues were presented to assist delegates in the development of individual plans of action as part of a regional education strategy.

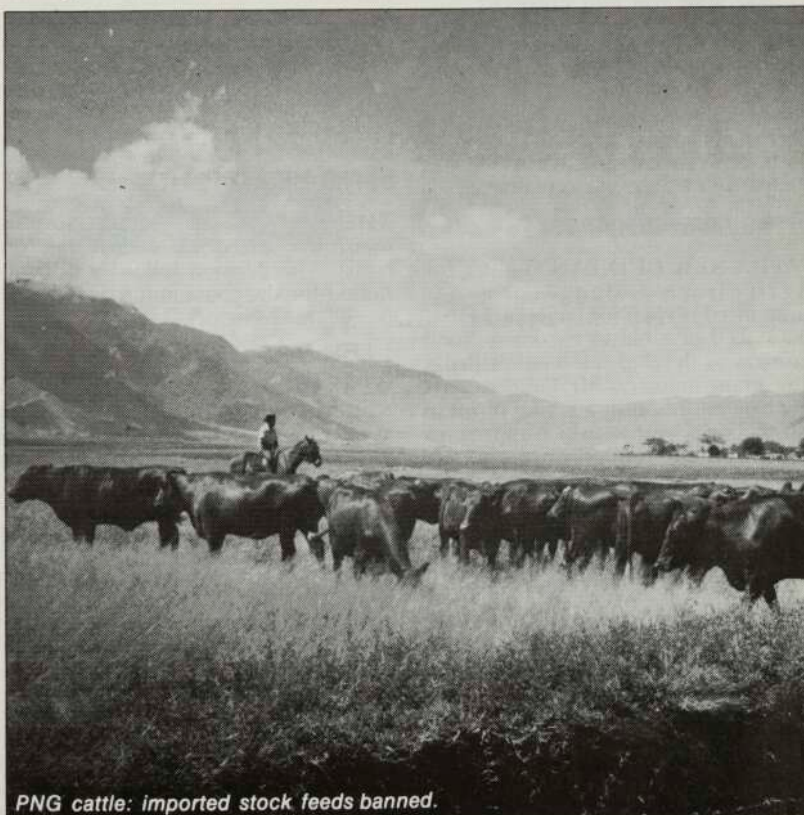
Delegates from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu heard Dr Geoff Caldwell, from Canberra's Australian National University, call on developed nations such as Australia to assist developing neighbours in the development of programs for education and the eradication of illiteracy.

A larger Asia-Pacific regional gathering is scheduled for the Hawkesbury College late in 1989 with 300 delegates expected to attend.

□ FIJI SHARK ATTACK

TWO Fijian fishermen were lucky to survive their battle with a large tiger shark in the waters off the island of Rabi. Tebusi Iporito, 58, and Togara Nataro, 35, both of Uma village on Rabi island, were fishing from their eight-metre canoe between Rabi and Vanua Levu last month when they hooked the shark. They fought for several hours to land the six-metre shark which attacked the canoe, biting a gaping hole in its wooden hull.

The shark thrashed violently in the water, and Mr Nataro was knocked unconscious when its tail struck him across the head. Mr Iporito managed to kill the shark but the canoe was



PNG cattle: imported stock feeds banned.



Delegates from around the Pacific met at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, under the aegis of UNESCO.

barely afloat and light was fading. He decided to swim the 10 kilometres to Nuku, the nearest point of the island and was later found unconscious by a group of islanders on the beach at Batutu. He told them Mr Nataro was at sea and a search later found him clinging to the partially submerged canoe. Both men were treated in the Rabi Hospital.

□ NEW SHIP FOR PNG COMPANY

THE LUTHERAN Shipping Company in Lae, PNG, has taken delivery of a new container vessel. The Wewak becomes the biggest of the company's fleet of nine ships and will service all ports between Lae and Wewak. It has a capacity of 25 cargo containers.

□ PNG GRAIN IMPORT BAN

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S Minister for Agriculture Galeng Lang has announced a ban on the import of stock feed in a bid to encourage local farmers to develop the nation's fledgling grain industry. Mr Lang expects the ban will result in a saving of up to K6 million a year — which represents about 34,000 tonnes of grain. Mr Lang says a feed mill will be established as the first part of a project to develop the country's grain industry.

□ PNG MOVES ON TRADE IMBALANCE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA has announced a major effort to adjust its trade imbalance with heavy promotion of its product image in Australia. Department of Trade and Industry acting-Secretary Joseph Hafmans says the move will double exports to Australia inside five years.

Trade figures for 1987 show there

is much work to be done, with PNG exporting goods worth K84 million to Australia. Imports reached K364 million, resulting in a K280 million trade imbalance. Australia spent K35 million on gold, K31 million on coffee, K4.6 million on tea and K1.7 million on copra oil.

Japan imported goods worth K302 million from PNG during 1987 to remain the country's leading trade partner, with strong sales of copper concentrate, gold, timber, copra, prawns and crocodile skins.

West Germany came in second place, importing K288 million worth of PNG goods during the year.

□ PNG LIFTS COCOA TAX

THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA Government has lifted its export tax on cocoa. The decision follows a difficult period for the cocoa industry, hit hard by falling world prices.

□ FISHERIES GRANT

THE Pacific Regional Marine Resources Development Program is to receive a \$F17.5 million grant from the Commission of the European Community. The grant will provide equipment, construction work, technical assistance and training in five components over a five-year period.

The first three components will give assistance to the Forum Fisheries Agency, improve the regional database and communications systems of the Tuna Fisheries Management Information Services, and help improve the region's capacity to negotiate the delimitation of exclusive economic zones.

The remaining components will fund the South Pacific Commission's tuna tagging program and projects to

map the near-shore and off-shore seabed mineral resources.

The program will cover Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. The grant is made available from the European Development Fund under the Third Lome Convention.

□ BORAL EXPANDS PACIFIC OPERATIONS

BORAL GAS, the energy division of the Boral Group, has significantly strengthened its operations in Papua New Guinea and in the Pacific islands.

Through its associated company, Gas Corporation of American Samoa, Boral has acquired the Blue Flame Gas Corporation, the principal distributor of LPG in American Samoa. The purchase completes Boral's vertical integration into distribution of LPG at import, wholesale and retail levels along similar lines to those currently employed by Group subsidiaries in Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

Boral Gas has also reached agreement with local interests in Western Samoa for the establishment of a new company, the appointment of a retail agent and the establishment of a new bulk terminal in Apia.

In the Solomon Islands, the company has obtained government approval to enlarge its existing gas terminal facility and relocate it from the port area at Honiara to the Ranadi industrial estate.

Boral will establish new gas terminals in the Papua New Guinea highlands at Mount Hagen and Goroka. It's expected these projects will create significant additional employment opportunities in those areas. □

Transition



Honoured: PNG Deputy PM Akoka Doi.

Recognised: PNG Deputy Prime Minister Akoka Doi and Forest Minister Karl Stack have been made Companions of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) and are now members of the Privy Council. They are among 37 PNG citizens honoured in the Queen's New Year Honours List.

Appointed: Elizabeth Qualao has been named Executive Officer of the University of the South Pacific's Vanuatu Centre. Originally from PNG, Ms Qualao holds a degree in Business Studies from the University of Technology in Lae. She has worked in the Government Statistics Office since moving to Vanuatu and will be based at the new USP complex under construction in Vila.

Knighthood: Dr James Jacobi, a medical practitioner in Boroko, PNG, and long-time president of the PNG Rugby Football League. Sir James, who already holds an OBE, was honoured for services in medicine and to the community.

Knighthood: Joseph Nombri, PNG's most senior diplomat and ambassador to Japan. Already the holder of a British Empire Medal, an Imperial Service Order Sir Joseph was honoured for distinguished public service.

Died: Henry Nicholas Francis, popular long-time resident of Norfolk Island. Affectionately known as Chook, Mr Francis died suddenly on December 8, aged 77. He was a confectioner by trade but applied himself to many things and is fondly remembered as the cook and proprietor of the Ocean-side guest house, later known as the "Paradise". He is survived by his wife Lois, his many children and grandchildren.

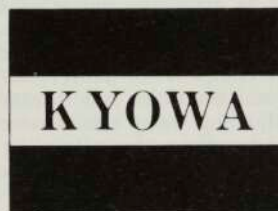
Died: Phillip Billy, education minister of Central Province, PNG. Mr Billy, 30, was killed in a road crash at Gerehu, Port Moresby, on December 5. He was elected to the provincial government last July and was credited with the first unification of provincial politicians in the area. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Died: Nemio Drauna, 49, secretary of Fiji's Native Land Trust Board, in Suva, of renal failure, on November 16. Mr Drauna was educated at the Queen Victoria School and held a number of positions at the NLTB. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Appointed: Father David Halstead, as Australia-Southwest Pacific regional head of the Roman Catholic Dominican Order. Sydney-born Father Halstead was elected at a recent meeting of the Order in Canberra. He replaces Father Nicholas Punch who has held the position for the past eight years.

Appointed: Dr Mesake Biunaiwai, named ambassador to Australia by Fiji's interim Government. Previously under-secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 56-year-old Dr Biunaiwai is expected to take up his post in February.

Elected: Kamilo Gata, to the French National Assembly with 57 per cent of the vote in a by-election in the French territory of Wallis and Futuna. The Government-backed Socialist Party candidate last year challenged the re-election of Benjamin Brial, who has held the seat since 1967, and forced the new poll. A French constitutional council inquiry later found evidence of false proxy voting and double voting in last year's contest.



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OF ALL Pacific nations, the one to attract the most adverse publicity in 1988 was, ironically, New Zealand — once noted for its conservative stamp issuing policy and freedom from controversy. However, this has all changed: last month I indicated the battle raging between Otorohanga Document Exchange Service and its competition with New Zealand Post and the latest furore centres on New Zealand's 'Royal 100' stamp exhibition, an exhibition of national importance.

In what could pass as a scene from 'Fawty Towers', New Zealand Post threatened to close its stand and walk out of its exhibition unless an adjoining stand ceased selling a so-called 'Cinderella' item — a label used by a private company for delivery of items.

Several deadlines and threats later, the adjoining stamp dealer reluctantly stopped selling the offending item over the counter and New Zealand Post opened its stand.

The company has advertised the 'Cinderella' item (featuring *Steinlager I*, the New Zealand trimaran that recently won the Bicentennial Round Australia Yacht Race) throughout the world in the knowledge that New Zealand Post has recently lost a number of court actions against competing private mail contractors; this incident only adds to NZ Post's loss of face.

Native flowers are featured on the FIJI November 21 issue of 9c, 30c, 45c and \$1 denominations.

NEW ZEALAND'S wildflower set is due out on January 18: 40c — clover; 60c — lotus; 70c — Monbretia; 80c — wild ginger.

PITCAIRN ISLAND marked the 150th anniversary of the Constitution with a November 30 set in 20c, 40c, \$1.05 and \$1.80 denominations. Four 90c Christmas nativity stamps also were issued. Upcoming releases in-

clude a Bicentenary sheetlet (first of three), six 20c stamps depicting Bligh's sailing to Tahiti on the *Bounty*. A second Bicentenary sheetlet of six 90c stamps is due out on April 28 depicting the mutiny on the *Bounty*. An aircraft set is expected in July and island profiles are due in October.

NEW CALEDONIA marked the Rotary International Polio Plus campaign with the October 27 release of 220F stamps featuring Rotary and polio symbols. A 250F Health For All stamp was released on November 17 for the 40th anniversary of the World Health Organisation.

FRENCH POLYNESIA released a set depicting Protestant missionaries on December 7: 80F Papeiha (1800-1840); 90F — Pastor Henry Nott (1774-1844); 100F — President Samuel Paapoto (1921-1976).

AUSTRALIA's Christmas set was issued on October 31 with 32c, 37c and 63c stamps featuring children's drawings of Christmas themes.

SAMOA issued a Christmas set and a souvenir on November 14 depicting churches of Samoa: 15S — Congregational, Apia; 40S — Roman Catholic; 45S — Congregational, Moatea; \$2 — Ba'hai temple.

VANUATU released a set on the Food and Agricultural Organisation on November 14: VT45 — crops; VT55 — fisherman; VT65 — pigs; VT120 — market.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA released a set depicting ships on November 16: 1t — La Boudeuse, 1768; 10t — Swallow, 1767; 30t — Vitiaz, 1871; K3 — Samoa, 1884. 1989 releases include flowers on January 25, letter writing on March 22, native dwellings on May 17, small birds on July 12 and a Christmas issue on November 8. □

THE REGION

'Niuklia Fri Pasifik' on film

David Robie reports on a new documentary about the making of the controversial Treaty of Rarotonga.

ON AUGUST 6 1985, the 40th anniversary of the atomic blast that devastated Hiroshima, the leaders of the South Pacific Forum gathered in the thatch-roofed Rarotonga Hotel for a historic meeting. Eight of the 13 leaders endorsed and signed the Rarotonga Treaty declaring a regional nuclear-free zone.

The ink was barely dry before dissent within the Forum became public. A day after New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, the conference spokesman, assured journalists that all Forum members would sign the document, Vanuatu Prime Minister Father Walter Lini declared his country would not sign — at least until the treaty was watertight.

The region's news media quickly lost interest in the issues raised by the treaty, but now a landmark television documentary, *Niuklia Fri Pasifik* (Bislama for 'Nuclear Free Pacific') has rattled the skeletons in the Forum closet with an incisive and entertaining look at the evolution of the nuclear-free Pacific ideal. The independent British-New Zealand production was made early in 1988 at a cost of \$NZ180,000 after a year of research and fund-raising. The 50 minute documentary was financed with a three-way contract involving Britain's innovative Channel Four, Television New Zealand and the NZ Film Commission. It was recently completed in the modest Wellington studios of Vanguard Films and is due for screening in Britain in February and later in the year in Australia and New Zealand.

While the documentary may cause discomfort to some politicians, award-winning co-producer Alister Barry says the show is surprising, but not controversial. "It will accurately reflect the positions and forces that were at play in the development of the treaty," he says. "I can't see any of those players being in a position to complain because we've gone to a lot of trouble to find out what their different positions were and we're committed to making sure the balance of those forces are understood."

If the documentary generates any controversy, says Barry, it will do so by revealing the details of a story some of those involved would prefer was not told. "The New Zealand Government, for example, will feel uncomfortable that its role in the making



Director Lesley Stevens supervises filming in Port Vila.

of the treaty does not match the popular and politically useful image it has tried to portray of itself as champion of the nuclear-free ideal. Australia will find it uncomfortable because, while it portrayed itself as diplomatic and measured, it was completely determined to get what it wanted."

Barry and co-producer Philip Shingler believe the documentary reveals far greater involvement in the treaty by the nuclear powers than would be conceded by those who celebrate it as a great success story. "We've been surprised to find just how involved the US was in the actual details of the formulation of the treaty," says Barry. "The popular image projected of the treaty was that it was a regional initiative. Certainly that's true in one sense, but the nuclear powers also had a good hand in the show."

Barry concedes such involvement was almost inevitable. "If you want to get the nuclear powers to agree to the limitations imposed on them by the treaty, obviously you've got to get them to go along with it." That was the attitude of Australia, New Zealand and several Polynesian nations. But the Melanesian stance was "We're a group of sovereign nations and we can make a treaty regardless of what the nuclear powers do". But the Australia-New Zealand approach should not be seen as 'big brother' attitude: the Pacific islanders Barry and Shingler interviewed during the making of the film acknowledged the "care and sensitiv-

ity" with which the Australians and the New Zealanders approached the treaty diplomacy.

The documentary is something of a television miracle, given the obstacles of time, distance, finance and the co-operation of the politicians involved. If economic viability was the yardstick, television networks would have canned the project before it reached first base. It is a credit to the faith of Barry and Shingler and to the creativity and versatility of New Zealand-born freelance director Lesley Stevens, cameraman Wayne Vinter and soundman Steven Upston that the film is so powerful.

Historical clips include the first nuclear free Pacific conference in Suva in 1975, and the fourth in Port Vila in 1983. Pacific islands activists and Tahitian victims of the Mururoa tests speak out frankly in interview segments. Father Lini adds a poignant touch when he declares his country still speaks for the majority of the Pacific's people. "It is the governments of the South Pacific that have difficulty in signing a comprehensive nuclear-free Pacific treaty, not the people," Father Lini says.

But for all the treaty's flaws, former Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Dennis Lulei is more optimistic. "It's a giant step from nothing and we've got it . . . let's have a go at it." □

Book Reviews

Late in 1988, the Institute of Pacific Studies published a number of books by islanders about the region. A number of titles are reviewed here.

FROM THE MANGROVE SWAMPS

By Tomasi R. Vakatora. \$F5 in the islands, \$US7 elsewhere.

THE author has observed Fiji's political and social evolution at close quarters, and tells that story through an account of his emergence from a humble family in a village on the Rewa Delta to membership of Fiji's Cabinet. Vakatora was administrator of many government projects and head of ministries before he entered politics, eventually holding a number of portfolios and becoming Speaker. He is well qualified to give an inside account of the events of 1987, and in this volume considers the future of Fiji at length.

PACIFIC COURTS AND LEGAL

SYSTEMS Edited by Guy Powles and Mere Pulea. ISBN 982-02-0046-6. Islands \$F8, \$US14 elsewhere.

MORE than 50 people engaged in courts and the law in the Pacific discuss their work, experience and areas of concern, providing insights into the 28 countries and territories of the region. Judges, magistrates, court administrators, policymakers, prosecutors, lawyers and academics have contributed valuable information to this book, which offers a country-by-country analysis of court systems, sources of law, government systems and the legal profession, with emphasis on critical areas such as legal aid and representation and training of practitioners. It is published in association with the University of the South Pacific's Law Unit in Vanuatu and the Faculty of Law at Monash University, Melbourne.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITIES:

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS Edited by Ron Crocombe and Malama Meleisea. ISBN 982-02-0039-3. Islands \$F10, \$US15 elsewhere.

TERTIARY education was virtually unknown in the Pacific until 1945 — but by 1987 there were nine universities offering degrees and the prospect of three more opening within a few years. Staff at these universities have contributed chapters on the complex educational realities of the region. Chapters on the number

of islanders studying overseas are included, and national perspectives on higher education and its future are closely examined.

TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN VANUATU

By Christian Coiffier, translated by V Arjun and P Hereniko. ISBN 982-02-0047-4. Islands \$F5, \$US8 elsewhere.

THE diversity of technological forms chosen by generations of ni-Vanuatu is depicted in a clear text supported by many photographs, site plans and drawings. Village architecture in Vanuatu has changed greatly over the past century; this book examines the evolution of spatial organisation of buildings and the design, construction techniques and use of materials. Its scope is comprehensive, but it does not include the urban areas of Luganville on Espiritu Santo or Port Vila on Efate.

MICRONESIAN POLITICS —

Volume Three in the series Politics in the Pacific Islands. ISBN 982-02-0038-5. Islands \$F7, \$US12 elsewhere.

SIX million Pacific islanders make up the most politically fragmented community on earth: divided into 22 political units, they often have to struggle to define their relationship with the metropolitan powers closest to them. Present-day Micronesia is here examined by a political scientist, a former politician, a publisher, a historian, a journalist and an educator. The book covers Kiribati, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of Palau.

LAW, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS STATES

Edited by Yash H Ghai. ISBN 982-02-0049-0. Islands \$F8, \$US15 elsewhere.

THE book concentrates on the constitutional and governmental systems of the independent Pacific island states, including the considerable developments that have taken place since their independence.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

COMMUNICATION JOURNAL Vol. 15 No 2 — **FREEDOM AND TRAINING FOR THE PACIFIC MEDIA** Edited by Ron Crocombe and Marjorie Crocombe. \$F3.

THE authors examine the effect on Pacific media and communications of crises such as the two Fiji coups. The training of Pacific people in all aspects of media work is given considerable space, with academics stressing the need for co-operation throughout the region.

FIJIANS AT WAR by Asesela Ravuvu. ISBN 982-02-0025-3. Islands \$F4, \$US6 elsewhere.

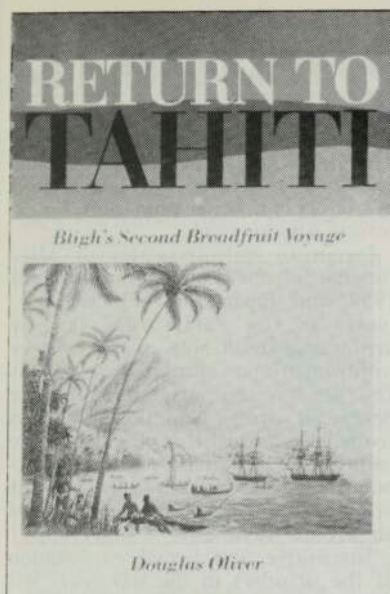
THIS study was first published in 1974 and is now in its second printing. It studies Fijian attitudes to war, based on oral and written evidence, examines the reasons for Fijian participation in the two World Wars and the impact of these experiences on the relationships between Europeans, Indians and Fijians.

LAND RIGHTS OF PACIFIC WOMEN 1986 (reprint). ISBN 982-02-0012-1. Islands \$F4, \$US6 elsewhere.

WOMEN'S rights to land throughout the Pacific remain generally secondary to those of men, even in matrilineal societies. Christianity, commerce and centralised government have, however, brought important changes, and adjustments to law and adaptation of behaviour continue. This increasingly important topic is considered in case studies of Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

FRENCH POLYNESIA — A BOOK OF SELECTED READINGS, Edited by Nancy Pollock and Ron Crocombe. ISBN 982-02-0032-6. Island Price \$F8, \$US12 elsewhere.

FRENCH Polynesia has made a significant contribution to the Pacific's heritage, but little information is available in English about its past and the issues faced by France's Polynesian territories today. This book attempts to fill the gap with an overview of history, customs, the land, current issues and concerns for the future. □



RETURN TO TAHITI: BLIGH'S SECOND BREADFRUIT VOYAGE by Douglas Oliver. Melbourne University Press \$A85.95

Reviewed by Dr Sven Wahlroos

EVERYONE with a serious interest in Polynesian history and culture is familiar with the name Douglas Oliver. His monumental three-volume work *Ancient Tahitian Society*, published in 1974 by the University of Hawaii Press, is essential to an understanding of the Society Islands and, indeed, of Eastern Polynesia; his recently revised *The Pacific Islands* is also on the bookshelves of all ardent students of the South Pacific. Oliver's name on the cover of a book is virtually a guarantee of high quality and meticulous scholarship.

Now he has delighted us with another important work — one that will appeal especially to *Bounty* and Tahiti enthusiasts. *Return to Tahiti: Bligh's Second Breadfruit Voyage* fills a conspicuous void in the vast literature connected with the *Bounty* story. The only other important work on the subject of which I am aware is Ida Lee's *Captain Bligh's Second Voyage to the South Sea* (Longman's, 1920), which is interesting and valuable to be sure, but does not meet the high standards of scholarship Oliver attains.

In *Return to Tahiti* Oliver concentrates on the approximately 14 weeks Bligh spent at Tahiti with his two ships, *Providence* and *Assistant*. We experience this stay not only through Bligh's logbook but also — on a day-by-day basis — through the personal

logs of First Lieutenant Bond, Third Lieutenant Tobin and the commander of the *Assistant*, Lieutenant Portlock. Fascinating excerpts from their journals are accompanied by interesting and informative remarks by Douglas Oliver, who accomplishes the difficult feat of making sense of the extremely complex Tahitian social and political structure of the time. For this achievement alone, all students of Tahitian history and of the *Bounty* adventure must be in his debt.

Oliver's previous works were all well written, but with the conservatively stiff prose of the conventional scientist: In *Return to Tahiti*, however, he has loosened up and writes entertainingly and sometimes humorously without sacrificing any scientific accuracy. The book is simply a great pleasure to read and it is difficult to put it down; in fact, I experienced a sense of regret when I came to the end of the story (the mark of a truly great book).

The author is well aware of who his readers are; on Page 140 he writes: "Anyone choosing to read this far in a book about Bligh's second breadfruit journey may be assumed, I suppose, to be well acquainted with the events and consequences of the first." It is indeed difficult to imagine that anyone reading *Return to Tahiti* would not be familiar with the *Bounty* mutiny, but in lecturing on the latter subject I have often been surprised at the large proportion of *Bounty* enthusiasts who know nothing about the second breadfruit expedition. They should all read this intriguing account.

There are, of course, no perfect books. This one is attractive not only in content but also in appearance; illustrated with truly delightful watercolours painted by Third Lieutenant George Tobin. However, the book has some irritating technical drawbacks. In 281 pages I counted 28 typographical errors in Oliver's text alone (I did not feel safe in examining the journal excerpts for typos). More seriously, however, the index compiled by Elmar Zalums is skimpy and sloppy and detracts severely from the usefulness of the book as a reference work. I hope that there will be a new edition of this important book with a reduced number of technical errors and a vastly expanded index. (Oliver himself has not made any mistakes I can detect, other than an inexplicable statement on page 42 to the effect that Captain Edwards, commander of the *Pandora*, arrested "all 22 of the *Bounty* people still on the island". The actual number was 14, so this could hardly be a typographical error.)

However, these technical flaws drown in the overall quality, interest and superb scholarship of this work. I warmly recommend it to anyone interested in the South Pacific. □

SPECIAL OFFER

TO

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READERS

Pacific Press announces the publication of **LAST FRONTIERS: THE EXPLORATIONS OF IVAN CHAMPION OF PAPUA** by James Sinclair

Each copy of this limited and numbered edition of 1000 copies includes a commemorative bookplate signed by Ivan Champion, OBE, and James Sinclair. Published by Pacific Press, 17 Park Avenue, Broadbeach Waters, Queensland Australia 4128.

LAST FRONTIERS is available to PIM readers at a special reduced price until 31 January 1989. Instead of the regular price of \$A85 (\$US72), PIM readers who enclose the review on Page 48 with their payment can purchase *Last Frontiers* for the pre-publication price of \$A69 (\$US58) plus postage and handling (Australia \$A5; Asia/Oceania \$A8 or \$US7; other countries \$A10 or \$US9).

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Book Review

NAN'YO: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE JAPANESE IN MICRONESIA 1855-1945

By Mark R. Peattie, University of Hawaii Press. Pacific Islands Monograph Series No. 4, US\$30.

Reviewed by JOHN CONNELL

AT a time when Japan is asserting a new presence in the Pacific; when Toyotas dominate island roads, tuna vessels scour the oceans and aid reaches new levels, this important book provides a valuable and detailed account of the quarter of a century when a significant part of the Pacific was an element in the Japanese colonial empire.

Throughout the inter-war years Japan set out to absorb Micronesia into the empire, primarily by constructing profitable settler colonies where Japanese and other Asians would eventually come to dominate islanders by a ratio of two to one. *Nan'yo*, the South Seas from Saipan to the Marshall Islands, were taken into a new strategic role.

Nan'yo is an account of a small segment of the history of Japan's imperial expansion.

It is not a history of Micronesia, or of Micronesians under Japanese rule — but it is nevertheless a significant contribution to both areas. Mark Peattie, a specialist in modern Japanese history, himself states that "I have simply tried to tell the story of the rise and fall of a vigorous, aggressive and enterprising people on distant and far-scattered fragments of land . . . a setting that was both exotic and geographically fast". He tells the story well, and more than 40 photographs (and a rather odd assembly of maps) make this a most elegant production in a fine series.

Japanese interest in Micronesia began toward the end of the 19th century as the navy and merchant marine of an island nation expanded to still poorly known and remote islands: virtually the last phase in the global scramble for empire. Despite tiny trading companies and limited capital, Japan acquired Micronesia surprisingly quickly. By the end of World War I, as Japan consolidated its presence in the face of US and British alarm, it had already become apparent that Micronesia had a strategic value that would remain far in excess of its economic value.

Under the League of Nations mandate Japan applied characteristic zeal and energy to public works, education, shipping services and, of course, Japanese language and laws. A huge

Japanese bureaucracy grew — a sign of worse things to come under the American trusteeship — that was "intensive and dominating" compared with everything that had gone before.

Though the Japanese bureaucracy was highly competent, and met with surprisingly little indigenous resistance (other than in Palau and Yap), the grafting of this bureaucracy on to small-scale societies necessarily created problems.

There was limited religious freedom, labour was exploited in the Angaur phosphate mine, health programmes could not stimulate population growth and education was segregated and discriminatory. Peattie points out, however, though they were prejudiced and perjorative, Japanese attitudes to Micronesians were no worse than most other colonial outlooks at the time.

Micronesians became subordinate in every way to the Japanese colonial system, emphasised by a mass immigration of Japanese similar to the influx of Europeans into New Caledonia or Hawaii. The Japanese population of Micronesia reached 62,000 in 1937, substantially larger than the indigenous population, and only recently has the population of Micronesia reached its pre-war level.

Neither encouraged nor actively discouraged by the Japanese administration, the flood of migrants threatened to swamp the Micronesian population; Peattie records one American visitor in the 1930s recording that "the natives will soon pass on to silence and dust". Fortunately this was not to be, though Japanese policy represented that nation's most important breach of the League of Nations mandate.

The economic prosperity that followed copra sales, fishing and commerce has long been Micronesians' one positive recollection of the period. Having acquired the islands for essentially strategic reasons, the Japanese government initially had no real economic development policy; yet a combination of vigorous private initiative, government encouragement and subsidies eventually turned Micronesia into a profitable colony.

At the end of the 1930s exports of sugar, phosphate, fish and copra dwarfed exports, but it was the end of an era. When Japan left, the productive economy never revived.

Indeed, Peattie suggests that "had the war not scourged the islands, Japanese Micronesia might have become the agricultural showplace of the Pacific" — albeit a showplace only for the colonialists. In the economic boom

Micronesians were still largely bystanders, watching aghast as the islands' ecological structures were devastated by deforestation, erosion and omnivorous African snails.

Japanese militarisation of Micronesia did not begin in earnest until 1939, and Japan's "invulnerable fortress" in the Pacific was largely mythical; a result both of the mystery with which Japan shrouded the islands and the fevered imagination of the American press. Nonetheless it was from Micronesia that the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbour — an attack that four years later brought the end of Japan's colonial empire in Micronesia.

Insensitive and brutal exploitation of the islanders in the war years left only a legacy of tragedy and bitterness. A few stone foundations are virtually all that remain of the Japanese civilian era. Military debris is much more prominent: a clear mark of the strategic arena Micronesia had already become. The effects of direct Japanese colonialism may have been all but obliterated, but modern Japanese economic interests in tourism, construction and fisheries provide a massive neo-colonial presence, "exercising power and influence in the Pacific on a scale that pre-war entrepreneurs never dreamed".

In place of the tidal wave of Japanese immigrants has come one of Japanese products: the Japanese have colonised Micronesia more effectively than direct rule could ever achieve, and in this book Mark Peattie has elegantly recorded the history of what is now almost a forgotten era. □



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Shipping Schedules

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PAGE Line (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised service every 17 days from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. 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 (311 777); Tlx FJ2168; Fax 301 127; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Lautoka (60 777); Sato SA, Avenue James Cook BPC 2, Noumea, Cedex (281 122); Tlx 3163 NM GATO. Fax 276 532.

AUSTRALIA — SAMOAS — TONGA

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

Details from Hetherington Westfarmers 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 — 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 122143.

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 122143.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

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

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277). Tlx 122143.

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 — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

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). Campagnie 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, 6 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, Lyttelton and Port Chalmers.

Details from Australian National Shipping Agencies, 131-137 York St, Sydney (225 7333) and Australian National 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 enquiries (088 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, Savusavu, Suva, Vava'u and Vila on cruises from Australia.

Details from P&O Booking Centre, Thomas Cook Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh St, Sydney (237 0333).

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS — VANUATU

A consortium of NGAL/PNG 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); Graumut Enterprises, Wewak (86 2106); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, Kavieng (94 2133); Alotau Stevedoring and Transport, Alotau (61 1318); Ngatia Wholesalers Pty Ltd, Kimbe (93 5102) and Tradco Shipping, Mandana Avenue, Honiara (22 588); Vila Agents Ltd, PO Box 971, Vila, Vanuatu (2490), John Lum & Associates, PO Box 65, Santo, Vanuatu (329).

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from 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 (251 6688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466). Tlx: NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete, Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

EUROPE — PNG — SOLOMONS

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

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Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466). Tlx: NE44111; or lines' local agents.

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) 301 572. 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) 311 572. Tlx FJ2199; Burns Philp, Suva (311 777); New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customhouse Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington (727 865). Cables ENZUEMAN 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 and Break

Bulk-Heavy Lift service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara with 18 days frequency. Wewak and Madang will receive four direct calls a year or more on inducement. A T/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, Rarotonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai service.

Details from Steamships Shipping, PO Box 634, Port Moresby (220 283 or 220 289).

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 (312 244), 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 (9680)-32641 (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); Tlx 782505; Fax (684) 633 5100; Union Maritime Services Ltd, PO Box 4 Nuku'alofa, Tonga (21 644/5); Tlx 6627, 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, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (31 2244), Fax (679) 301 572 Tlx FJ2199.

JAPAN — MICRONESIA

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

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd., 51 Pitt 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 96960 (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) Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae (42 3642, 42 3811).

Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG — 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: 423 642 or a switch: 423 811). Contact W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager & Marketing, Tlx NE 42508 Fax 423 801.

JAPAN — KOREA — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Bali Hai Service operates a monthly and general cargo and vehicle service from main Japanese ports and Korea to Suva, Lautoka, Apia, Pago Pago, Papeete, Nuku'alofa, Noumea, Vila, Santo and Honiara.

Details from John Swire and Sons (Japan) Ltd, 14 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (03) 230 9220; Tlx J22248, Fax (03) 230 9288.

PNG — INTER-MAINPORT

Papua New Guinea Lines 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 (211 174), Tlx 22269.

PNG — TAIWAN — HONG KONG — SINGAPORE — INDONESIA

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operates a regular joint cargo service from PNG Ports to Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta & Surabaya.

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Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

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 (251 6688), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; 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 (251 6688), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; 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 (251 6688), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; Tradco Shipping Ltd., Honiara (22 588), Tlx 66 313.

NEW ZEALAND — AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMON ISLANDS

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

Details from Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae Sullivan 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 (392 650), Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; Shipping Office, Govt of Niue, PO Box 107, Niue Island; Compagnie Maritime Polynésienne, 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 (311 056).

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

Details Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs St, Auckland (773 279); 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 (739 029), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva (311 777), Tlx FJ2168 Burnship.

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 monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes and FCL Dry Freezer.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St., Auckland PO Box 3 (390 229), Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554; Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Mealelele (Western Samoa Ltd) Private Bag, Apia, Western Samoa; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, PO Box 129, Pago Pago, American Samoa (633 2709), Burnsouth SB.

NZ — COOK ISLANDS — AITUTAKI — NIUE

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

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St., Auckland/PO Box 3, Auckland (390 229), Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554; Fax 32 931.

SOUTH EAST ASIA — FIJI

Nedlloyd Lines (NZEAS) Service operates regular fast cargo service from Surabaya, Jakarta, Port Kelang, Bangkok and Singapore via New Zealand to Suva and Lautoka. Details from Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St., Walu Bay, Suva (312 244). Fax: (679) 301 572. Tlx: FJ2199.

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, Singapore, Port Kelang, Penang then to Mediterranean ports and Europe via the Suez Canal (other New Zealand ports subject to inducement).

Details from Universal Shipping Agencies Ltd, 7th Floor, 14 Emily Pl, Auckland 1 (390 931, 390 727, 32 104), Tlx 21 517.

TAIWAN — HONG KONG — SINGAPORE — INDONESIA — PNG

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Surabaya to Papua New Guinea Ports.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx: NE 44171; or lines' local agents.

EUROPE — TAHITI — W SAMOA — FIJI — 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 (231 3700).

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 transhipment.

Details from Sotama, BP 9170, Papeete (42 7805), Tlx Sotama 373FP, SATO, BP, 02 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 4243; Union Steamship Co NZ Ltd, PO Box 50, Apia (21 781), Tlx 226; Warner Pacific Line, PO Box 93, Nuku'alofa (22 088), Tlx 66219; Fiji Agents TBA.

EUROPE — TAHITI — 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 Vetani St., Lautoka (63 988), Tlx 5215FJ.

UK — W SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd., 51 Pitt St., Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx: NE 44171; or lines local agents.

UK — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull 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 (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx: NE44171; or lines' local agents.

UK — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Papeete, Noumea, Port-Vila and Santo.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx: NE 44171, Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete, Ets Bailande, Noumea and other local agents.

US — HAWAII — MICRONESIA — PNG

PM&O Lines operate 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, Manila, 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 8819), Tlx 783605 CMCAA.

OUT OF THE PAST

Tragedy on the Sepik

The villagers of Timbunke in Papua New Guinea paid a terrible price for their support of Australian troops during World War II. Stuart Inder examines a story that, 45 years on, has still not been fully told.

"Investigations into the Timbunke massacres have now been finalised, and it is hoped that in the very near future that matter may be regarded as completely closed . . ."

TIME has shown that the opening paragraph of the five-page report sent by the Assistant District Officer at Angoram to his District Officer at Wewak on February 25, 1947, was optimistic. The matter was, in fact, closed not long afterwards — if you look at it from a purely administrative standpoint. But more than 40 years on, many of the people of Timbunke (then known as Timbunki), on the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea's East Sepik province, would not agree it was "completely closed".

And perhaps it never can be closed.

Today, Timbunke is a depressed place compared with many villages on the river. And it may be that its depressed state is at least in part a legacy of its 'crime' — that in 1944, when it was occupied by Japanese forces fighting Australians, it took the Australians' side. The extent of the anguish this caused its people was not known until after the war. It was then that ADC Ralph Ormsby and two other Native Affairs officers, ADO A R Haviland and Patrol Officer Peter Maloney, made their investigations on behalf of the re-established Australian administration. But even they, as close as they were to events and with eyewitnesses at hand, could reconstruct only the probable course of events from the evidence available to them. Those who took active part in the massacre were unwilling to supply details, and the victims hadn't survived to bear witness. We may never know the full horror of the Timbunke massacres and their aftermath.

There were Japanese garrisons up and down the Sepik in 1944 as Australian forces continued their push up New Guinea's north coast. One day, an Australian Catalina landed in the Timbunke lagoon and, after somebody on board waved an Australian flag, the plane was quickly surrounded by friendly canoes. This contact led to the arrival by air of an armed Australian party which, on information supplied by the people of the village,

attacked and virtually wiped out an entire Japanese garrison. The Australians were taken out again by air.

The Japanese first reacted to the attack by sending a party of troops accompanied by local warriors friendly to them to attack Timbunke. The assault was a failure and they decided to be more circumspect. They organised intermediaries from surrounding villages to contact the Timbunke people with the message that the Japanese were prepared to settle the matter by arranging a satisfactory payment in pigs. The Timbunkes, most of them now living away from the village, agreed to return for talks.

Meanwhile, Japanese troops secretly occupied the almost deserted village. When the Timbunkes arrived the next day, Japanese troops organised the segregation of men from women and children while the main body of troops remained hidden. The Japanese invited a party of warriors they had brought from 'friendly' villages to bind the men's arms.

The men were then lined up and, while the Japanese stood by, were attacked by their neighbours with sticks and knives. The Timbunke luluai was stabbed with a fish spear by one of the ringleaders of the attack. The Japanese now instructed the warriors to stand back while a double line of Japanese troops was ordered forward with bayonets fixed. The Japanese captain ceremoniously beheaded one of the Timbunke men with his sword and all the others were bayoneted, except two men who were ordered to stand aside. The dead and the dying were then machine-gunned, their bodies thrown into a nearby shell crater. According to Ormsby's informants, some were still squirming.

The two men who had been pulled out of the line were ordered to take a Japanese party to the spot where the previous Japanese garrison was buried. After doing this they made a bold attempt to jump into the river and escape, but were chased by their neighbours in a canoe and shot. Subsequently, the warriors brought by the Japanese were apparently given a free hand to plunder and rape. Any valuables they could not carry away, such as carvings from the Timbunke haus tambaran, were destroyed.

Ninety-six Timbunke men and one woman were missing after these events. Some of them, including the woman, may have been killed when the Japanese occupied the village. But the agony was just beginning for the surviving women of Timbunke. Eighty-two of the younger ones were divided up by the men from the 10 villages that took part in the attack and forcibly taken back to the men's villages. More than 40 of these women were not returned to Timbunke until after the war.

The villages held sing-sings to celebrate their part in the attack on Timbunke, many of them displaying new homicidal emblems. They continued to boast publicly of their exploits until well after the war, when the Australian administration threatened punishment of those who wanted to keep the matter alive. During Ormsby's investigations the Timbunke people were so bitter in their condemnation of their attackers that a number said the only compensation they wanted was to see the ringleaders hanged. The hostility was so strong that the investigators decided to temporarily suspend their inquiries and nonetheless pay war damage compensation to the village. A total of 3150 pounds was paid, "the money disbursed in silver," Ormsby reported, "so that the whole village might have a good chance of appreciating its value. But subsequently every penny of it was paid into five savings bank accounts opened for the purpose. The accounts were opened in the names of the five principal clans and the present intention is that as far as possible the money will remain untouched until the children of the men killed start to come of age."

At the end of the investigation the raiding villages were ordered to pay compensation of 20 pigs. In the Court for Native Affairs, 47 men who had taken Timbunke women by force and compelled them to live with them for more than a year were each sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

"To finalise this report," Ormsby wrote, "let it be said that the prime cause of the whole affair was the loyalty of the Timbunke and natives and their willingness to help the Allied cause without considering the possible risk to themselves." □

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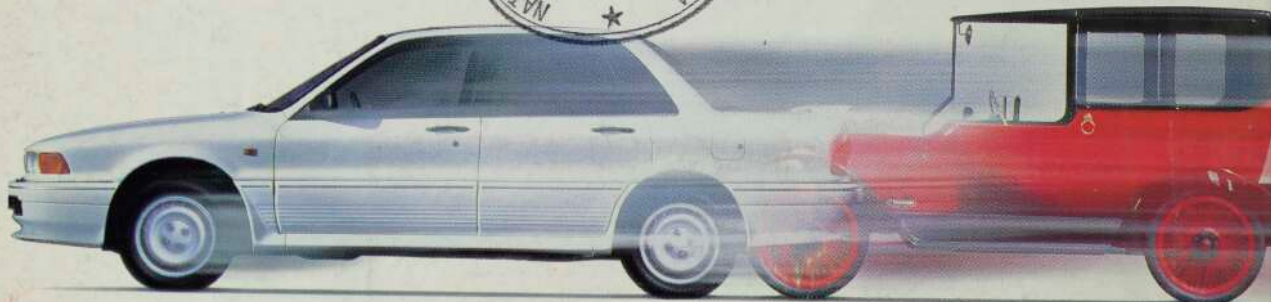
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