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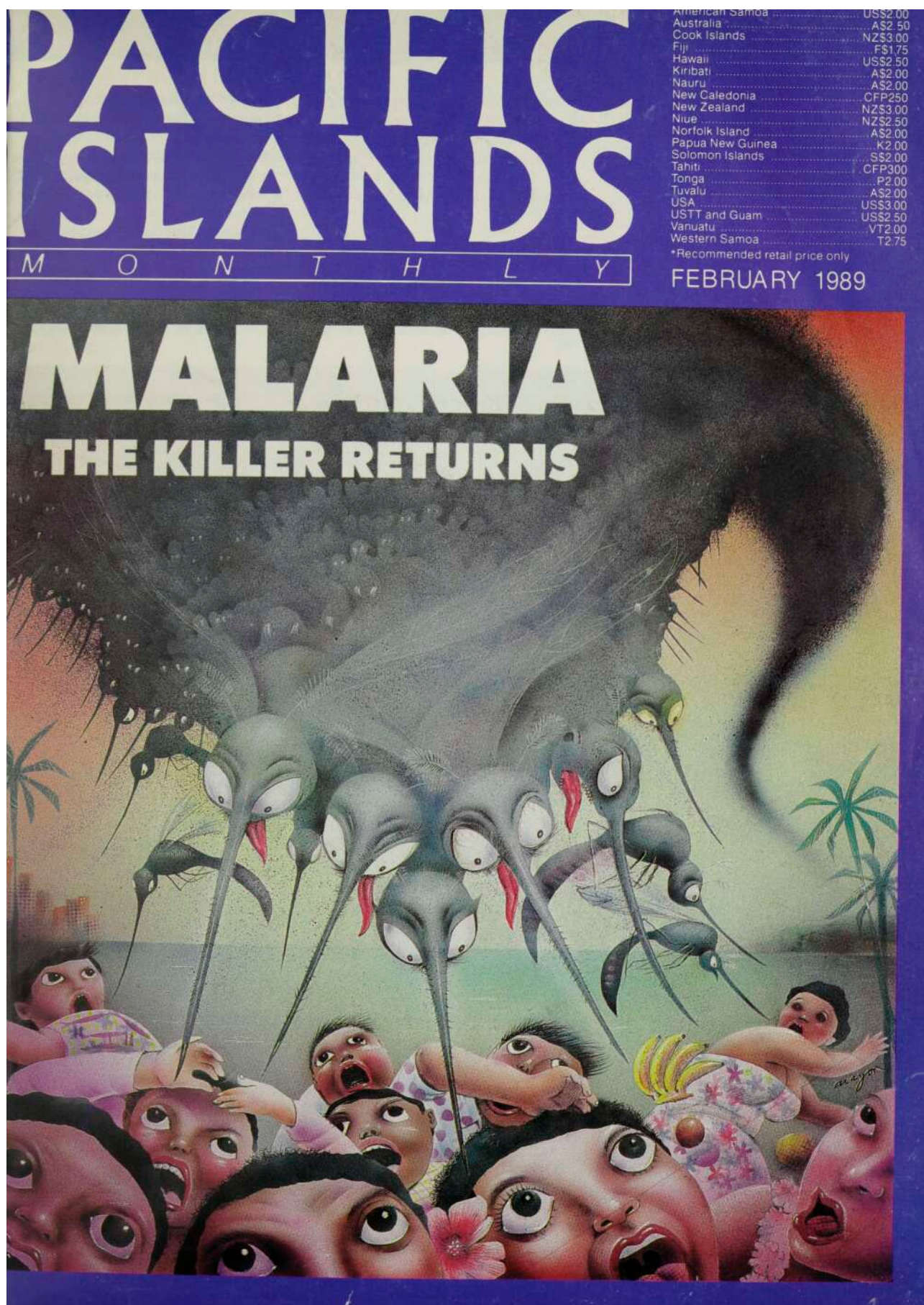
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol. 59 No. 14

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

February, '89

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Malaria was once thought to be going the way of measles and smallpox: eradication of mosquito breeding environments, spraying and new drugs had, it was believed, put paid the tropical world's greatest killer. But nature is flexible, and as Robert Simms learned, malaria is back with a vengeance. Researchers warn, too, that the much-heralded vaccine is at least a decade away from practical application — and may not be the cure-all the people of the Pacific hope.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: EDD ARAGON

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OPINION

The discovery — and salvation — of a new Pacific animal

EVER SINCE the exploration of the island of New Guinea got under way last century, biologists have looked on that jungled, mountainous land as a scientific El Dorado: literally the last place on Earth where any significant number of new plant and animal species might await discovery and description. That scientific faith has been amply rewarded, especially in the post-World War II era of scientific exploration. Hitherto unknown (at least in zoological and botanical terms) areas have been found to contain marvels; and the trend continues, with new and unusual organisms coming under professional scrutiny each year.

Prominent in one important area of research is Dr Tim Flannery, head of the mammal section at the Australian Museum in Sydney. In the past few years Dr Flannery has described new marsupials, bats and rodents — including a bizarre mountain-dwelling giant rat up to a metre in length — from Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya.

In 1985, Dr Flannery almost paid the ultimate price for his interest in New Guinea's rare and endangered mammals: while on an expedition in the Torricelli Mountains in northern PNG, he contracted scrub typhus and was only saved by an arduous journey to a mission station. One of the men carrying Dr Flannery's stretcher through the rugged Torricellis wore a large black animal claw on a pendant; still fascinated by the natural world despite his illness, the young scientist bought the pendant and wondered for three years about the animal from which the claw had come.

Last year, he had his answer: a new and totally unsuspected species of tree kangaroo, or *kapul* in Tok Pisin. Part of the amazement with which the discovery of the new tree kangaroo has been greeted stems from its size — up to 20 kilograms in weight, and significantly larger than its cousins (indeed, it is the largest mammal endemic to Melanesia). It is black overall but for a patch of orange fur at the base of its long, robust tail — another feature that has had scientists wondering why it took so long to be discovered.

There is, however, a note of urgency about the new find: with a severely restricted (and dwindling) range, and a population estimated at no more than 200 individuals, the new species is critically endangered.

The story could end there — another rare and beautiful creature consigned to extinction through habitat destruction, hunting pressure and lack of interest — but for an innovative lifesaving scheme.

In an era of privatisation and self-reliance (and in recognition of higher priorities on the part of national and provincial governments), Dr Flannery has decided to seek the assistance this animal so desperately needs through what can only be called sponsorship. The benefits to a sponsor are immediate: not only the pleasure of doing something concrete for conservation, but the unusual gratification of having the new species named after an individual or corporate sponsor (or, indeed, after an individual nominated by that sponsor). Dr Flannery needs finance to conduct research into the tree kangaroo's ecology, reproduction and social life, and in partnership with the PNG Division of Wildlife to establish a wildlife management area and captive breeding program.

The cost of sponsorship is not cheap. Dr Flannery estimates that half a million dollars (Australian) will be needed to fund a five-year research programme and to establish a captive breeding programme — but it is money that will be more than well spent, for how many opportunities can there be to save a beautiful and rare animal from extinction?

Dr Flannery is to be congratulated for his imaginative approach. It is, no doubt, one that will be imitated elsewhere — but again, it is one worthy of imitation. Readers of *Pacific Islands Monthly* who may be interested in contributing to the preservation of a unique Pacific mammal can contact Dr Flannery at: The Australian Museum, PO Box A285, Sydney South NSW, Australia 2000 or by telephone on (61 02) 339 8114. Give, so this animal may live. □

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UNITED STATES

Bush's 'Good News' for the Pacific

David North examines likely US Pacific policy under George Bush.

EARLY SIGNS are that the new Republican administration will benefit the Pacific region. While the two key sub-Cabinet Pacific positions had not been filled at time of writing, the new Pacific team is generally brighter, more knowledgeable and more united than former president Reagan's team.

The key players are: President Bush, who clearly knows more and cares more about public policy in general and the Pacific in particular than Ronald Reagan; Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, a former member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, comes to the office knowing more about the territories than most of his predecessors; the Governors of Guam, Joe Ada, American Samoa, Peter Tali Coleman, and the Marianas, Pedro Tenorio. For the first time in American history there is a Republican president in the White House and three Republican governors in the Pacific territories.

Finally, for totally different reasons, the powers of the two Congressmen (delegates) from Guam and American Samoa will be greater this year than last. While neither delegate has a vote on the floor of the House, both can vote in party caucuses and in committees and can serve as *de facto* ambassadors for their territories.

Ben Blaz, the Guam Republican, is much closer to the two of Bush's Cabinet members than he was to their predecessors. Blaz and Interior Secretary Lujan have a great deal in common; both are members of somewhat similar ethnic minorities, and both have made good within the establishment. Blaz was the first Chamorro to secure a general's star in the American military; Lujan, the first Mexican-American Republican to be elected to Congress, served as a member of the House for the State of New Mexico from 1968 until he declined to run for re-election last year.

More pertinently, over the past four years Blaz and Lujan have shared two other minority memberships: both have been Republican members of the Democratic-dominated House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and both have been Republican members within the

House Hispanic Caucus, another mostly Democrat group (minority members, both blacks and Hispanics, are much more likely to be Democrats than Republicans).

Further, Blaz was heavily involved in Republican Jack Kemp's ill-fated right-wing campaign for the Presidency. Now that Kemp is the new secretary for Housing and Urban Affairs, Blaz is expected to seek some grants for Guam for housing and other public works from Kemp's department, which has never been a major player on Guam.

The delegate from American Samoa, newly-elected Eni Hunkin Faleomavaega — the only Democratic office-holder among this group — will be stronger than the last incumbent for the simple reason that Fofu Sunia was crippled in his last year of office by the payroll scandal that led to his resignation and jail sentence. The new delegate has ample Capitol Hill experience; as Eni Hunkin he served as a staff attorney to Congressman Phil Burton at the height of his power over territorial affairs (the delegate has since begun using his chiefly name).

Faleomaveaga, like Blaz, spent most of his life away from the islands in public service. A child of a US Navy petty officer, he went to school in Hawaii and on the mainland, then served in Vietnam before going to law school and on to Washington. He then practised law in Pago Pago and was the island's Lieutenant Governor before being elected to the House — arriving there already wise in the ways of the House.

Faleomaveaga's priorities will be to seek to improve the island's infrastructure; to modernise its electricity generation system, the water supply and road system.

Underlying the basic note of optimism as the 'Bushies' take office is a sense that this Administration will have a better record (and certainly a better rhetoric on race relations) an often unspoken underlying theme in Mainland-Territory relations.

The Government in Washington is usually dominated by white Anglo-Saxon males, while the territories are: Puerto Rico — Hispanic; Virgin Islands — English-speaking black; Guam and the Marianas — Chamorro;

and American Samoa — Samoan.

Ronald Reagan may not have been a racist but he adopted racist positions, fighting every civil rights bill passed in the last three decades, sought to restore tax-free status to anti-black schools and made snide remarks about the late Martin Luther King. Bush, on the other hand, had a good voting record in the House on civil rights issues and recently attended a memorial ceremony for King.

The Bush position on civil rights, while admirable, may lead in the future to some problems with the islands. What does a pro-civil rights President do when faced with American Samoa's ethnocentric land-ownership laws? Or with Guam's efforts to give the future decision-making power about its status not to all citizens, but solely to Guam's Chamorro population? He may, however, never have to face those issues — even though Blaz reintroduced the Guam Commonwealth Bill on the first day of the new Congress.

If Bush does face the Guam status issue, it will be through a knowledgeable Secretary of Interior. Lujan has visited Guam several times and on one trip he had a meeting-cum-celebration with the Lujans of the island: all at that session could trace their ancestry back to a time when their forefathers were living in a portion of the Spanish Empire not yet conquered by the United States.

Lujan has conducted hearings on the proposed Guam Commonwealth Bill, and will be participating in the work of an administrative task force (which is having some trouble with the Chamorro-only provision) studying the proposal. He will also play a key role in the selection of one of the two key sub-Cabinet posts, that of Assistant Secretary of Interior for Territorial and International Affairs. Insiders are expecting a member of an ethnic minority and/or a woman to again get the job; the job has changed hands frequently in recent years, often with one acting assistant secretary replacing another, and the incumbents have usually been women or Hispanics. Janet McCoy, once the US High Commissioner for the Trust Territories, held the job on an acting basis until Bush was inaugurated. □

THE REGION

Pacific Voice in Paris

While New Zealand's Russell Marshall was a strong voice for the Pacific, some island nations were strangely silent at the Paris conference on chemical weapons.

By Nicolas Rothwell

THE voice of the Pacific was well to the fore at the Paris international conference on chemical weapons control with key presentations from Australia and New Zealand. While many Pacific island nations did not send delegations or present speeches, Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands were prominently represented.

The conference was convened as an urgent meeting following initiatives by then US President Ronald Reagan and French President Francois Mitterrand at the United Nations last year. Foreign ministers from some 80 states and representatives of 140 nations gathered to re-affirm the existing 1925 Geneva Protocol against the use of chemical weapons, but the four day event turned into an agonised consideration of infringements of that protocol. The spotlight of media and diplomatic attention was turned on the

recent use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, and on American allegations that Libya, supplied by West European chemical companies, was in the process of constructing a chemical munitions factory.

Chief exponent of Pacific concerns was New Zealand Foreign Minister Russell Marshall who announced his country's decision to withdraw the reservation it had initially made more than 50 years ago when it acceded to the Geneva Protocol. New Zealand has now given up the right to use chemical weapons even if it is attacked by another nation using such weapons.

Mr Marshall stressed the special concerns of the Pacific region in the main explanation the Paris conference was to hear of this distant geographical perspective.

"New Zealand is a South Pacific nation and though our ties and bonds of friendship have kept us close to countries in many other parts of the world, our immediate concern is, not unnaturally, for our own neighbourhood. We value our quality of life and our clean and still largely unspoilt environment.

"The very thought of any chemical warfare in our region fills us, as it would all of our South Pacific neighbours, with great repugnance."

But Mr Marshall also spoke of New Zealand's much wider concern: more important than the remote possibility

of chemical warfare in the Pacific is the very real fear of chemical pollution in the region.

"As we now know, the damage being done to the global environment by the careless use of chemicals needs underscoring. The pollution of the atmosphere could, in a matter of decades, have a devastating impact on the South Pacific.

"New Zealand had also expressed sympathy at the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and elsewhere, for those developing countries confronted with attempts to dump toxic waste in their territories. The fragile economies of our own area of the South Pacific depend on an environmentally responsible attitude being taken towards preserving the delicate equilibrium of nature."

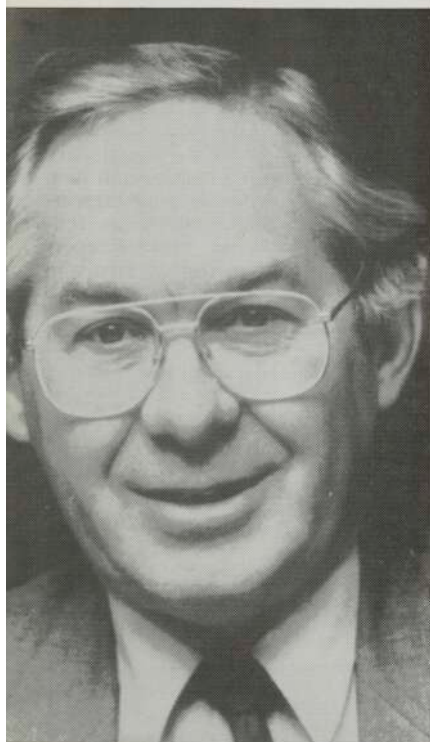
Mr Marshall stressed an urgent need to more closely couple together arms control and environmental policies. He suggested as a model the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone (SPNFZ) treaty, especially its provisions against radioactive waste dumping and nuclear weapons.

Less "Pacific" in his outlook but nevertheless one of the major diplomatic influences at the conference was the Australian representative David Reese, his country's new ambassador to UN disarmament negotiations underway in Geneva.

Mr Reese outlined Australian moves to control chemical weapons proliferation, through the activities of the informal "Australian group" of advanced Western nations, which monitors exports of potential "precursor" chemicals, and through an important regional initiative.

This Asia-Pacific initiative, launched at the UN last year by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, is aimed at keeping the region chemical weapons-free and has been highly praised by international experts for its value in building contacts between regional states on this sensitive issue.

"Australia is fortunate to inhabit a chemical weapons-free environment — we want it to stay that way — we want our region to be free of chemical weapons in a world that is free of chemical weapons," Mr Reese told the conference. □



Russell Marshall — strong opposition to chemical weapons in the Pacific.

"The thought of chemical warfare in our region fills us with great repugnance": NZ Foreign Minister Russell Marshall.

TONGA

AIDS Campaign Fights Taboos

As Western nations fight AIDS with condoms and promotes 'safe sex', Tonga relies on traditional virtues of fidelity and chastity.

AIDS PREVENTION in Western nations focus on the use of condoms and explicit methods of safe sex, but the attitudes to sex found in many Pacific nations force health workers to adopt a different approach to the killer virus. It is not easy to talk about sex in the kingdom of Tonga, where a strict Victorian morality remains as a legacy of the missionaries of the 19th century. In this context, fidelity and chastity are seen as mightier than the condom in Tonga's fight against AIDS and policy-makers believe that laws prescribing a life sentence for sodomy will deter high-risk behaviour.

The Tongan Government has launched what must be, per capita, one of the most comprehensive anti-AIDS campaigns in the world. A massive education program is under way, with posters, stickers and leaflets, workshops for MPs, church leaders and Health Department staff. There are village meetings, billboards and hourly radio announcements. When overseas visitors arrive at Nuku'alofa airport, the first Tongan they are likely to see is a young man seated at a desk handing out AIDS education pamphlets. He also carefully observes new arrivals for obvious signs of the virus.

Tonga has had only one AIDS victim. In June 1987, a Tongan man arrived back in the Kingdom from Texas. Health officials observing his arrival on a Friday evening, suspected he was a likely carrier of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes AIDS. Dr Tili Puloka, chief medical officer for public health, with responsibility for the government AIDS program, visited the man at home the next day where he examined him and offered a blood test which proved positive. On Monday morning Dr Puloka informed the Minister of Health that an AIDS carrier was in the kingdom. Though he had told no-one else, everyone knew of the carrier's presence and Nuku'alofa was in a state of panic. The report was on the radio news, people discussed it in shops and clubs, around the kava bowl and on the streets. It was even debated for two days in the Parliament.

Dr Puloka realised that future carriers must be treated with absolute confidentiality and compassion. He is against screening of overseas arrivals



Dr Tili Puloka — one-man campaign.

and insists that blood tests must remain voluntary.

As Tonga's one-man AIDS program, 62-year-old Dr Puloka pounds the streets and bars of Nuku'alofa counselling and educating the town's relatively few members of groups at high-risk of contracting the virus. They accept and welcome his attention — he recalls one night when he was applauded as he walked into the upstairs bar at Joe's, a Nuku'alofa night-spot favoured by transvestites and prostitutes.

Dr Puloka attributes a dramatic drop in sexually transmitted diseases to a heightened awareness of AIDS. Promiscuity, he says, is on the way

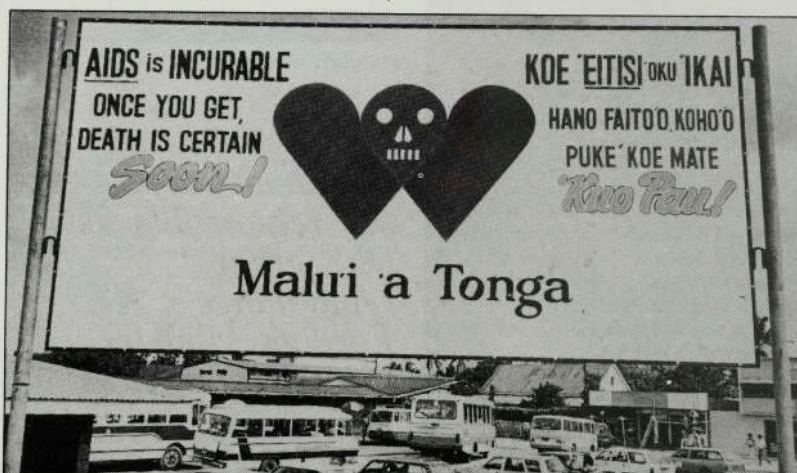
out, and homosexuality does not have the degree of social acceptance in Tonga that it has gained in some Western nations.

As in the rest of Polynesia, there is a fairly relaxed attitude to homosexuality and transvestites have a recognised rôle in village and family life, though they have not been as accepted as the *fa'alafine* of Samoa. But the moral panic over AIDS has reinforced belief in biblical injunctions against homosexuality and driven Tonga's *fakafine* into the closet.

Tapu, such as the *faka'apa'apa* (between brother and sister) prohibit frank discussion of sexual matters but Dr Puloka is determined they will not prevent education. "Tapu is important but not as important as prevention of AIDS," he says.

Tapu are likely to be further undermined by the sort of activities held on World AIDS day last December when the town's schoolchildren amassed for singing competitions. Original songs on the AIDS theme were composed for the occasion.

Condoms don't feature in Tonga's armoury against AIDS. "We teach our people to refrain from sexual promiscuity. It would be contradictory to then give them the means to practice it," says Dr Puloka. Condoms are available on request, but Tongan men don't like to use them. While researching in Sydney's Kings Cross red-light district, he met brothelkeepers who had chased out Tongan men who refused to use condoms. □



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Australia Recalls Envoy

Controversial High Commissioner Lance Joseph returns to Canberra. But the early recall is a promotion, writes Frank Senge.

AFTER ONLY 18 months in Port Moresby, Australian High Commissioner Lance Joseph leaves for Canberra in April.

In his brief period of service, Mr Joseph created an image unlike any High Commissioner before him — an image some observers claim may have caused a degree of estrangement in relationships between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Indeed, some observers have gone so far as to say Canberra made a mistake in sending Mr Joseph to Port Moresby.

Well known in Canberra for his forthright, upright approach, Mr Joseph's appointment to one of Australia's four biggest missions seems to have indicated that Canberra judged the relationship between the two nations firm enough to tolerate a High Commissioner of his character.

The past has fostered in the minds of Papua New Guineans a dreamy, almost hallowed image of benevolent Australia, the un-interfering big brother, aid giver and protector. Previous High Commissioners have allowed that perception to stand, conducting their missions out of the public eye — and the result has been that PNG's only knowledge of Australia's presence in the country consisted of annual talks, the odd trade seminar and the sponsorship of an occasional rural project.

Mr Joseph, however, by his direct and public approach, has dissipated Australia's benign image, making it not only more human 'big brother' and aid giver but also a trade partner and investor ... and one with its own socioeconomic problems.

In matters where the Government's decisions — or, as in the case of recent strikes, industrial unrest — affected Australia and Australians, Mr Joseph made his views known publicly, often inviting severe criticism from both the Government and the public.

This bold new approach naturally made a lot of people unhappy: and it happens that some were so unhappy that in January, PNG foreign affairs officials caused a serious breach of diplomatic protocol.

On January 15, Mr Joseph released a press statement to voice his concerns about the safety of Australians in PNG as a result of widespread violent industrial unrest in the country.



Foreign Minister Michael Somare — angered by claims of diplomatic row.

The media led their bulletins the next day with slightly exaggerated versions of Mr Joseph's concerns, which covered Australian investment as well as personal safety.

Predictably there were immediate reprisals from the Government and unions, accusing Mr Joseph of interfering in domestic unions and Government affairs.

On the same day the High Commissioner secured an appointment with the Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary, John Balagetuna, to personally deliver a letter dated January 11 to let PNG know he was returning to Canberra on a promotion. But almost as soon as it had been lodged, the letter was leaked. Six Foreign Affairs officers called a newspaper journalist into their confidence and revealed the contents of the letter.

When the first journalist did not treat the subject with prominence, the officers found another, presumably less squeamish, journalist.

The next day, banner headlines in

one Port Moresby newspaper told of Mr Joseph being "recalled" to Canberra because of his public statements on January 15.

Mr Joseph was not surprisingly livid at what Australian High Commission sources claim was "scurrilous rumour-mongering". Foreign Affairs Minister Michael Somare was equally angry, and made a public apology to the High Commissioner.

One question remains in the minds of observers on both sides of the Torres Straits: did Canberra err in judging the relationship between the two countries ready and mature enough to receive a Lance Joseph? The *Australian* newspaper has already reported that the new High Commissioner to PNG, Allan Taylor, had been instructed to take a 'softly softly' approach. Which leads to a further query: when will the relationship be mature enough to allow the appointment of another Lance Joseph — a High Commissioner able to speak the hard and unpalatable truth? □

COOK ISLANDS

Henry Re-elected After Five Years

Geoffrey Henry returns from opposition but fails to secure an outright majority. By Cheryl Lilly

LAST MONTH'S general election saw the Cook Islands Party (CIP) led by Geoffrey Henry returned to power after five years in opposition. But, while looking for a clean sweep of seats from the ruling Coalition Government and thus a clear, workable majority, the CIP managed to secure only 12 seats out of the 24 contested.

The Coalition led by Dr Pupu Robati secured nine seats, one seat went to a non-aligned candidate and the remaining two seats — and thus the balance of power — went to the Democratic Tumu (Demo Tumu) Party led by Mr Vincent Ingram.

There has been much speculation on whether the CIP would have the support of the Demo Tumu and be assured of even forming a government; however, in an open letter published in the *Cook Islands News* on January 25, party leader Ingram dismissed these rumours and declared his party's unconditional support to ensure stability in the country for the coming five years.

The swing against the ruling Coalition on Rarotonga (where the CIP won seven of the nine seats contested) was not reflected in the outer islands, where most seats remain unchanged. The absence of any swing in voting has been attributed in part to the remoteness of these islands, in part to elector concern with parochial rather than national issues — to which Rarotongans were more attuned.

Speaking to *Pacific Islands Monthly* shortly before his investiture as Prime Minister, Mr Henry expressed his unhappiness at not having a clear majority. "Obviously we were disappointed not to secure a two-thirds majority," he said. "It will make it difficult to implement the law reforms that will ensure a clean government for today and tomorrow. We will need to negotiate with the Opposition to see where their support is likely to come from."

According to Mr Henry the Cook Islands, under the newly elected CIP Government, aims to be a leading nation in the Pacific by the mid 1990s. "In the 1970s, the Cook Islands had one of the best health and education systems in the Pacific and we were in fact the envy of many of our territo-

rial neighbours. This we achieved on smaller budgets than most of the other countries," he said. "We intend for the Cook Islands to have an education system of which we can all be proud; one that is more relevant to our needs as well as preparing our children for the demands of the outside world."

Under the previous government the past few years have seen the health system reach an all-time low, with people fearing to be hospitalised and those who could afford the airfare flying to New Zealand for treatment rather than risking admission to the hospital on Rarotonga. Education has also suffered badly, with little government input.

In what many people saw as an

attempt to shield itself from further public criticism, the Coalition Government placed a ban on the state-owned newspaper and radio station. The ban, which prevented any political issues — whether in the form of songs, advertisements, recordings, letters to the editor or news — being broadcast on the radio or published in the newspaper, came into force almost two months prior to the January 19 elections and was only lifted on January 4.

Sadly for the Cooks, what had emerged over the months leading up to the election was that even though the standard of all essential services had seriously declined, Government ministers had continued to abuse the system. Of major concern to electors was the abuse of ministerial travel allowances — known in the Islands as the 'Geat Travel Allowance Rip-Off'. One minister was permitted to draw a daily travel allowance of up to three times the rate of the most expensive hotel while overseas; it has been estimated that more than \$NZ800,000 was spent in the 1986/87 period alone by a handful of ministers who were not required to account for the money was spent. "We propose to establish a leadership code that will present this situation recurring," says Mr Henry. □



FORUM SECRETARIAT

(formerly South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation [SPEC])

Applications are invited for the position of **ECONOMIC OFFICER** within the Forum Secretariat. The Secretariat, based in Suva, was established to encourage cooperation between Island member states and between those states and the more industrialised countries on all aspects of economic development, trade, transport, telecommunications, tourism and energy.

The appointee will work principally on development coordination and liaison activities and on the preparation of project dossiers. Applicants should be well qualified in economics or a related field and should have a sound knowledge of the economies of South Pacific Island countries. Familiarity with donor government and agency procedures in the region would be an advantage. We are also looking for a capacity to set clear priorities, to work under pressure, and to present work in a clear and concise manner.

This appointment will carry an attractive remuneration package, payable in Fiji dollars. For non-Fiji citizens this is tax free and includes housing or housing allowance, education and child allowances. Other benefits for all employees include superannuation payments and medical, life and travel insurance coverage. The appointee will be based at the Secretariat's Headquarters in Suva, Fiji but will be required to undertake periodic duty travel. Appointments would be for three years initially, renewable by mutual agreement.

Applications close on 31 March, 1989. As it is intended to make the appointment as soon as possible, the successful applicant must be able to take up the position shortly afterwards. Applications should contain full information on education and career background and should list names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated in a professional capacity.

Applications should be addressed to:

**The Secretary General
Forum Secretariat
GPO Box 856, Suva, Fiji.
Telephone: 312600; Telex: 2229 FJ; Fax 302204**

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

HAWAII

Japanese Investment Alarms Residents

By Michael Moriarty

BOTH MAINLAND and Hawaiian Americans have been growing apprehensive and suspicious about Japanese investment in the US for several years. In certain automobile producing areas of the US it is not advisable to drive an 'un-American' vehicle, and in some cities parking lots have special stalls designated 'foreign car': one cannot help but wonder if these are for the purpose of identifying targets. Even though the Japanese have invested slightly less than a third as much as British corporate investors in US industries — a little under \$US3 billion — the Japanese have been the prime targets of America's growing nationalist sentiment.

Some observers catch the glint of racism in this whole scenario: for example, there was relatively little outcry over the sale of Hawaii's gas supplier (Pacific Resources Incorporated) to an Australian firm. It seems there are those who cannot forget their experiences during World War II.

The issue is particularly acute in Hawaii, where Japanese investors have purchased significant chunks of the State's real estate and hotel industry. One of the more spectacular examples surfaced in mid-January, and it contains elements many Hawaiians find particularly unpalatable — disregard for local inhabitants, and large tracts of land changing hands repeatedly without any of the parties doing any work on the land itself; 'pure' speculation at its worst.

The area concerned is the North Kohala area of the Big Island, where around 7700 hectares owned by Castle and Cook (which had closed down its sugar plantation during the 1970s and had been seeking a buyer for some time) was sold last April to Statesman Mortgage Company of Iowa and Hartford Realty Corporation. These two companies then assigned purchase rights to Southmark Corporation of Georgia in July; Southmark then made a deal with SoPac Kohala (a California-based corporation).

In September, officers of the Chalon Corporation, a Japanese firm, were reported to have visited the Big Island to investigate purchase of the land based on information provided by Royal Coast Realty. In October, Hartford and SoPac agreed to sell the property to Royal Coast Development.

Allegedly, the Chalon Corporation,



Japanese money is behind much of Hawaii's increasing high-rise development — residents are concerned.

on becoming aware of the deal, then indicated its interest in buying the property. An article in the January 19 issue of the *West Hawaii Today* newspaper reported that Royal Coast had claimed it would not sell unless Royal Coast Development and Realty were appointed by Chalon as developer and exclusive broker for the land.

A 53-page complaint in Federal Court by Royal Coast Realty and Royal Coast Development details some hair-raising events that allegedly occurred shortly after the sale to Chalon: allegations of racketeering, fraud, conspiracy, breach of contract and other criminal violations.

The complaint states that Chalon refused to honour a marketing and development agreement in which the firm agreed to provide monthly payments of \$US22,500, to give a 20 per cent share of profits from the development (the plaintiff estimates a total of \$US31.54 million) and commissions from exclusive brokerage sales (estimated to be \$5.8 million).

The complaint states that the "... defendants threatened, directly or indirectly, various individuals associated with the plaintiffs with murder and/or other serious bodily injury, for the purpose of forcing them to consent to the restructured purchase agreement".

It goes on to say that George Matsuo, born and raised in Japan and a Royal Coast stockholder, according to Attorney General Darryl Johnston, was informed by a Mr Shoichi Kamon President of Chalon Corporation — that he should be concerned for the welfare of his family still living in Japan. Kamon allegedly stated that he had in the past relied on the Yamaguchigumi faction of the Yakuza (the so-called 'Japanese Mafia') to arrange the terms he wanted in business deals.

The complaint also alleges that on November 10 last year, "... at the Halekulani hotel, in front of five witnesses, Kamon told Louis Rees [who was negotiating the restructured agreement] that if he created problems for Chalon, Kamon would see to it that Rees would be a 'dead roundeye'."

The suit alleges further that on January 12 this year, in a phone call to Matsuo, Kamon reportedly said that "if Royal Coast Development continued to demand that Chalon Japan observe the terms of the development and marketing agreement, Kamon would use all means, including illegal means, to get what he wanted". Royal Coast attorney Johnson asserted that in racketeering cases damages can be tripled, and in this instance damages

could amount to \$US112 million.

David Nakashima, Counsellor for Chalon Corporation (the parent company of Chalon International of Hawaii) in a statement to the press said, "... the case is without merit and is based, in my opinion, on misrepresentation, manipulation and deceit". He is apparently preparing a countersuit for fraud, misrepresentation and slander.

Nakashima went on to say that the case "... does not change Chalon's commitment to North Kohala and the County of Hawaii. The company's plans to balance the preservation of historic sites [in] the area with recreational and agricultural activities have drawn widespread community support." I live in North Kohala, and it was only a few weeks ago that the sale was first announced — to a wave of apprehension among concerned local residents.

All sources of public information state that Chalon's plans for the area were unknown and nobody, to the best of my knowledge, in this community of 3000 people could or would reveal anything about the development proposal. With no public meetings and no real information, area residents are befuddled by Nakashima's statement — confusion that can only serve to increase mistrust in an already suspicious population.

There have been other examples of behaviour considered unacceptable by most Hawaiian residents. In one case a Japanese citizen bought 'Coconut Island' in Kaneohe Bay, only to be deported for falsifying documentation in order to enter the United States. In the exclusive Waialae-Kahala suburb of Honolulu, Japanese investors have purchased a number of homes — one buyer reportedly rode around in a limousine, choosing properties without leaving his car.

Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi has made it publicly clear that he would like to stem the wave of foreign investment, at least in the private home market, and will be seeking ways to do just that. Senator Rick Reed has introduced a bill in the Hawaiian legislature that would prohibit non-residents of Hawaii owning residential land: the bill is likely to be found unconstitutional, but it highlights the strong undercurrent of feeling among Hawaiians about the apparent loss of their homeland to foreigners.

On the other hand, it must be noted that some of the Japanese-owned hotels on the Big Island have been among the county's best citizens. The Maunalani Bay Hotel and Resort preserved existing Hawaiian fishponds, led the drive for a fire station in the area and voluntarily provided more housing than was initially demanded by the county. This last move actually

forced other hotels to follow suit and effectively forced the raising of official levels of acceptable 'affordable housing' a developer is now required by law to provide.

Even if the courts decide that Chalon is completely innocent, this cannot

help but make it harder for legitimate Japanese businesses to function in Hawaii. If the allegations prove true, they will provide Hawaii's politicians with a good excuse to implement laws that will curb Japanese business activity in the Hawaiian Islands. □

Putting Down The Ritz

Hawaiian activists vow to stop the construction of a luxury hotel over an ancient burial ground on the island of Maui. By Michael Moriarty

DEVELOPMENT IN Hawaii has been opposed in many different ways but never more swiftly and effectively as in the recent case at Honokahua, on the northwest shore of the island of Maui, where Ritz-Carlton had planned to build a \$US80 million hotel complex on ocean-side land owned by the Kapalua Land Company.

Work began quietly on the sand dunes but in mid-December the local press informed the public that several hundred bodies had been exhumed from the site. Hawaiian activists gained television coverage when they began picketing the site and protests spread to the island of Oahu where Hawaiians set up a 24-hour Christmas eve vigil as a sign of protest, disgust and indignation. Key local politicians such as Maui mayor Hannibal Tavares and Governor John Waihee lent their support to the protest. Although Waihee had to admit that as governor he had no legal standing in the matter, he called it a "moral issue" and flatly opposed the development.

The site is listed in the Hawaii Register of Historic Sites as a burial ground. Since September 1987, more than 900 sets of remains have been carefully removed for re-burial under an agreement signed before work began. The number of burials has been a surprise to both Hawaiians and State officials.

Colin Cameron of the Kapalua Land Company agreed to halt all excavation until early January, while the concerned parties conducted negotiations. "It's just not practical to move the hotel site — we have no other hotel site," he said. Cameron earned the activists' praise for the costly stop-work order and kept negotiations at

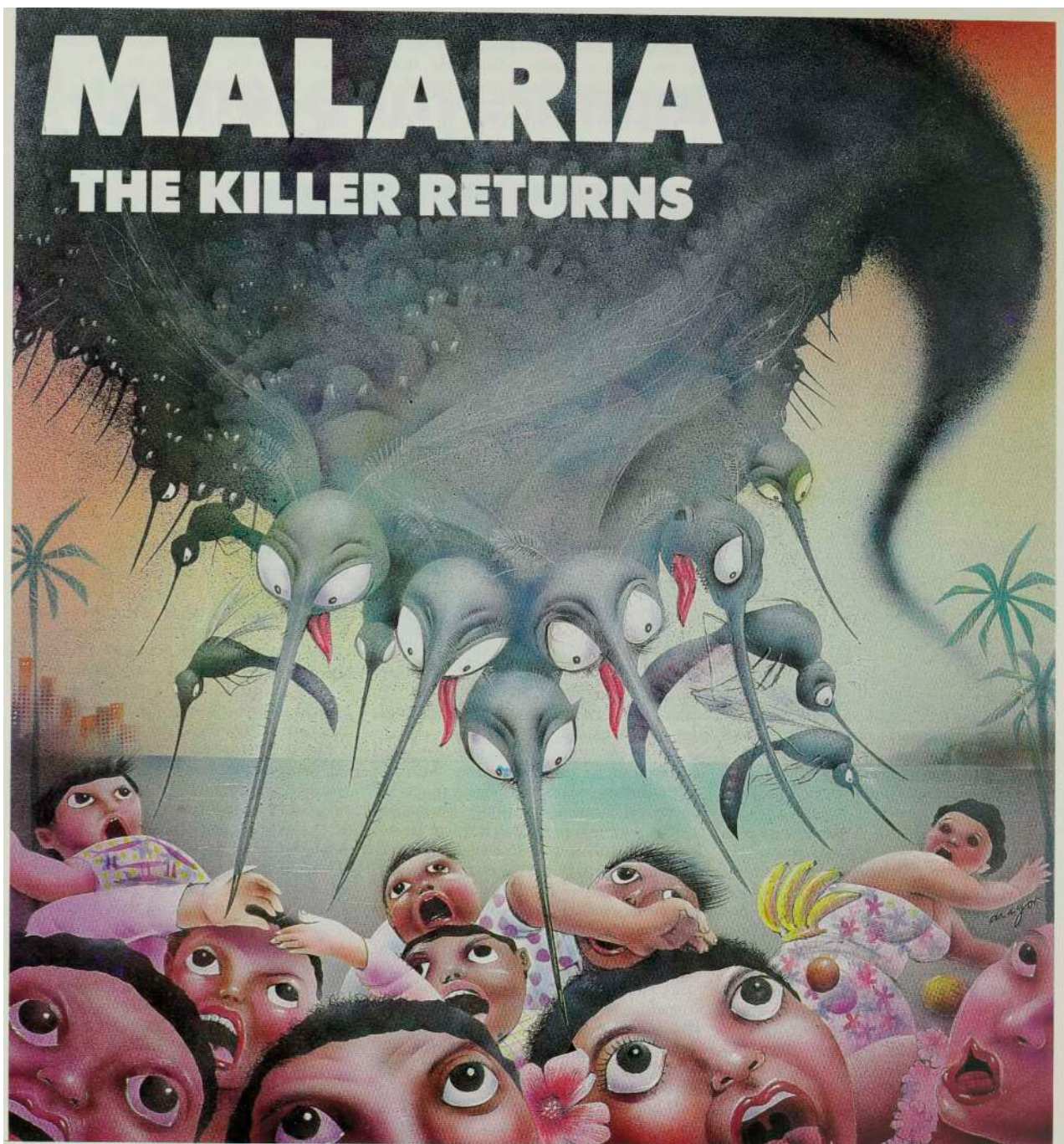
an amicable level. But there appears to be little common ground between the parties.

Activists demand a permanent end to digging, the return of the bones to their original resting places and that the site be preserved and honoured.

Negotiations are continuing but practical moves are being made by opponents of the development. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hui Alanui O Makena, a Maui-based community group, are asking for the reconsideration of a county-issued Shoreline Management permit which authorises construction of the hotel. The permit requires groundbreaking by February 27, 1989. Kapalua Land Company had previously acknowledged that an extension of the permit would be sought.

This issue highlights the basic conflict between the value system of Hawaiians and the business world's interpretation of value only in a monetary sense. Observers say Mr Cameron appears to be trying harder than some developers to step lightly in Hawaii but critics attribute his approach only to an awareness of the volatility of the issue. Removal of the bodies was begun quietly and without the formation of an advisory committee of Hawaiians at the start of the venture. The activists say that if the removal had been completed quietly, that would have suited Kapalua "just fine".

Activists have vowed to fight the development and say they will mount the sort of protest that could be expected if Hawaiians decided to build a hotel complex and resort in Arlington Memorial Cemetery, in Washington DC, and began removing bodies without consultation or ceremony to make way for the development. □



Affecting an estimated 120 million people throughout the tropical world, malaria has emerged as the single most important cause of death by disease in this century. Despite 90 years of intensive research, we are still a long way from a cure, a vaccine or the eradication of this scourge — but, as Robert Simms discovered, Australian scientists are hopeful that a combination of treatments and vaccines may blunt the devastation. Dr Noel Tait, a lecturer in the biology of parasitism at Macquarie University, details the complex and deadly course of malaria on Page 18.

MALARIA is an ancient disease first documented by Hippocrates in the 5th century BC. It was thought originally to be caused by evil emanations of bad air near swamps — hence the name 'mal-aria'. Explorers, travellers and natives feared its burning fevers and dreadful chills, and by the time Sir Ronald Ross discovered the malaria parasite in the stomach of the *Anopheles* mosquito in 1897, the disease was a leading cause of death in many regions.

Modern advances in medicine have led to the development of treatments and vaccines but malaria is by no means conquered yet. A late 1970s study estimated that 120 million people worldwide were affected by malaria — and the disease develops resistance to new drugs almost as quickly as researchers can develop them.

The four types of malaria, vivax, falciparum, ovale and malariae are carried mainly by the *Anopheles* mosquito. Parasites enter the body in the saliva of the mosquito and travel in the blood to the liver (see Page 18).

In falciparum malaria the parasites multiply in red blood cells between 12 and 24 times each 48 hours. The cells are destroyed, liberating toxins that cause chills and fever; the level of parasitaemia increases rapidly, and leads to anaemia. Parasited cells can accumulate in the brain and cause cerebral malaria, or in the kidneys, with renal failure a likely consequence. The organs became enlarged as the reticulo-endothelial system begins to absorb the parasites: which is why falciparum malaria can often be fatal.

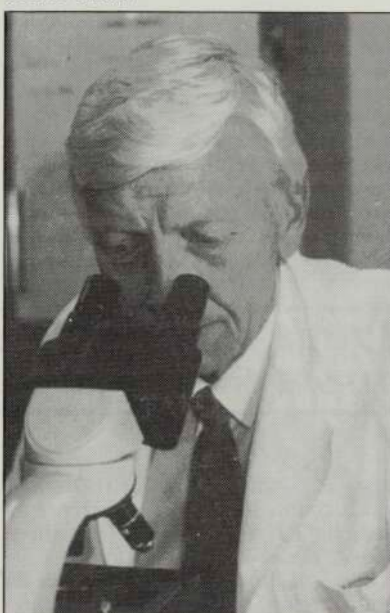
Vivax malaria is more prevalent but less likely to prove fatal because it attacks only young blood cells. This limits its reproduction and prevents cell infection reaching critical level.

Malaria should always be considered a possibility in anyone who becomes ill after an overseas trip, and the danger of misdiagnosis cannot be overstated. "The symptoms are very similar to flu and are easily mistaken," says Professor Karl Rieckman, director of medical research at the Sydney-based Army Malaria Research Unit (AMRU). "The diagnosis can only be made by examining blood films." Professor Rieckman cites a recent case of a man who showed no improvement after symptomatic treatment for influenza. A second opinion was sought and subsequent blood tests revealed parasitaemia had reached a critical point, with more than 10 per cent of red blood cells infected. "The patient would probably have died within days had the correct diagnosis not been made. Misdiagnosis often occurs because the first blood film shows no trace of the parasite; a second test 24 hours later is imperative," he says.

Of all the virulent diseases encoun-



ROBERT SIMMS



Above: AMRU medical research director Professor Karl Rieckman: malaria symptoms can be fatally misdiagnosed. Left: Lt. Colonel Tony Sweeney advocates a combination of drugs and mosquito control.

"During the 50s and 60s chloroquine was usually the most effective drug available, but by the late 70s the parasite had become resistant in many parts of the world." Fansidar, a combination of pyrimethamine and a sulphonamide, was tried next, but resistance to this became evident in some areas within five or six years.

The degree of parasite resistance can vary widely — in some patients the clinical response is very good, but usually some parasites will be unaffected by the treatment and the symptoms return three or four weeks later. "There is some improvement on the intermediate level but the parasite still exists in large numbers. There are patients who don't respond at all because it is totally resistant. Even with the latest drug, mefloquine, the problems remains with cases in Thailand already showing resistance."

Lieutenant Colonel Tony Sweeney, an entomologist and commanding officer at AMRU, advocates a combination of drug treatment and mosquito control as the most effective solution. "It takes 10 to 14 days from the time the mosquito becomes infected with the parasite to the time it can infect another person," he says. It is in this period that control must be attempted. In Papua New Guinea and other Pacific countries, mass spraying with DDT and the painting of interior walls or houses with the chemical have resulted in a reduction of mosquito numbers. However, this is expensive and difficult to achieve in the remote areas of some affected countries and is in its own way almost as fatal as uncontrolled malaria.

tered in human history, *Plasmodium falciparum*, one of the four types of malaria, has proved the most defiant. In the latitudes roughly bounded by the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer, it has resisted all attempts at eradication or even significant control.

The forerunner of AMRU was established at Cairns, North Queensland during World War II, and pioneered research into the treatment and prevention of the disease using paludrine. This was successful at the time but the parasite had developed a resistance to the drug by the late 1950s. The problem of drug resistance has continued with falciparum malaria becoming resistant to successive treatments with terrifying efficiency.

AMRU's Professor Rieckman has been fighting the disease for more than 30 years. "Falciparum malaria has proved difficult to treat," he says.

Plasmodium: A complex and fatally efficient lifecycle By Dr Noel Tait

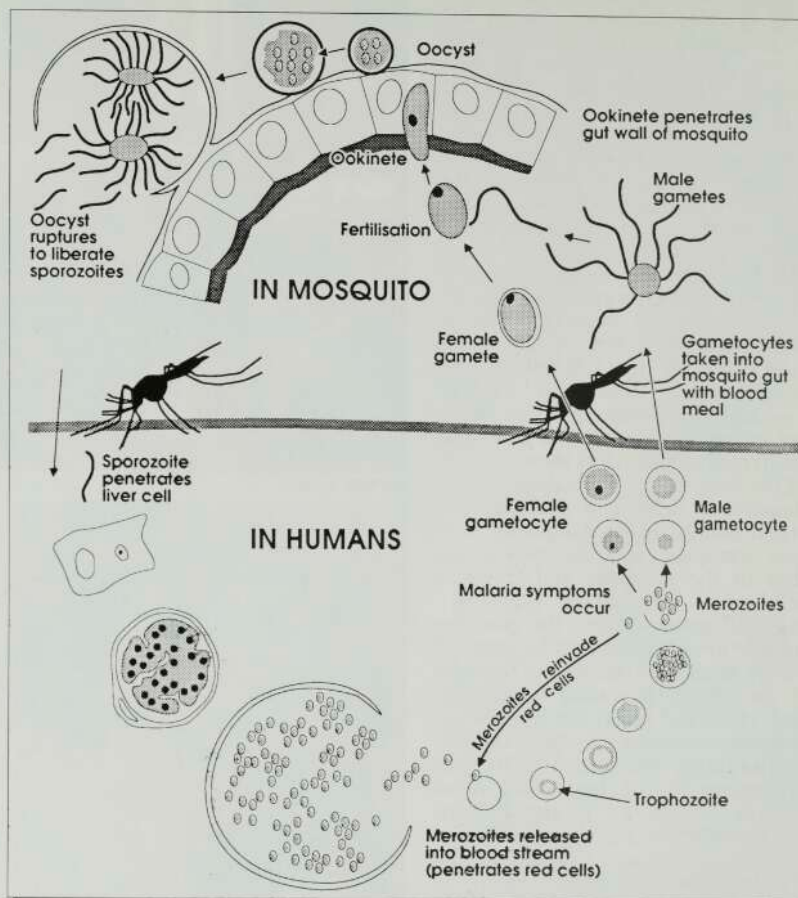
THE PARASITE responsible for malaria in humans is a single-celled animal called *Plasmodium*, a member of the Protozoa. There are four species ineffective to humans; others have been recorded in reptiles, birds and other mammals. By no means are all species of *Plasmodium* significantly harmful to their host, but since they invade and destroy host cells they all have some effect on the host. *Plasmodium* is usually transmitted from one host to another by the female mosquito, which feeds on blood, and therefore acts as the malaria vector.

Within the host, only asexual reproduction of the parasite takes place: in the mosquito vector, both asexual and sexual reproduction occur, resulting in one of the most complex life cycles of any organism. While the life cycle of *Plasmodium* is essentially similar in all species, a number of terms are used to describe its stages, and this is complicated by the use of synonyms.

The host is infected when a mosquito, prior to taking a blood meal, injects an anticoagulant saliva containing *sporozoites* into the bloodstream. The *sporozoites* penetrate liver cells, where they divide asexually to form large numbers of *merozoites*: these are released into the blood stream. The period between injection of *sporozoites* and the appearance of *merozoites* is the *prepatent* period.

Merozoites invade red blood cells circulating in the bloodstream and develop into *trophozoites*, the major feeding stage of *Plasmodium*. The contents of the red cell (mainly haemoglobin) are ingested by the mature *trophozoite*, which then divides asexually to form large numbers of *merozoites*: the fever and other symptoms so characteristic of malaria in humans are the result of the synchronous release of *merozoites*, waste products and undigested red cell cytoplasm from the ruptured red cells.

The period from injection of *sporozoites* to the first signs of symptoms is called the incubation period; following incubation, the *merozoites* invade more red cells and this stage of the cycle is repeated. The time between fevers varies with the species: 72 hours for *Plasmodium malariae* and 48 hours for *P. Vivax*, *P. falciparum* and *P. ovale*. The varieties of malaria produced by these time differences are called quartan and tertian malaria



STEVE SHORT

(after the Roman system of reckoning, which counts the day of occurrence as day one; 48 hours later is day three and 72 hours later is day four).

Some of the invading *merozoites* do not develop into asexually dividing forms in red cells, but instead form into precursors of the sex cells called *gametocytes*; male and female *gametocytes* can be distinguished even at this stage in stained blood films. The *gametocytes* do not divide but remain within the red cell until they are ingested by mosquitoes, and one of the major unsolved questions in malaria research is what determines whether a *merozoite* will develop into a male or female *gametocyte*, or an asexually reproducing *trophozoite*.

The *gametocytes* are activated in the gut of the mosquito; the male divides to produce eight elongate male *gametes*, while the female does not divide but awaits penetration of its cytoplasm by one of the male *gametes* — a process akin to fertilisation of an egg by sperm in sexually reproducing organisms.

The fusion of male and female *ga-*

metes produces an *ookinete*, which burrows through the wall of the gut and forms a cyst before undergoing another bout of sexual reproduction to produce thousands of elongate *sporozoites*. The cyst bursts, liberating the *sporozoites* into the body cavity of the mosquito; they penetrate the cavity of the salivary glands and remain until the mosquito takes its next blood meal — and so the infection is passed from one host to another.

Our understanding of the malarial life cycle explains the cyclic nature of the symptoms of the disease. In two species of malaria that affect humans, *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. ovale*, relapses can occur months or even years after its disappearance from the bloodstream. These relapses are now thought to be due to dormant stages in liver cells, reactivated by some as yet unknown stimulus. □

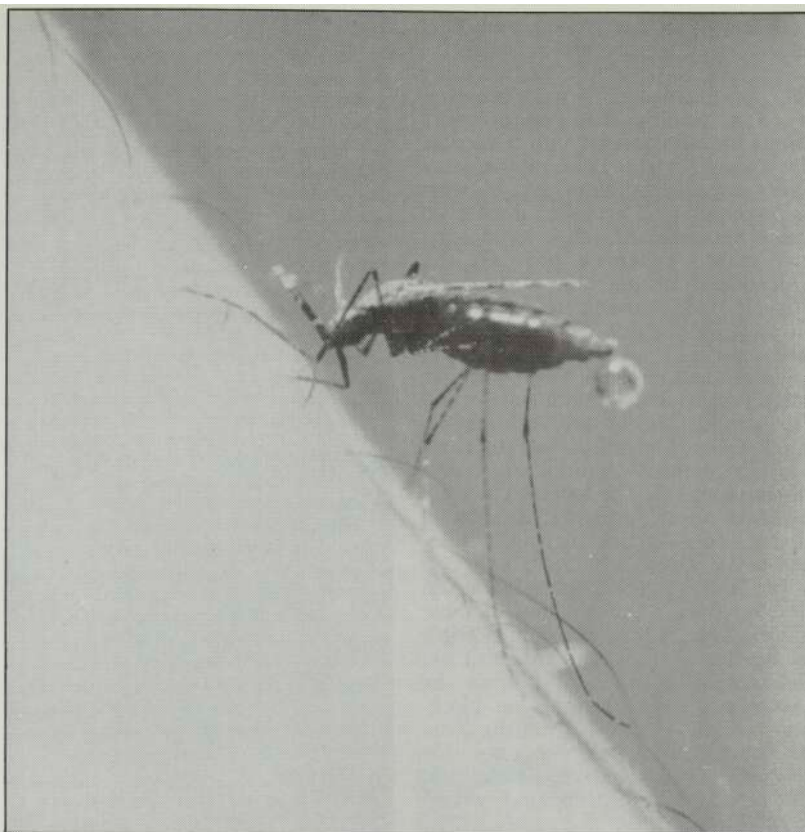
Dr Noel Tait is a senior lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University, Sydney. He has a particular interest in the biology of parasitism.

A bacillus called BTI — a specific toxin that kills mosquito larvae without affecting other aquatic animals — has been used with some success, but its short-term effect limits its application. AMRU is investigating possible methods of biological control that augment and turn back on the host the pathogens and parasites that occur naturally in the mosquito, but prevention of mosquito attack remains, for the moment, the most effective method of avoiding the disease. "The *Anopheles* mosquito, the main carrier of the parasite, is a nocturnal species," says Lt Col Sweeney. "By remaining inside screened houses at night and using repellents, a good deal of control can be achieved."

The AMRU is currently researching long-term control methods for mosquitos and the development of effective prophylactic and treatment regimes. Older drugs to which falciparum malaria proved resistant are also being examined to see if their efficacy can be improved by combining them with other drugs.

Vaccine researchers are also finding the parasite difficult to control. Medic-

So eager is the female Anopheles mosquito to gorge on blood that she excretes fluid even as she is ingesting a blood meal: eventually even fresh blood is excreted.



ROBERT SIMMS

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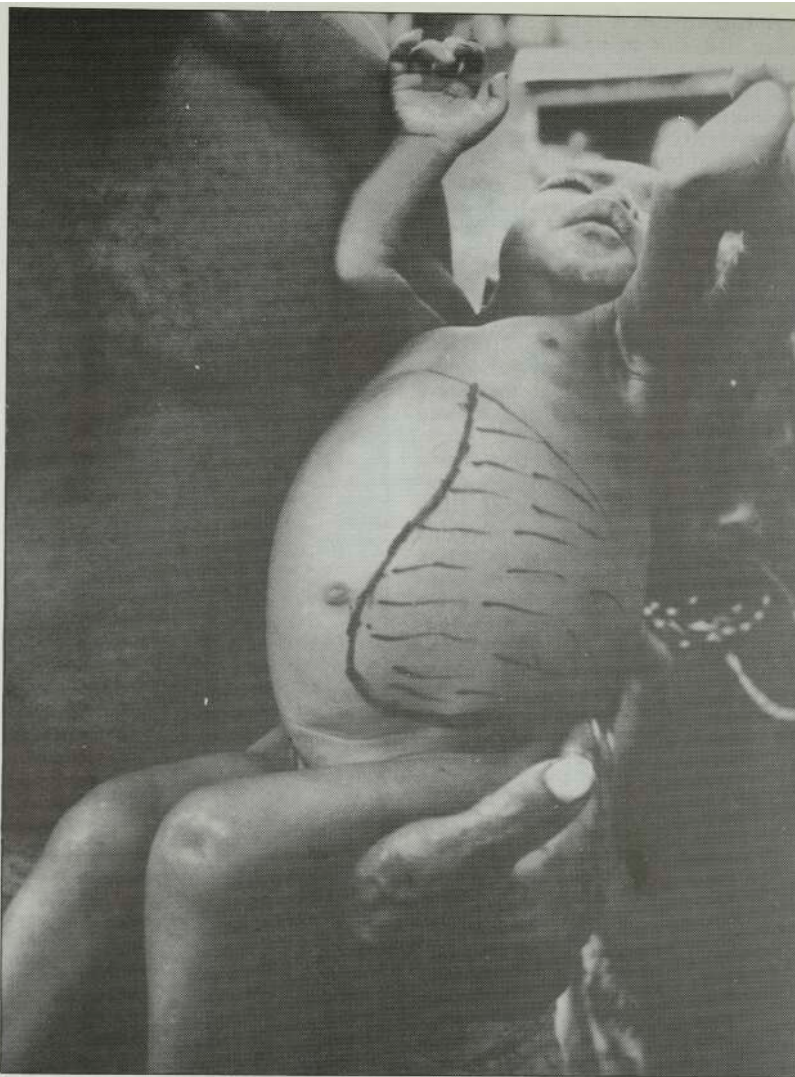
al scientists at the Walter and Elisa Hall Institute in Melbourne are attempting to develop a vaccine using antigens in the asexual stage of reproduction, hoping that one or more could be incorporated into a vaccine. Dr Robin Anders, head of the Institute's malaria laboratory, says his team is attempting to produce an antigen using recombinant DNA technology: the team's research partner, the Queensland Institute for Medical Research, is attacking the problem through the use of a synthetic peptide.

Research in other countries is examining the sporozoite — the infective stage of parasite development — and the production of an immune response in the mammal host to block the development of the sexual stages in the mosquito. The latter is classified as an altruistic form of treatment in that it would not directly help the person being immunised.

Dr Anders predicts the solution will develop from a combination of these approaches. "A vaccine could possibly be developed using one antigen from the sporozoite, one or two from the sexual stages for transmission blocking, and three or four from the asexual stages, which are the ones that cause the disease and need to be suppressed to prevent morbidity and mortality," he says.

In 1988, a Colombian researcher published the results of a clinical trial using a synthetic peptide combining parts of several different molecules. Volunteers were immunised, then 'challenged' with virulent *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria. Three of the five volunteers developed immunity — a result described by Dr Graham Brown, head of the Hall Institute's clinical program, as "very encouraging but not good enough to justify widespread trials. We need to be cautious about predictions concerning vaccines," he says. "It could be more than a decade before one is available, though we expect it will be developed in stages — giving us something along the way. Unlike smallpox, you cannot become immune naturally to malaria and it would be unrealistic to expect that in the future a vaccine will be better than nature."

Australian vaccine research involves a budget in excess of \$A5 million. It is supported by a consortium comprising the Hall and Queensland Institutes as research partners, with Federal Government backing. Encouraged by promising research being conducted around the world, the United States Agency for International Development has decided to fund the establishment of a test site for the vaccine in Papua New Guinea. It is hoped the first trial vaccines will be available for testing after the base study is completed in about four years' time.



Top: A Papua New Guinean baby shows the enormously — and potentially fatally — enlarged spleen that is a common reticulo-endothelial symptom of severe malaria. Above: A PNG health worker palpates a child suffering from a combination of malaria and endemic conditions, including mild malnutrition, that make recovery for malaria less likely.

THE REGION

Panic in Manila

Delegates at a Manila conference on regional peace and development ran the gauntlet of military harassment. By David Robie

THE MANILA Declaration seemed harmless enough. "Outgoing US President Ronald Reagan has prophesied that the 21st century will be the Asia-Pacific century," it said. "His vision is one where transnational corporations exploit Asia-Pacific peoples and natural resources."

"Let us collectively reshape that vision. Let us together turn the world's largest region into its largest nuclear-free and foreign military bases-free zone."

Several anti-nuclear senators addressed the 200 delegates from Asian and Pacific countries — including Fiji, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea — at the four-day conference in January, sponsored by a coalition of Filipino trade unions, social justice movements, church groups and the Partido ng Bayan (National Party). Their declaration, to resist a growing nuclear and military presence in the region, focused on the United States' Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station in the Philippines.

Delegates accused France and the US of increasing the nuclear threat in the region, and the Soviet Union was also criticised. The meeting also protested against the role of Australia and New Zealand and the 'policemen of the Pacific', noting "with alarm" the growing posture of Japan, Australia and New Zealand as junior partners of the US in the region.

Among demands cited in the declaration for the Pacific were: the withdrawal of US, French and other forces; reparation payments from France and the US to the people of the region for destruction caused by nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands and Polynesia; independence in New Caledonia, restoration of democracy in Fiji and the demilitarisation of Guam. Almost the only nation to win the conference's approval was Vanuatu, for its anti-nuclear stance; the "courageous struggle of the people of Belau against US attempts to subvert their nuclear-free constitution" was also hailed.

Pastor Djoubelly Wea of the FLNKS appealed to delegates to lobby the United Nations and to pressure France to comply with the 1986 resolution on decolonisation. He insisted last year's Matignon accord was no guarantee of independence. "The results of the re-

ferendum in Kanaky show that more than 11,000 Caldoches in Noumea voted against the Matignon accord, against [Jacques] Lafleur and against Kanak independence," he said. "For us this raises the question of whether the accord has already been broken."

"These Caldoches are already coming up strongly — racism and fascism are growing and will continue to grow. On Christmas Eve, a girl from Ouvea was shot by a Caldoche in Noumea." Wea declared that pro-independence barricades would remain in force on Ouvea until May 4.

The presence of the delegates in the Philippines was regarded as a threat by the military authorities, and triggered a wave of what delegates claimed was paranoia, disinformation and harassment by the armed forces. "Who's afraid of a bunch of peace-lovers?" asked one.

A few days after the arrival of 80 Australians, 18 Japanese, 17 New Zealanders and scores of other delegates from Asia and Pacific countries, Manila's national newspapers splashed front-page reports attacking the so-called peace brigade. Major-General Ramon Montano, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, accused the brigade of interfering in the country's internal affairs. He said that intelligence reports alleged the brigade was supporting the local communist movement; one report even claimed collaboration with Philippine authorities by foreign intelligence networks.

Montano warned that if any delegates committed "acts inimical to national security" they would be treated as "common criminals — just like paedophiles".

Montano pledged to arrest anybody found actively participating in "rebel teach-ins"; contacting leaders of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army and visiting guerilla zones; joining peace caravans or solidarity marches; carrying or distributing "rebellious or seditious" leaflets or making utterances that might incite rebellion.

Montano also claimed that armed forces could "lick" the 20-year-old communist insurgency if they could join forces with "the civilian leadership" — clearly attempting to tar the peace brigade with the insurgency brush.

The response may seem bizarre, but

since President Corazon Aquino took office three years ago with a pledge to protect human rights, her government has failed to shake off the legacy of repression left by ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The church-backed Task Force Detainees reports that in 1987 alone, 7444 people were arrested without warrants. A further 602 people were tortured and 284 were killed or wounded in 29 massacres of civilians by right-wing vigilantes, the military or private security forces.



A Philippine Constabulary soldier at the road block where the peace caravan was searched. Australian Senator Jo Valentine is in the background.

The day after Montano's statement, the extremist right-wing group Sandigan and a newly formed umbrella group of vigilantes responsible for hundreds of 'salvagings' — murders — of activists, suspected rebel supporters and human rights lawyers, took up the cue. Sandigan alerted the country against the entry of "foreign communist propagandists" whose presence could only "undermine efforts to attain national stability".

Opening the peace and development conference, Senator Wigberto Tanada lashed out at the "ironic" harassment of the peace brigade. "Under the Marcos dictatorship, human rights and people's security were trampled upon," Tanada added.

"Under this present democratic government, we cannot allow the security of the people to be sacrificed once again on the altar of 'national security'."

AUSTRALIA

Burns Philp shake-up leads to new regional strategies

A few years ago, reports Robin Bromby, the firm known either as "BP's" or "Bloody Pirates" was headed for the scrapheap. A new lean, efficient approach has seen the old South Seas trader recovering and expanding.

THE HEAD office of Burns Philp & Co in Sydney preserves the image of the old South Seas trading company, with its brass plate at the street entrance, polished door handles, engraved glass panels and models of old island trading ships. But the image belies the reality: Burns Philp is now a widely diversified, international company, its South Pacific operations having become something of a commercial backwater.

In fact it is running out of expatriate staff who can serve in the islands, as its management needs are so far removed from those of an island trader there is little synergy between its new and old business.

Burns Philp chief executive Andrew Turnbull says this does not mean the company is about to pull out of the islands (despite its abortive attempt to sell all its Papua New Guinea operations): Burns Philp's Pacific operations have not shrunk, he maintains; they have just been dwarfed by other developments within the company.

Food and fermentation now account for more than 40 per cent of the company's business. It is the world's leading producer of industrial vinegar, and number two in the United States in the manufacture of baker's yeast — its plants in 11 countries make it the third largest international supplier. In North America, its subsidiary supplies retailers with dates, bakery mixes and spices.

The wholly owned BBC hardware chain has 88 stores in eastern Australia, and Burns Philp is further engaged in joint operations and agencies for shipping companies, as well as holding a 46 per cent share of the QBE Insurance Group.

Then there is BP's Pacific division, which includes the listed Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, of which the parent owns 71 per cent. Together with Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, the parent controls operations in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Niue, Western Samoa and American Samoa.

The company's 1988 report shows the following contribution to group results: BP South Sea \$A365,000,

Burns Philp PNG \$4,323,000, Burns Philp Vanuatu \$842,000, Solomon Islands Investments Ltd \$412,000.

James Burns and Robert Philp joined forces in 1874, running a store and trading house at Townsville, Queensland. The businesses were incorporated into a limited liability company in 1883 to raise money for further expansion, and every year since then Burns Philp has not only made a profit but has declared a dividend.

The company established its first trading post in Port Moresby in 1891, then branched out to the then-New Hebrides, Fiji and the Solomons.

The trading business was underpinned by government mail contracts and supply contracts with missions throughout the islands.

In many places, the Burns Philp manager was more influential and powerful than the local governor or administrator, the company filling the vacuum caused by the absence of banks by issuing its own credit lines and bank notes.

In the 1970s the company seemed to be growing without apparent plan: its collection of enterprises included plastic factories, a stake in the Robe River iron ore project and a half share of Avis in Australia. It was a company rich in assets and mediocre in performance, a conglomerate without a long-term strategy. Indeed, as one sharebroker put it in 1981: "You could bomb the head office and it would not be missed by any of the component parts."

In fact, another sharebroking firm at that time investigated a takeover of Burns Philp and found it was ready for dismemberment. It is recommended that any buyer would find Burns Philp could easily be parcelled out — the Pacific division to the Swire group or to a Japanese enterprise, the food division into one of the bigger companies in that field, and so on.

What made Burns Philp such an attractive takeover opportunity was its assets. But this all changed after Andrew Turnbull was appointed chief



Burns Philp chief executive Andrew Turnbull: as far as he is concerned, the company will retain its Pacific presence — at least for the foreseeable future.

executive in 1984 — the firm set clear goals and began to show real profit growth: its operating profit after tax in 1988 was \$62.97 million, against \$50.5 million the previous year. While moving into new areas, particularly fermentation, Burns Philp has been shedding activities that do not fit the new corporate plan — 23 divisions or businesses have gone since 1983.

So far as the Pacific is concerned, Andrew Turnbull has been keen to move out of what Australians call 'mum and dad' operations — small shops or businesses that are better handled by local owners. "The view I developed after a few years at Burns Philp was that we don't want to do anything in the Pacific a small business could aspire to do," says Turnbull. Particularly in remote areas, small traders can compete effectively with a giant such as Burns Philp. "I am interested in the strengths of larger financial activities — coming back to the main centres where we can operate showrooms, supermarkets. The time has arrived for us to sell down our equity," he says. "We want to increase the pace of localisation, to get a return on our investment to give us the money to expand internationally."

A major step in that strategy was the planned sale, in two parcels, of its 68 per cent shareholding in Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd. The balance was already held by the Investment Corporation of PNG and the Public Officers Superannuation Board and the sale would have brought the parent about \$A40 million over five years.

The agreement required an independent valuation but the buyer, the PNG National Equities Corporation, refused to accept that valuation and pulled out the deal. At the time of writing Burns Philp is planning to offer about 18 per cent of its shares in the PNG subsidiary to financial institutions and individual investors in the country — an arrangement expected to reap about K10 million. According to Andrew Turnbull it is company policy to have at least 50 per cent local ownership in Burns Philp Pacific operations, and PNG Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has agreed with this formula as an interim objective.

As discussions continued over the sale of the firm's PNG operations, Burns Philp argued that it was unwise for the National Equities Corporation to buy all the shares, even though the Australian parent would provide management for the five-year handover period. Turnbull feels there are not enough trained managers in Papua New Guinea. "It was too sudden — they don't have the talent to run it at this time," he says.

However, Burns Philp is training staff in all its Pacific branches, partly because it cannot find Australians to

fill what had been traditionally expatriate management positions. "Burns Philp's activities are now directed toward food production, fermentation, high tech and chemical distribution; you just can't take managers trained for these fields and, for example, drop them into a vehicle distributor or retailer in Tonga or Western Samoa," Turnbull says.

In 1980 about 75 per cent of Burns Philp's profits had come from the Pacific; now the figure is 10 per cent — a reflection of the firm's move away from its traditional activities. Throughout the islands Burns Philp distributes motor vehicles including the popular Toyota, Yamaha and Hino brands. Its shops are well known and the company is now moving into home furnishings, and its latest annual report revealed that merchandising business in Vanuatu remains steady despite falling returns for shipping and automotive sales.

In the Solomon Islands the company has invested in a new ready-mixed concrete plant, branches in Tonga, Niue, Western Samoa and American Samoa have traded strongly, and though its merchandising operation in Western Samoa has been sold, the firm's automotive and shipping businesses have been retained.

In Papua New Guinea, Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd entered a joint venture with P&O to charter bulk carriers for copper concentrates from the Ok Tedi project; a new coaster is being built in China and the company has been involved in establishing a new shipping service in Western Australia.

Fiji continues to be a problem. The first coup "knocked the company badly", Turnbull admits: trading went down to about 38 per cent of normal; then it climbed back to about 75 per cent only to be knocked back to 40 per cent by the second coup. The company has also lost much of its Indian middle management due to emigration.

Turnbull says Fiji business has shrunk to compensate for managerial losses — a motor showroom in Ba has been closed as has the timber yard in Lautoka, while an accidental fire destroyed the Burns Philp building at Sigatoka — and now the Fiji company is once again trading profitably. After the second coup it was estimated that Burns Philp (South Sea) Ltd had lost about \$A11 million in the book value of its Fijian ventures, and staff levels fell from 842 to about 500. The company has been especially affected because most of its activities are service-oriented — it thus felt the slump in business activity more quickly than most foreign enterprises.

Andrew Turnbull says Burns Philp will continue to operate in the islands so long as governments want it to, but

the company's attitude is: "If you want shareholding, it'll be there." The money can be used profitably elsewhere in the world (unless, like Fiji, Burns Philp cannot get its cash reserves out; the lack of demand for finance also means depressed interest rates while it sits in a Fijian bank).

However, Mr Turnbull is adamant that profits in the Pacific are higher than they have ever been.

So far as he is concerned Burns Philp will remain a South Pacific trader — at least for the foreseeable future. He points to the fact that the company is currently upgrading many of its stores as evidence that funds are constantly being returned to the business to improve them. □

DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR

New Zealand Volunteer Service Abroad (Inc), which has a volunteer programme spanning 16 countries of the Pacific, Asia and Africa, wishes to appoint a Director (Development) who will have specific responsibility for identifying, planning and implementing new projects in these and other areas. Applicants should have a tertiary qualification, be well versed in the issues faced by developing countries and preferably have first hand experience of living and working in such an environment. Maturity, judgement, the ability to relate with credibility to senior management and government officials plus the capacity to work effectively with the Director (Operations) in a small team are also essential attributes. Travel within New Zealand and overseas will be required.

The successful applicant will be expected to take up the appointment by mid 1989. Applications close on 13th March 1989.

For further information and an application form write to:

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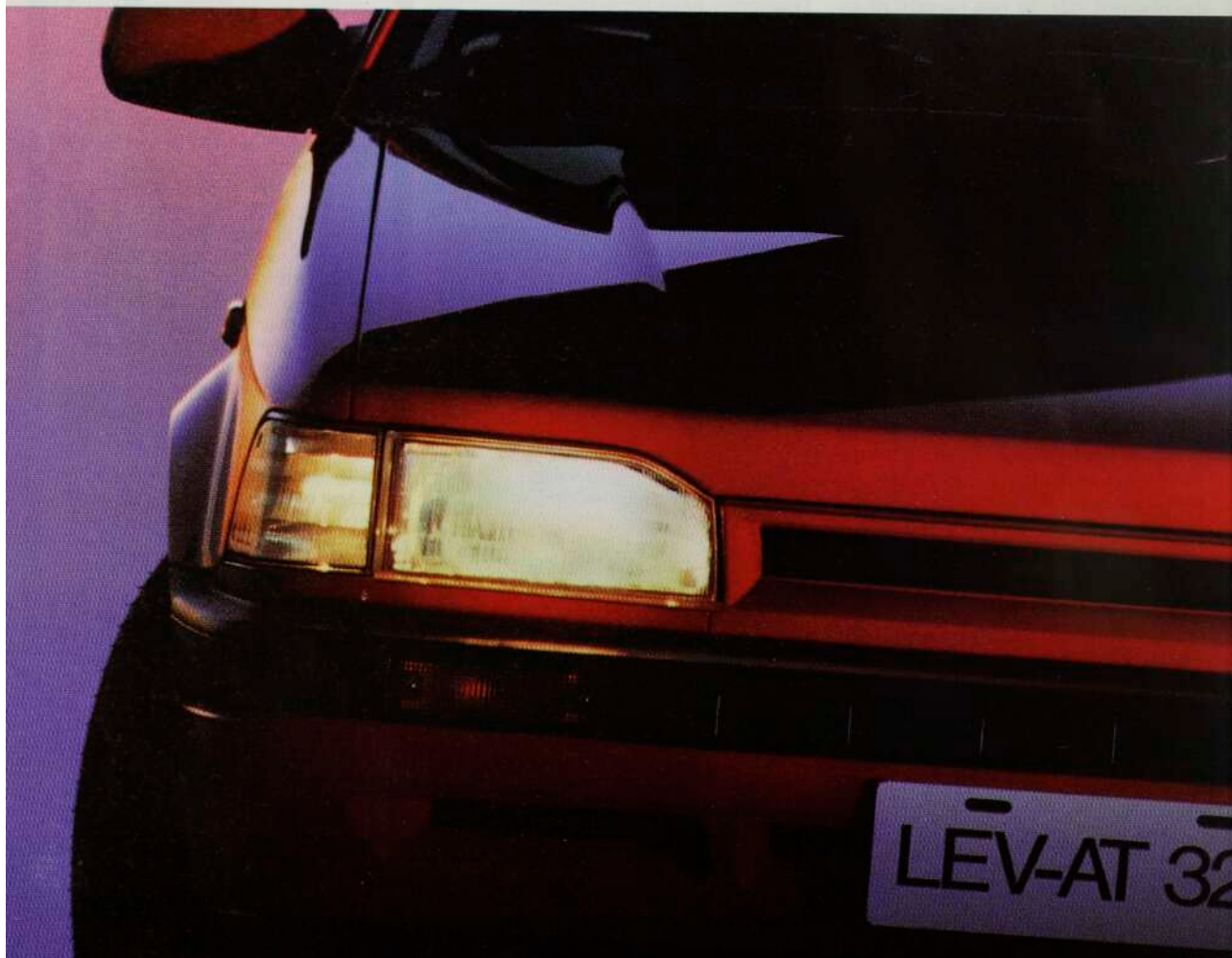
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CSIRO begins PNG tree seed project

World demand for seed from Australian trees has been increasing steadily: now scientists are studying native trees in PNG. By Ingrid Strewe

IN OCTOBER 1988 scientists from the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Tree Seed Centre mounted a six-week expedition to Oriomo Plateau, in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, to collect seed from several species of native trees; in particular those from *acacia mangium* — known in Australia as a scrubby little tree, but growing straight and tall in PNG.

It has become common in the developing nations of the world to encounter plantations of native Australian trees, usually eucalypts and acacias. China has a 'green wall' of she-oaks (*Casuarina*) more than a thousand kilometres long; indeed, common wisdom has it that there are now more she-oaks in China than in their country of origin.

The tallest eucalypt in the world grows in Tanzania; there are eucalypt stands in the Sahara, and eucalypt nurseries in Sri Lanka — trees that will be used for reafforestation and for fuel. Areas of Thailand, where once-wooded land has been inundated with an almost useless blady grass that suffocates native trees, are being brought back into production with Australian acacias.

Though there is a private seed export business in Australia, many of these international plantings are the work of the Tree Seed Centre of the CSIRO's Division of Forest Research. Originally wholly government funded, an increasing proportion of the Centre's funds come from the private sector or aid organisations: Comalco Australia, for example, in return for financial assistance, has the use of the results of research or seed collection when revegetating mined areas.

Since 1961, Tree Centre scientists have been collecting and sending seed from Australian provenances (growing areas) to tropical and subtropical zones. Trees grown from this seed have many uses; reforestation, reduction of soil erosion, soil salinity prevention or cure, and specific industrial uses.

Demand for seed from PNG is already high and likely to increase, and the scientists envisage returning to PNG at least twice in the next three

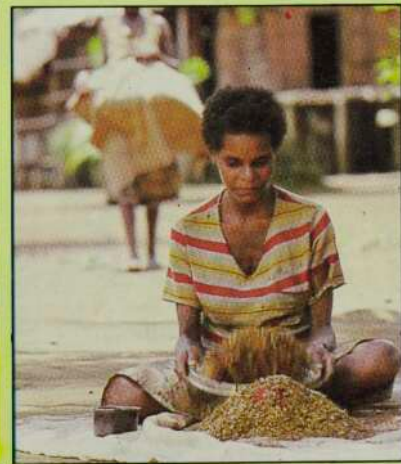
years. Their first expedition cost \$A150,000, and was sponsored jointly by Australia, Sweden, France, the United States and Malaysia: PNG supplied the resource. The sponsors will probably begin immediate breeding trials, and the CSIRO has entered into discussions with the Queensland Forestry Department on the viability of a seed orchard, an important step for the future that will make seed collection less expensive, more easily monitored and more readily available.

There is a rising demand for acacias from countries in the west humid tropics, where the genus has an important role as secondary forest growth. Disturbed or destroyed forest must pass through several stages as the forest is gradually returned to rainforest, and acacias are especially useful in shading out weed species such as the blady *imperta* grass, enriching the soil and 'nursing' other rainforest species as they re-colonise. In some areas of Thailand and Malaysia, the situation is already desperate and these species offer the only hope for a continuing supply of high quality timber while providing opportunities for rainforest to begin regrowing.

Arid zones such as West Africa have different problems, but these are being overcome by the same versatile species. In those regions there is heavy human and animal pressure on the landscape, and though the native acacias are useful, they are slow-growing. Australian and Papua New Guinean species, already popular in places such as Senegal and the Cape Verde Islands, are being planted as protection around native species so that when wood fuel is needed, nomadic herders are more likely to cut down an Australian acacia than the slow-growing local — which provides better fodder.

Left to right, from top: CSIRO technical officer Brian Gunn collecting seed at Oriomo Plateau: Gubam villagers with sack of acacia seed: Rifles are used to shoot down branches for seed collection: Sterculia pod from rainforest tree: Stephen Midgley and Weckie gather acacia: Villager winnowing seed at Gubam, Western Province.

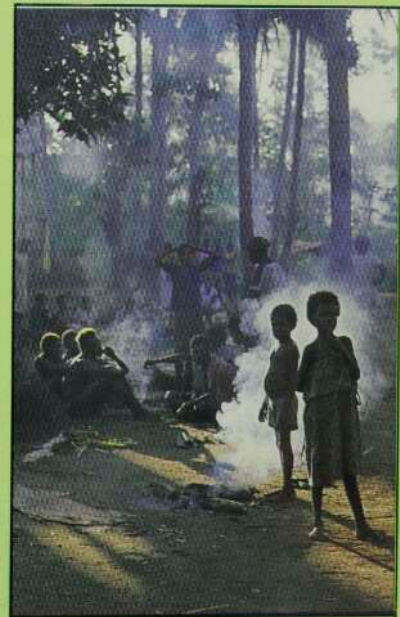
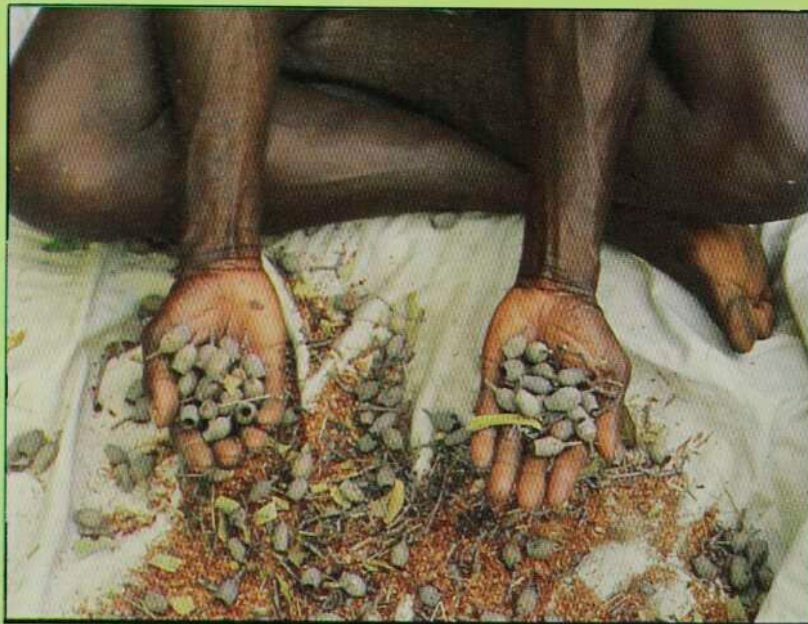
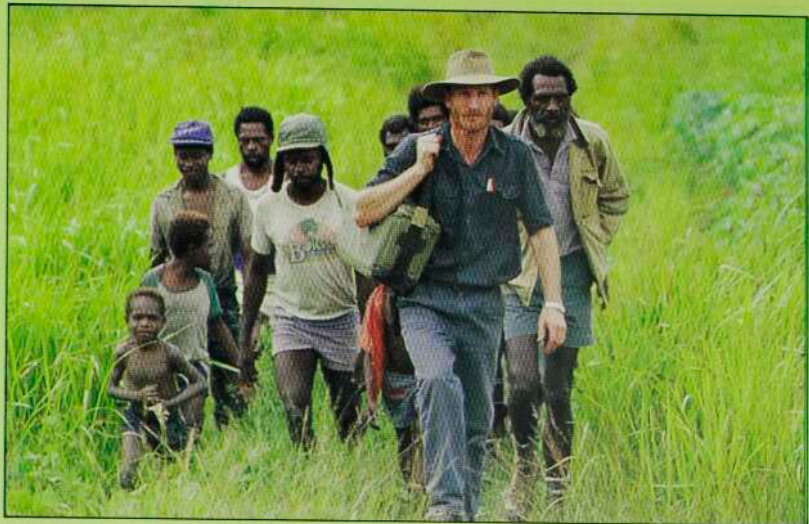




There has, however, been trouble in some areas where Australian trees are blamed for changing economic conditions. Landholders have discovered that trees as a cash crop are more valuable than anything a tenant farmer can grow for them. This is not the aim of Australian or international aid, and everything possible is done to discourage destruction of newly established forest resources. There have also been claims by some Australian scientists that the country is giving away a previous genetic pool too easily and too cheaply. The Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management has estimated that four tonnes of seed were harvested commercially throughout Australia in 1980-81; an estimated 80 million seeds sold for less than a cent a seed.

But with the planet being rapidly stripped of forest, can we afford to wait for the right price for seed? The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that almost a third of the world's population depends solely on wood for cooking and heating: in developing countries, a massive 86 per cent of the annual consumption of wood is used for fuel. Annual global demand for wood for non-industrial use is at present estimated at a minimum of 50 million hectares — and the total will have risen to 100 million hectares by the end of this century. □

Brian Gunn and Arufe villagers in kunai grass (top); CSIRO scientists Maurice McDonald (standing) and Lex Thomson (centre); Sorting eucalyptus seeds after collection (bottom left); Villagers at Oriomo Plateau (bottom right).



Pacific Stamp Box

Edited by John Hunter

AS reported in *Stamp News*, the hot news from New Zealand is the case of New Zealand Post against a local community. The controversy began in 1987 when the Rural Delivery mail contracts were put out to tender. Perry's Buses Ltd was one of those to lose its contract. The local community was not at all happy because Perry not only provided a mail service but delivered everything from groceries to passengers. The community formed the Coast Community Service in order to retain the former contractor. After examining legal loopholes the community they had found a way around NZ Post's monopoly — that documents could be transferred between Document exchanges by private groups. The Coast Community Service believed that if mail was deposited at a central point, it would come within the special exception. Stamps were issued and the document exchange service began in December 1987. It was so popular that most of the community abandoned the mail contractor and used the new service. The first print of 30,000 stamps sold out within two days. Collectors in NZ and overseas have rushed further issues and the service continues. NZ Post's attempts to stop the service are now in court after injunctions failed to halt the operation.

Australia Post will abolish the positions of State Historian of postal material in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland as part of cost-cutting measures.

TONGA: 1989 program: marine life, natural history, 200th anniversary of Bounty mutiny, World War I and II anniversaries, 50th anniversary of first flight to Tonga, 125th anniversary of UPU, Christmas issue.

NEW ZEALAND: January 20, wild-flowers — 40c, 60c, 70c, 80c. March 1, writers.

AUSTRALIA: January 25, Australia Day, 39c. February 15, sports series, 39c, 40c, 55c, 60c, 63, 65c, 68c. February 27, sheep, 2 x 39c, 90c, \$1.

Did you know — 100 years ago cats were used to carry bundles of letters to villages in Belgium: the youngest person to design an Australian postage stamp was 5 years old. She designed a Christmas stamp in 1983.

STAMP APPEAL

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MARSHALL ISLANDS

Kwajalein: Furore In Perspective

Ed Rampell looks behind the hysteria caused by a suspected Soviet presence at Kwajalein.

THE RECENT suspected Soviet incursion into the territory of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) was the lead story on the nationally broadcast United States CBS "Evening News" program of January 10, and was reported internationally.

For the first time in memory anchorman Dan Rather led off with a bizarre tale of intrigue set in Micronesia, a region generally ignored by the US media. According to CBS, the Pentagon suspects that a Soviet minisub sneaked into the lagoon at Kwajalein atoll in July 1987 and stole the flight data recorder from a missile fired from the US Air Force base in Vandenberg, California (See *Pacific Islands Monthly*, January).

Since 1947, Kwajalein Missile Range (KMR) has served as a US military base and missile test facility. Its adjacent lagoon has long served as a target site for unarmed antiballistic missiles fired from the US West Coast, some 8000 kilometres to the east. The Pentagon currently tests the Strategic Defence Initiative — popularly known as 'Star Wars' — at KMR.

The United States' historical neglect of the American-administered United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) has been epitomised in a famous — and possibly genuine — story in which a reporter asks a Congressman what he thinks of Micronesia. The response is "Mike who?"

However, Americans were not always so ignorant about the 2100 Western Pacific islands between Hawaii and the Philippines. During World War II's island-hopping campaign in the Pacific, Micronesian Islands such as Tarawa, Tinian, Peleliu, Truk and Kwajalein were front-page news. Following the war, the Marshallese atoll of Bikini continued to garner global coverage following US nuclear tests there from 1946 to 1958.

It is no accident that America's 'Micronesia amnesia' has once again been shattered by a military scandal. The background to the Kwajalein incident is the simple truth that the territorial status of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the rest of the entire TTPI is in international dispute.

While it is claimed that the United Nations' Strategic Trust has been phased out (except for the Republic of Palau) and replaced by Compacts of Free association between the US and the RMI and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Commonwealth status between the US and the Northern Marianas (CNMI), the reality is quite different: the United Nations has never completed the ratification process for the termination of the American administered Trusteeship.

On May 28, 1986, the United Nations Trusteeship Council voted on the termination of the TTPI (with the exception of Palau). The Trusteeship Council, once a major organ of the UN, was established following World War II to oversee 11 Oceanic and African territories including Nauru, Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea and most of Micronesia. The TTPI has the distinction of being the only Trusteeship designated as a UN Strategic Trust; the only American administered Trust Territory; the only Trust that did not end with independence or merging with a contiguous territory; and the only Trusteeship still in effect.

international law neither actions are *de jure*. The American action is, in fact, unilateral and illegal: the Marshalls, FSM and Northern Marianas — like Palau — *still* form the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

According to Chapter XIX, Article 83, part 1 of the UN Charter, 'all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas, including the approval of the terms of trusteeship agreements and of their alteration or amendment, shall be exercised by the Security Council'. This body has never exercised any action approving the alteration or amendment of the Strategic Trust . . . and termination of the Trusteeship system and the application of a new political status certainly fall well within the boundaries of 'alteration or amendment'. The US Ambassador merely transmitted a letter to the Security Council and simply declared that the United Nations' Strategic Trust was no longer in force. Ambassador Walters' letter went so far as to note that the Compact had come into effect in the Marshalls on October 21; the note is dated October 23.

Why has Washington moved to prevent Strategic Trust termination being

"We fought for them, we've got them, we should keep them. They are necessary for our safety. I see no other course." Congressman F Edward Hebert, 1945, on the islands of Micronesia.

The outcome of the Trusteeship Council vote on TTPI termination. On the strength of this action, US Ambassador to the UN Vernon Walters notified the UN Security Council in a letter on October 23, 1986, that the Strategic Trust had been terminated and the Compacts and commonwealth implemented.

The TTPI phased out its governmental apparatus at Saipan and High Commissioner Janet McCoy bid farewell to the Trust Territory. But while the TTPI may be terminated *de facto* and a new political status implemented *de facto*, according to in-

brought before the Security Council? The Security Council's five permanent members consist of the same nations comprising the Trusteeship Council but there is a key difference: unlike the Trusteeship Council, the five permanent members of the Security Council each exercise veto power in the latter chamber.

Thus, since 1986 the Trusteeship Council has continued to consider matters pertaining to the Marshalls, Pohnpei, Truk, Kosrae, Yap, Saipan and Palau in its published reports and annual May meetings, not withstanding the United States action. As far as

the United Nations is concerned, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is still alive — and includes the RMI, FSM, CNMI and ROP.

Washington has apparently avoided the issue because it is worried the Soviet Union will quite legally kill the Compacts and Commonwealth with a single vote by utilising its veto power. Buttrussing this fear over a Soviet veto is the USSR's practice of condemning the US presence and policy in Micronesia as 'imperialist'. President Mikhail Gorbachev's own characterisation of American actions in Micronesia as 'annexation' during his 1986 Soviet Far East address has added fuel to hawkish American fears of a USSR Security Council veto.

Moscow views Micronesia as a five-million-square-kilometre United States militarised and nuclearised zone, a 'forward base' in the Pentagon strategy of 'Soviet containment' aimed at thwarting Russian expansionism and protecting the continental USA. The *Washington Post* has documented that the Pentagon has a contingency plan whereby Tinian, Guam and Palau form a Western Pacific defence arc of fallback bases should US military installations in the Philippines ever be closed.

Naturally, the USSR is as pleased by military bases on Guam and a Star Wars facility in the Marshalls as America was at the prospect of having nuclear weapons stored in Cuba. The horrifying possibility is that such military toe-to-toe confrontation could put Moscow and Washington on a collision course in Micronesia. The region's unresolved political status, as the Marshalls incident illustrates, will continue as a bone of contention between the superpowers and Micronesia could conceivably evolve into an East-West flashpoint: it is wise to recall that America's involvement in World War II both began and ended in Micronesia and that obscure, remote islands have a knack of moving from the recesses of history to headline news once they become militarily significant: witness in recent times the Falklands and Grenada.

The case of Micronesia has been dubbed 'a sham within a scandal': The United Nations' refusal to stand up to the US over the TTPI issue is an ignominy, especially since no fewer than eight directly involved Pacific entities — Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and East Timor's Fretilin (which has a UN pre-

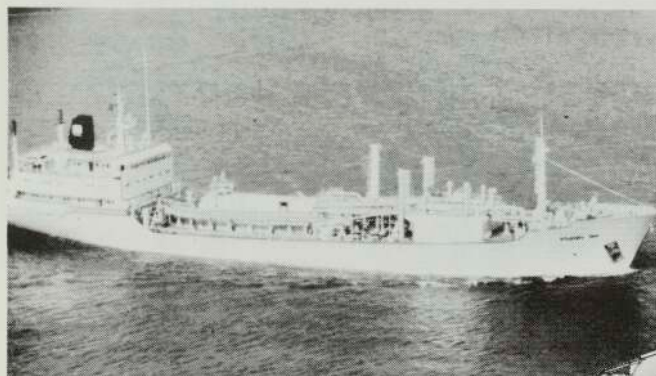
sence somewhat similar to that of the PLO) — are represented at the world body. The Pacific nations can lead in the UN's peace-broking and decolonisation process if they work together in a regional voting bloc, as other geopolitical regions in the world do. In fact, these island countries have acted as a *de facto* bloc in the past, holding monthly meetings on pertinent matters at their Manhattan offices.

They have also diplomatically lobbied for the embattled Kanaks at the UN and succeeded in having New Caledonia inscribed on the UN's list of non-self-governing territories.

If for no other reason than defusing the North Pacific, the United Nations — the world forum presiding over the postwar decolonisation process — must take an active interest in its Trustee responsibility to ensure that the long overdue Trusteeship Agreements of development and self-determination are realised.

Should the UN continue to ignore Micronesia and its disputed political status, there will eventually be a price to pay. Someday, UN peace-keeping troops may be dispatched to tiny specks of sand that have once more become front-page news. □

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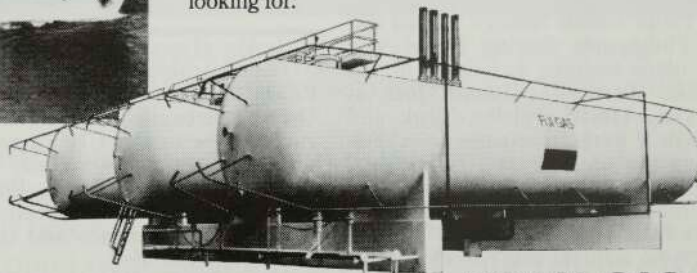


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Forum

On not going bananas in the Pacific

Ever since the days of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosophers have turned to Oceania in search of an ideal society.

C S Hopman, a longtime resident in New Caledonia, offers his thoughts on what could be done to create a society that could profit from its very distance from less happy lands. Readers are invited to respond to

Mr Hopman's ideas: write to him % Pacific Islands Monthly, GPO Box 4245, Sydney Australia 2001.

IN VIETNAM it was a broken raw egg: pass it from hand to hand, and yolk remains while the white dribbles away. Here it's done with coconuts: eat the white meat and keep the coarse brown husk. In both cases something precious is lost.

The British used to say that next to Providence, their Empire was the greatest force for good on earth. Perhaps not; but New Zealand, Canada, the USA, Australia are the sort of places to which people want to emigrate. Singapore and Hong Kong are bustling, prosperous cities. But think of the misery the French left in Africa, Indonesia and elsewhere.

Why the difference? It is important to find out, because it's clear to someone who has lived in New Caledonia for more than 17 years that they are doing it again here. If they follow their present trajectory, they will again leave hated and humiliated, blaming foreigners — or fate, perhaps — and not understanding how carefully they built themselves a trap and fell into it.

This trap is not uniquely French: human beings are all lousy colonisers of this earth. We could be creating extraordinary beauty, abundance, wellbeing; instead there is unemployment, crime, war, environmental destruction. We waste and destroy what is most precious. I hope to show here that there is a way out of the trap.

The New Caledonian Case

The writer O Henry coined the term 'banana republic' for those Latin American nations that in his day were dominated by the United Fruit Company. The term is now used to connote any country in which foreign governments or companies use local governments or companies to plunder or pollute. The practice can be traced back at least as far as Rome, which

mined Britain for its armaments industry and sent it administration and finished goods in return.

Drive with me from Tontouta airport to Noumea. One of the first things you will notice is that the country is quite empty. It has a population of some 160,000 — Belgium, about the same size, has 10 million. Much of the land you see — particularly further north — belongs to a few people or to companies and is tenant farmed. This was not always so: before the depression of the 1930s, most farmers owned their land and the villages in the interior were developing healthily. But then prices of farm goods fell while those of fuel, fertiliser and tools were kept high.

Many farms put up as collateral fell to the importers and the banks.

Look again at that empty land. While the Americans were here during World War II, this island fed some 400,000 people: now seven tenths of our food is imported. Drive through any village in the interior. What do you see? Town hall, gendarmerie, school, church, post office, a bar, a few shops selling imported goods . . . and that's it. There's none of the infrastructure of little factories producing toys, ceramics, furniture, nor the wayside stands you find in other places. The soil is full of metal, but not a single spoon or can-opener is made here. The island is surrounded by millions of square kilometres of ocean, but fishing rights are leased to foreigners. Except for a few prawns, no fish are exported.

There might have been good occasions for bringing people here. In March 1918 the Germans broke through the Allied lines and spilled into France, thinking they had won. Drunk and debauched, their bags full of loot, they were captured or killed,

and realised they had lost. But the charms of 'military jujitsu' were lost on the signatories of the Treaty of Versailles. Woodrow Wilson notwithstanding, the British and the French insisted on enormous reparations — and in 1920 more than 100,000 Germans died of cold and hunger. There was an extraordinary feeling of bitterness and frustration which, as Hitler himself wrote, gave rise to Nazism. Had the French (and the British) had the generosity to invite some of these people to their colonies, a second world war and the atrocities of the gas chambers and A-bomb might have been avoided. France might have kept her colonies and this country might have developed an economy capable of paying its own way.

About half of the white population of just under 40,000 (the same as Haiti before the slave rebellion) are employed as state or territorial *fonctionnaires*. Another 30 per cent or so have bureaucratic jobs in banks, insurance companies, airlines and the like. Living standards here are quite high: medical and school facilities, roads, water, communications — even to remote areas — are better than in many Pacific Islands. France sends some \$300 to \$500 million per year to keep this place going. When imported goods came mainly from France, most of the money sent here went back there. Now it tends to go elsewhere, and adds to France's balance of payment deficit.

To the left, as we drive to town, there are mountains. They are beautiful — but cut by great gashes in the dark red earth where miners searched for (and perhaps found) nickel ore. Some very large fortunes were made — but not much of that money came back. Payments are usually made abroad, and who is to check whether

prices quoted here are the same as those paid elsewhere? In any case it is evident that not much was invested in replanting strip-mined slopes, so when the heavy rains come, red slit flows down over farmland and into the lagoon, where it kills the reef. Nickel mining and smelting do provide a few jobs but, with automation, even less. It's a matter of most value removed and least added: how can the value of a stripped mountain or polluted lagoon be compared with that of cash stashed away in foreign accounts?

As we drive into town, you see the nickel smelting works on the right. It had about 15 per cent of the world market some 20 years ago — now it processes 6 per cent. Strange that this factory should be here on the west coast, even though most of the ore is on the east only a few hundred kilometres away. Strange, too, that about half the island's population lives in Noumea and its suburbs. Why not spread out a bit? Have the capital in the centre — say in Bourail. Put a university on the east coast, where it rains more, send industry to the south so the dust can blow out to sea.

Noumea, with its numerous hills and bays, could have been one of the most beautiful towns in the world. It isn't. Many of the bays have been filled in. Ugly apartment buildings block what should have been beautiful views. This place was obviously more concerned with money than beauty, and impoverished itself in consequence. Here, as in any banana town, you can see elegant ladies stepping out of fine cars over piles of trash or across open sewers into luxurious shops. As everywhere where there is injustice there is ugliness — graffiti, shanty huts and garish villas.

The overall impression of Noumea is that of a little colony of consumption; the bureaucracy regularly appears on TV asking for more, but never suggests it is vastly overstaffed. The miners doubtless do well most of the time, but it is hard to know just how well — they complain about hard times, but manage to stay in business. The importers do quite well, sending out the money brought in by the public sector and mines. But the whole thing is very ingrown. Unlike Americans, Australians, Canadians and New Zealanders, who invited people to come and help build their countries, the local government refused to accept even the *pieds noirs* when they had to leave Algeria. *Un pays merveilleux* — a wonderful country — say the local French when visiting relatives back in the *metropole* . . . but when the latter, who pay the taxes that keep this place going, try to come here they find they cannot do so without return tickets.

Let us consider why this island is likely to go bananas.

There is wealth. There is more than nickel, chromium and cobalt in the ground here: other metals as well as coal, oil and gas have been found, too. The island is beautiful, has a pleasant climate and is uniquely situated. In a few decades fluid fossil fuels will run out. Then humanity will get its energy from the ocean, and the Pacific is the best place in the world to do this.

There is dependence. The whole island suffers from a *mentalite d'assiste*. Even the independentists do not realise just how great the potential of this island is, and expect France to go on looking after them after independence. As things stand this country could not survive without French aid: its internal market is too small and prices are too high for it to develop viable industries. Its bureaucracy is too concerned with self-preservation.

The mining-importing oligarchy depends on this bureaucracy to defend its privileges.

There is hatred. Such wealth as has been made here has not been shared fairly. Many Melanesians feel they have been treated like second-class citizens in their own country. This is also increasingly true for the *petits blancs* — the poor whites. Since the Matignon Agreement the old independentist/loyalist split has given away to a more fluid, possibly explosive situation as each of the old blocs split into those for and against these agreements. People are confused, frightened, frustrated.

There is instability. After recent riots, the mayor of Noumea complained that the police did practically nothing — but this is understandable in the light of Ouvea. France cannot afford a colonial war here. Scenes of gendarmes shooting Melanesian children could do nasty things to France's reputation and balance of payments. North Africans might stop buying Peugeot; South Africans might become sarcastic.

France already pays heavily to keep this place. Why should she pay more or spill more blood? But how can wealth, especially if unfairly distributed, be protected without force? If there is more trouble, there will be fewer investments, more unemployment and more trouble. France, having trouble at home and suspecting it may not be here for long, may be inclined to cut its losses. Others, seeing the fragility of the Matignon agreements, may want to wait and see before putting money here.

Wealth, dependency, hatred, instability — mix these any way you want, but the results are predictable. Whether this place remains French or not, or adopts some sort of independence-in-association, it will be hard to avoid the bananas. As in the 20 or so other countries to which she gave —

or was forced to give — independence, France will hurt herself and others. This island will become another of those dumps that festers under a subtropical sun, incapable of taking care of itself.

Curing the Latin Disease

Some harsh things have been said about Latins in general, and the French in particular. This was not done with any intent to arouse hatred or wound Gallic pride: a doctor who diagnoses a disease does not hate the sufferer. On the contrary; he seeks to understand and eliminate the cause of the suffering. To heal is to make whole again, to re-member what had been dis-membered.

Some of my Melanesian friends may feel my suggestion that the French could have done well to bring several million Germans or other Frenchmen to New Caledonia may sound like the far right National Front. But let them consider whether they, too, have been infected by the Latin disease. When humanity starts colonising the stars, will they be out in the forefront? Or will their society be sucked too dry, split too deep to join in the fun?

The Melanesians have largely preserved the tribal organisation based on direct exchange and customary law all peoples had before money was invented. They 'fell' in the sense that they are one with their land; their land claims them as much as they claim it. Melanesian consciousness was originally much less egocentric than the European's. A person was his relationship to others; before the Europeans came, New Caledonia/Kanaky had a busy trade and communications network with its neighbours; economic and social exchanges went on between coastal and mountain regions or the outer islands and the mainland. Society was based on exchanges of women, jade, food, artworks.

Traditional Melanesian property is neither private nor common. The clan head manages the clan's lands, but does not own them. He is empowered to decide how clan lands are allocated to different families — and under what conditions they may be attributed to foreigners. Homage (in the form of yams) is given to him and through him to the clan's founders.

The tribal chief's power, in contrast, was above all a political power, quite different from subordinate powers to decide on resource allocation. He had no particular prerogatives to decide over tribal lands, but protected the tribe's heritage, formed alliances and, with clan notables, resolved disputes.

Not surprisingly, the Melanesians hit it off better with the English than they did with the French, who not only came later but had less understanding of tribal psychology. Initially

the Melanesians hoped the English would rid them of the French — Gondou, chief of rebel mountain tribes, expressed his feelings in Pidgin: "Frenchmen all same pouacas. Suppose me look one, I vomit." The French killed him.

Like most peoples who still live according to largely oral traditions, the Melanesians are often able communicators and negotiators. Magic *boucan* and ceremony have an important place in their culture.

Melanesians can negotiate with other Oceanians in ways that Frenchmen cannot. The French are not only outsiders, there are some important things about making agreements they

guarantees for any people and investments she leaves behind.

There is immense wealth in the Pacific: energy, minerals, food, fresh water, living space can be obtained from it. But doing so will require large, long term investments quite beyond the resources of any island by itself. Large, long-term investments cannot be made without the expectation of political stability over a wide region. Expensive research must be written off with large economies of scale. Devices developed and produced in one place may have to be used widely in others to be profitable.

France, with her advanced ocean exploration and satellite launching facilities,

Greater stability within and between nations then makes large, long term investment more likely, reduces unemployment and so attracts more investment. Another advantage might be that international waters would, by enclosure, become a de facto part of the Federation's economic zone.

It would be advantageous if member states were roughly of the same size and shared similar interests: in particular the development of island and ocean resources. Small island nations might feel their voices would not be heard if larger Pacific rim nations were to join, but this could lead to a neo-colonial "spheres of influence" situation. Best use would not be made of the ocean's resources if it were to cut up so that larger powers confronted each other more or less directly. Rather, it would seem that if the ocean is to be worked and cared for efficiently, various powers should invest in the whole region together.

As things stand now, however, various influences are spreading across the Pacific; opposing military forces manoeuvre in close proximity. France is in a unique position to play an extremely beneficial role: relinquishing sovereignty to her Pacific territories on condition they immediately form a part of a larger federation and that the rights of her erstwhile citizens and interests would be properly guaranteed in that Federation, she could help build that Federation and act as an arbiter in the organisation of its administrative structures.

Instead of spreading much and earning little to keep these places, she could help herself and others.

This would certainly not be easy. Melanesians, Asians and Europeans differ more than do Germans, French and Britons. Patience and tact would be required to explain the advantages of relinquishing some sovereignty or the necessity of letting islanders manage their affairs.

But the rewards could be immense for all concerned. We do not have to go bananas. With foresight and wisdom, we can merge seemingly conflicting interests. The particular genius of each community is required for success, just as Latin organisation and German initiative produced in Britons a uniquely successful blend. After several centuries of intermixing, Celts, Romans, Jutes, Danes, Normans and others fused into what Englishmen proudly called their race.

Who knows but that something similar could happen here: an Oceanic race whose members are second to none in grace, bravery and intelligence. Perhaps if we combine Oceanic abilities to agree and to explore with European science and Asian pragmatism, Oceania could become a model for a more integrated humanity. □

"In an Oceanic market, abilities would merge in healthy competition rather than suffocating this economy with mini-monopolies"

do not understand. Their symbolism of the Matignon agreements was wrong. As one of my Melanesian friends observed, an agreement concerning a country should be signed there. Signatories should be able to contact their countrymen, the vibrations of the land and spirits of their ancestors. He also noted the symbolism of the French prime ministers coming here all the way from Paris to make a speech under a Kanaky flag.

France, however, deserves the world's gratitude for having preserved the Melanesian way of life as well as it did throughout a century of European imperialism. French Governors, inspired by Rousseau's 'noble savage' and by real compassion, helped protect the Melanesians from the sort of land-grabbing that more or less annihilated the American Indians — but France has not realised that an understanding of the Melanesian way of life and Melanesian economics could help her solve many of her problems. Since she insists on keeping her sovereignty over Kanaky all to herself, she is playing a losing game. Her support of the local oligarchy is all too reminiscent of Algeria and Vietnam — or the US backing of various Trujillos, Battistas and Somosas. Maintaining the peace is problematical, maintaining civil services is costly . . . and no-one seems very grateful. She can't do much with the place and is not sure if she wants to let it go.

But think of what might have happened if, after World War II, France had proposed to her Indochinese possessions that she would help organise them into a common market with a single currency, system of laws, government with powers balanced between centre and periphery, and then leave — asking only for reasonable

ties, could play an important role in the development of this region. Perhaps more than most countries she could also contribute culture: her love of good and gracious living, her artists and architects could all add greatly to the quality of life here. It is time the white community here stopped looking abroad for the solutions to its problems. It is right here in the Pacific: instead of begging from Paris or selling baubles into this minute market, they could be managing exports, imports and investments between, and in, the European Community and a potential Oceania Federation. The Caldoches and New Caledonian whites are more enterprising than the Frenchmen who stayed at home. Their technical, commercial and administrative competence, their ties with Europe, their knowledge of local conditions and their money could all be put to use more rewardingly here than elsewhere.

In an Oceanic market their abilities would merge in healthy competition and co-operation with entrepreneurs from other states, rather than suffocating this little economy with mini-monopolies. But if they hold the answer to others' problems, the converse is also true. They must learn to be friends with the people they have looked down on for so long.

One of the advantages of a Federation would be that internal games would tend to become less intense as representatives of different parties defended the interests of their islands around a table. So, if it seemed desirable to form a regional airline by combining the resources of many local lines, Melanesians and whites could combine effectively to make sure that each island state received a fair share of the revenues of the joint airline.

NAURU

Australia, NZ Silent on Nauru Compensation Claim

Australia, Britain and New Zealand appear unlikely to meet Nauru's \$72 million dollar mining compensation claim. By Richard Dinnen

THE AUSTRALIAN Government has refused to pay any part of the \$A72 million claimed by Nauru as compensation for the devastation caused by phosphate mining on the island. The claim follows the tabling in the Nauru Parliament last December of the 10-volume report of the Commission of Inquiry into rehabilitation of the worked-out phosphate lands. The claim is made against the three nations responsible for mining on Nauru — Australia, New Zealand and Britain — and each has shown a distinct lack of interest in meeting it.

The \$72 million claim represents the main finding of a comprehensive report strongly critical of the three mining nations. "Entrusted by the world community with this sacred trust of civilisation, the three powers concerned failed to act in accordance with that trust and acted for their own benefit rather than the people in their

care," the report says — and while the Commissioners admit these are grave assertions to advance against governments of such stature and status, they say that after careful examination of documentary evidence no other conclusion is possible.

Those nations stand accused of breaching the trust placed in them and acting for their own gain and thus to the detriment of the people of Nauru. While the mining nations will regard the report as a minor irritation, Nauru President Hammer DeRoburt told his Parliament it was a milestone in development. "It charts out a course of progress for this island extending over the next 20 years or even more," he said. "It contains an elaborate survey of the resources of Nauru, and future possibilities based on a complete rehabilitation of Topside, which comprises 80 per cent of our land surface."

The Nauru Government set up the

inquiry in 1986 and appointed a three-man Commission of Inquiry, comprising international lawyer Professor Christopher Weeramantry, Australian mining executive Robert Chalton and Nauru public servant Gideon Degidoo. Their mandate was to consider which government or organisation should accept responsibility for rehabilitating the areas of phosphate land worked out during the German administration, League of Nations Mandate, Japanese occupation and the United Nations Trust. The Commission extended to a study of cost and feasibility of any proposed rehabilitation. The Commission began public hearings in early 1987 and sat in Nauru, Melbourne and Wellington.

The three nations gained control of Nauru with a League of Nations trust at the end of World War I and governed until independence in 1968. The nations mined Nauru as a joint authority, the British Phosphate Company (BPC), and by independence had removed a third of the island's available reserves. A 1968 Act of Parliament established a now sizeable rehabilitation fund but that was always intended for rehabilitation of land mined after independence. The partner governments have denied responsibility, claiming the 1967 phosphate agreement — under which the Nauru Local Government Council purchased the physical assets of the BPC — settled all issues including rehabilitation.

The three nations made a pre-independence payment of \$21 million intended to cover rehabilitation costs to that date. They then contended that Nauru could pay for its own rehabilitation because it would earn large amounts of money from phosphate sales after independence — a suggestion the Commission found "untenable in law and morality". Nauruans could not be asked to use their own funds to rehabilitate mining which took place both before and after independence, President DeRoburt told Parliament.

The Commission found that the 1967 phosphate agreement remained conspicuously silent on the rehabilitation question. The partner governments had considered a draft proposal that extended the financial arrangements to cover future needs including



Weathered coral pinnacles are all that remain after years of mining. Nauru is considering cost-effective ways to rehabilitate this devastated landscape. Rehabilitation will cost \$A26 million.

resettlement or rehabilitation. That this clause was not included in the final agreement, the Commission said, clearly shows there was no understanding that the agreement released the partner governments from the obligation to rehabilitate.

They have committed a violation of the obligations on Mandatory and Trustee powers in failing to restore mined out land to useful condition, the report said.

The question of responsibility for rehabilitation of land or relocation of the island's 8000 residents has long been a hot issue. The Commission says the former administering authority was aware more than 20 years before the termination of the Trust that an alternative land area would have to be provided for Nauruans if rehabilitation did not take place. "Despite its awareness of this fact, it continued to pursue a policy that progressively, and at an accelerated pace, rendered the island unfit for habitation," said the President. "The only possible justification for pursuing such a course of conduct despite its awareness of its results was a resolve to make good the damage done in one way or another."

In distinguishing two stages — rehabilitation and development — the Commissioners were careful to balance their stinging criticism of the partner

governments with what President DeRoburt described as a "heartening and yet realistic view of the opportunities for rehabilitation". It had long been held that rehabilitation would be ridiculously expensive — a view the Commission finally lays to rest. It suggests modern machinery can be used to remove and crush limestone pinnacles, allowing residual mining to take place. The land can then be contoured and prepared for subsequent use. Some phosphate, crushed limestone, humus and nutrients can be used to produce a topsoil eventually comparable with that presently stockpiled on Topside. Newly discovered groundwater could be treated for irrigation use. The Commission injects an optimistic note with the assertion that rehabilitation will pave the way for a range of land uses. But the task ahead is a formidable one — 80 per cent of Nauru's land surface will have been rendered useless by 1990 and the total cost of rehabilitation is estimated at a minimum of \$A216 million.

"We are no longer visualising the arrival of giant ships disgorging vast amounts of soil culled from wherever in the world to fill the holes," says President De Roburt. "Rather we see a carefully designed program extending over 20 years where natural soil and plant regeneration takes place at the

same time as secondary resource mining and re-contouring. It should draw an enthusiastic response in what should be a truly national endeavour."

No doubt Nauruans will be keen to share this vision and bring it to life. Faced with a \$72 million price tag, the partner governments are unlikely to share the enthusiasm.

Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans visited Nauru last September and stated emphatically that his country would make no further compensation payments. Australia has not altered its stance, and has told Nauru it will not be bound by the findings of the Commission.

Senator Evans reportedly believes the 1968 payment was a fair one, taking full account of Nauru's future economic needs including rehabilitation, and was fairly negotiated. Nauru also 'benefited' from the transfer by BPC of the then existing mining equipment and other assets at a 'favourable price'. Australia has argued that phosphate income brought to Nauru a standard of living far in excess of other island states. It is an assertion that illustrates the Australian Government's myopic view of the region and tendency to ignore the environmental, social and health problems that may be concealed in a 'wide brown land' but cannot be ignored in the vast Pacific. □

**YOU'LL FIND IT,
WHERE THE SKY MEETS
THE SEA**



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Trade Winds

□ NZ LINE RE-FLAGS SHIPS

NEW ZEALAND Line last month hijacked its own ships in order to get rid of its own crews in a re-flagging operation designed to make the Line attractive to buyers.

The crew of the huge container vessel *New Zealand Pacific* was told to divert to Moorea where they were met by British officers and Spanish seamen who immediately took control of the ship after the crew refused to sign an employment agreement that would have maintained their wages but cut leave allowances. The ship was renamed *Tui* and the Hong Kong flag was hoisted as it set off for Auckland where it was immobilised by union picket lines. The *New Zealand Forum II* met a similar fate in Port Moresby and was renamed *Weka*.

Both ships are now owned by subsidiary companies in Hong Kong established by the government-owned NZ Line. Directors say the reflagging — which may serve the Line \$NZ11.6 million this year — was the only way they could preserve buyer interest in the line. But the Australian National

Line (ANL), which had tendered to buy NZ Line with existing manning practices, is now fighting to reverse the rejection of its bid by the NZ Treasury. The bid reportedly was rejected after ANL refused to provide unconditional indemnity to pay NZ Line's back-tax liabilities which could total more than \$NZ25 million.

□ TUVALU BANK PROFIT

THE NATIONAL Bank of Tuvalu has announced a pre-tax profit to December 31, 1987 of \$500,107 — down \$16,205 on the record profit of 1986. It was taken as a good result in the face of falling Australian dollar interest rates.

The National Bank, 60 per cent owned by the Government and 40 per cent by Westpac Banking Corporation, relies for much of its funding on investing its surplus funds and sees the profit as a healthy per annum return of 42.3 per cent on average shareholders' funds.

Steady expansion marked 1987, with growth in savings account deposits of \$528,000 and increased adv-

ances of \$433,000. Demand for finance was strong, home loans predominating with 43 per cent of all new loans being for house building or renovation throughout Tuvalu.

Overseas investments were up \$440,000 on the previous year.

□ HAWAII BANK WORTH \$6 BILLION

BANKCORP Hawaii Inc, the parent company of Bank of Hawaii and the Hawaiian Trust Company Ltd, has reported record earnings for the third quarter of 1988. Its total assets increased 14.6 per cent in the twelve month period to \$US6.14 billion, making it the first financial institution in Hawaii to exceed \$6 billion in assets.

The bank's loans grew 20 per cent in the year to \$US3.70 billion, while deposits increased 13.6 per cent to a total of \$US5.6 billion.

□ BLUE LAGOON POSTS PROFIT

FIJI'S Blue Lagoon Cruises Ltd has reported a trading profit of \$F851,394 for the financial year ending in May 1988 despite last year's dramatic tourism slump. But chairman David Wilson told directors the biggest drop had been in passengers from the US and Canada had been caused by the lack of airline capacity from North America.

"The past financial year was certainly the most difficult and commercially uncertain period any company in Fiji is likely to experience, particularly for those dependent on tourism," said Mr Wilson. The sale of the MV *Talenda* to an Australian company and its replacement by the \$2.5 million MV *Nanuya Princess* had boosted pre-tax profit and accounted for a significant part of Blue Lagoon's operations. The company operates six vessels from Lautoka providing a number of cruise options each week.

□ A310 FOR AIR NIUGINI

AIR NIUGINI has taken delivery of its first Airbus A310-300 aircraft. The new jet carries 30 first class and 179 economy class passengers and is due to begin flights in March on routes from Port Moresby to Manila, Singapore, Brisbane and Sydney. It replaces an A300 B4 aircraft leased from Australian Airlines.

"Our leased A300 played a crucial role in establishing us as a profitable airline in a competitive market during the past few years," says Mr Seefeld. "We look forward to serving our passengers even better with the new Airbus." □

□ HAWAIIAN AIRLINES ON MOVE

HAWAIIAN Airlines is planning major expansion with the sale of stock to a Japan Air Lines subsidiary, Pan Pacific Hotels. Shareholders have agreed to a stock increase of 20 per cent, making a huge capital injection. Approval by the US Government is expected to be forthcoming.

In 1987 the airline was to be sold to a Hawaiian property developer for about \$US100 million, when the share-market crash intervened and the deal collapsed: before the crash, Hawaiian Airlines shares had been trading at \$30 each.

Hawaiian sees two immediate benefits in the link with JAL, apart from the new capital availability — the possibility of extending its routes to secondary Japanese destinations such as Okinawa, and the Japanese carrier's influence with Boeing if Hawaiian wants early delivery of new aircraft.

Meanwhile, Hawaiian takes delivery in January of another DC8 from Scandinavian Airlines Systems (SAS). This may be used to increase frequency on flights in the South Pacific. The DC8 used on the long-haul runs between Honolulu, Auckland and Sydney now also services the Auckland/Rarotonga route. Since Ansett ceased operating the Cook Island International Airways service on that run, the two destina-

tions have been linked by a Hawaiian jet (flying under air Rarotonga's name) making a round trip to the Cook Islands every Wednesday.

Hawaiian Airlines uses L1001 Tristars for its US West Coast-Honolulu services, and flies refurbished DC8 jets to the South Pacific in a configuration of 16 first class and 194 economy seats. Apart from Sydney and Auckland, Hawaiian has landing rights at Rarotonga, Apia, Pago Pago, Papeete and Nuku'alofa.

However, aircraft shortages have meant that earlier plans to have two flights a week out of Sydney have had to be shelved: by the end of October seats on the Friday flights to and from Sydney had been almost completely booked through to the end of January 1989, says Hawaiian's Australian sales director, Gillian Harman.

Airline workers were surprised with their success in that after only nine months up against highly competitive airlines flying wide-bodied jets, Hawaiian's old DC8 has done very well. Hawaiian has built a successful business in small-lot air freight: it flies fresh food, cigarettes and other cargo into Pago Pago and Apia from Australia and New Zealand, and according to Ms Harman this traffic will be promoted further in 1989.

— Robin Bromby



PRI bunkers fishing vessels at Pago Pago Harbor.

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Pacific Report

Fisheries War Escalates

Japan is unlikely to pay higher prices for Pacific rights. By Robin Bromby

THE fisheries war between the island states of the South Pacific and Japan looks like intensifying. Tuvalu has followed Papua New Guinea's lead in breaking an agreement on the basis that the prices offered by the Japanese for using the waters of its 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone are far too low.

There are now suggestions that in the coming tuna season some Japanese boats may attempt to fish illegally and will be arrested if caught.

Members of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) are demanding better prices after having wrung an agreement out of the United States, but the Japanese, who take about 235,000 tonnes of tuna out of Pacific waters, are showing no sign that they will accede to these demands. The dispute will almost certainly prove far more intractable than that with the US tuna fleet. The Japanese have shown few signs in the past 25 years of conceding on financial and economic arrangements, while Pacific leaders are showing signs of becoming increasingly angry at Japanese intransigence and arrogance. FFA director Phillip Muller has gone on record as saying that South Pacific countries are expecting to have to seize Japanese vessels fishing illegally this season.

Earlier this year the Americans signed an agreement that provides royalty payments to the Forum nations. It followed years of illegal fishing by US boats and several arrests and heavy fines when island nations could catch the boats. The agreement was possible only because the American Government overruled the demands of its own fishermen. But with the Japanese it is much harder to drive a wedge between business and government, to find the dividing line — if, indeed, there is one. While the Japanese have been adept at wringing concessions for their products around the world, they have proved equally adroit at protecting their own industries from competition or what they regard as heavy imposts.

Even if the Pacific countries get the Japanese to sign on the dotted line, that by itself may mean little. "They probably won't fish illegally, but they'll go into a treaty and then reinterpret it to their own needs — just as they did in the coal agreement with Australia," says Dr Geoffrey Waugh, formerly a

senior economist with the FFA in Honiara and now lecturing at the University of New South Wales. "It's hard to break through Japanese industry and get to the government." He says another problem is that many fishing boats operate on marginal return and that Japan cannot afford to pay a similar royalty to the Americans without drastically rationalising its fleet (now between 800 and 1000 boats). There is also the possibility Japanese fishermen would underreport their catch after the agreement was signed.

What the Japanese do and what they say can cause confusion: in 1986, then-foreign minister Tadashi Kuranari said his country was eager to promote stability and development in the South Pacific region — but both Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea have withdrawn fishing rights after the Japanese refused to pay what those

countries considered a fair source rental. The Japanese company, C Itoh, also pulled out of the troubled Levuka cannery when its initial agreement with the Fiji government lapsed.

Tokyo has already refused to open negotiations with the FFA countries; the Pacific states, many of which see fish as their main economic resource and greatest opportunity for improving their people's lot, want a regional fishing deal. Both sides seem to be digging in for the long haul.

The one wild card is whether — as happened at the height of the dispute with the American tuna men — the Soviet Union approaches any of the island states with an attractive offer for fishing rights. Though not popular in the region, the USSR at least has a reputation for honouring commercial arrangements and not fishing illegally. □

□ WASTE CONFERENCE

THE 1989 Pacific Basin Conference for Hazardous Waste Research will convene in Singapore from April 2-7. The meeting follows the inaugural conference held in February 1988, which identified common problems in management of hazardous waste in the Pacific Basin. Organisers say the second meeting will review progress in waste disposal research and continue development of collaborative programs between member nations.

Training courses, technical papers, workshops and research planning sessions are scheduled for the conference which is open to anyone involved in hazardous waste research and management. The training courses will be conducted by David Barnes of Sinclair Knight Partners, Australia, and Louis Theodore of Manhattan College in the United States.

Accommodation and social functions are being arranged by the organisers, the Pacific Basin Consortium for Hazardous Waste Research. Financial assistance is available to people wishing to attend from developing nations.

□ COOKS HALT FISHING

THE Cook Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry has asked the Japanese Government to cease all

fishing activity in Cook Islands waters, including trans-shipping, until a formal fishing agreement has been negotiated. The Director of Fisheries Management, Colin Brown, says the move follows an estimated US\$100,000 loss last year from operations carried out in the Cook Islands by Japanese tuna boats.

Meanwhile Taiwan has sought permission to establish a trans-shipping base in Rarotonga. But Department of Marine Resources officials have expressed concern over possible approaches to the private sector from the Taiwanese regarding storage and other facilities required for a trans-shipping base. Taiwanese fishing boats have been observed using gill nets, a practice strongly opposed by the Cook Islands Government.

□ FIJI TOURISM UP

FIJI could earn up to \$F200 million in foreign exchange from tourism this year, according to the outgoing chairman of the Fiji Visitors Bureau David Williams. Mr Williams says projections show at least 260,000 people will visit Fiji this year, a further increase on last year's record 211,000. But Mr Williams said achieving the projected visitor total and revenue will depend on active participation and co-operation by airlines and Fiji's tourist industry operators.

ANZ BUYS BANK

THE ANZ Bank has been given the go-ahead to buy the New Zealand Government-owned Post Office Bank. ANZ announced its intention to buy Postbank last December for almost \$NZ500 million. The NZ Commerce Commission has approved the sale and ownership will change hands late this month.

QANTAS CHANGES

THE Australian international airline QANTAS has announced changes to its Trans-Pacific schedules which will see flights pass through Tahiti rather than Fiji. Six QANTAS flights from Australia to North America which formerly made transit stops in Fiji have been re-routed through Tahiti. But QANTAS international relations manager David Callaghan says the changes will not adversely affect tourism in Fiji. Mr Callaghan says the route changes were made to attract more American tourists to the Western Pacific and traffic through Fiji's Nadi Airport will not be affected. But resort operators in Fiji are concerned the new schedules will cut the number of Americans travelling to Fiji.

MORE CHARGES IN VANUATU

AS SACKED Vanuatu president Ati George Sokomanu and rebel MP Barak Sope await trial following last year's failed coup, two of their supporters have been sentenced to prison terms for sabotage. McKenzie Kaloititi, son of the private secretary to the former president, and Karie Kora, Sope's bodyguard, have each been sentenced to 15 months jail for damaging and setting fire to rural radio stations on the island of Efate.

The two men failed to appear for sentencing and had to be brought to the courthouse by police. They were released pending an appeal. Mr Kaloititi also faces a further seven months prison over damages to a Burns Philp supermarket in Port Vila last December.

Sokomanu and Sope are both in jail, along with four other men, awaiting trial on charges of sedition and inciting mutiny. Sope staged a brief hunger strike during January, but is eating again and reportedly in good health.

PANGUNA UNREST CONTINUES

UNREST continues at the giant Bougainville Copper Mine at Panguna in Papua New Guinea's North Solomons Province, prompting authorities to impose a dusk-to-dawn curfew at the minesite and in surrounding towns and villages. The curfew is enforced by a force of 400 heavily-armed police.

The militant followers of Francis

Ona have been blamed for the unrest which began in December with a number of explosions which twice forced the mine to cease operations (see January *Pacific Islands Monthly*). Mr Ona's followers are all local landowners dissatisfied with the conservative leadership of their elders and intent on strongly pursuing increased compensation from mine operators BCL for the use of their land and the damage caused by mining activity.

The landowners have waged a continuing campaign of harassment and sabotage in support of their compensation demands. PNG Justice Minister Bernard Narakobi has ruled out the possibility of an amnesty for Ona in exchange for an end to the campaign. But the Minister did leave open the option that Cabinet could direct police not to proceed with a prosecution if charges are laid.

EARHART OUT OF FUEL

BRITISH air historian Roy Nesbit claims to have discovered evidence which suggests famed US aviator Amelia Earhart ran out of fuel and crashed about 50 kilometres short of Howland Island in the western Pacific on her round-the-world flight 50 years ago.

Nesbit, a former RAF navigator, says he discovered a letter from Earhart to the British aviation authorities in which she wrote of her intention to carry 1000 US gallons of fuel on board her Lockheed Electra aircraft for her 4100km flight from Lae in Papua New Guinea to Howland Islands. The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* reported her navigator Fred Noonan as saying they would carry 950 gallons.

According to fuel consumption figures supplied by Lockheed, Nesbit says the twin-engined plane could have flown for 20 hours and 13 minutes on 950 gallons of fuel. Earhart's last radio message was received 20 hours and 20 minutes after takeoff, making it likely that she ran out of fuel soon afterward. She never arrived at Howland and no trace of her or the aircraft has ever been found.

AIR NZ NEW SERVICE

AIR NEW ZEALAND will begin direct flights between Sydney and Los Angeles on March 27 under new air rights granted after bilateral talks last year. Air NZ currently runs eight flights a week from Sydney to LA via Auckland. The new service will operate twice weekly via Honolulu using Boeing 747-200 aircraft. With the introduction later this year of the 747-400, Air NZ will operate non-stop Sydney-LA flights.

The changes are part of a shift of emphasis to the more lucrative business market.

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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).

The Island Press

Reports from the papers, compiled by John Carter

RAMBO the pup is just another member of this cat family. The animals belong to Mr Appal Naidu of Naikabula, Lautoka. The pup's mother died when it was six weeks old, and since then he has been living off the milk from the cat's breast. The cat's two male kittens don't seem to mind and treat Rambo as a brother.

— From *The Fiji Times*, Suva

WHEN the House rose for the morning tea break at 10.45 the Prime Minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana, one of the two MPs for Faasaleleaga No. 1, immediately launched a violent attack on Le Tagaloa Pita, and told him to go and eat all the excrement around.

Le Tagaloa, MP for Palauli Le Falefa, retaliated and told the Prime Minister to put all that excrement in his mouth and after the break said in the House that this was the first time a Prime Minister had ever uttered such words to a fellow MP.

— From *The Samoa Times*, Apia

THE Minister for Education Filipe Bole has asked churches to preach from the pulpits the needs for Fijians to make education part of their culture. Mr Bole was speaking to parents and pupils at Naivakasiga District School in Bua.

"It is clear in my mind that education can, and must, become part of the Fijian culture as we have assimilated religion into our culture. Educa-

tion is like religion in that both are foreign cultures to the Fijians," Mr Bole said.

— From *The Fiji Times*, Suva

MADANG General Hospital has treated more than 5000 people for venereal disease in the past three years. That is almost one-fifth of the total estimated population of Madang town — and hospital medical superintendent Steven Demok believes that as many as 5000 more sufferers could have gone untreated.

Most of those treated are in the age group of 15-35, but they have included children as young as two years.

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

APPROACHING Port Moresby I am always impressed by the beauty of the land, mountains, reefs etc and this time was no exception on a recent visit to PNG.

Unfortunately this first impression was soon dispelled by the realisation

of how filthy Port Moresby is. The early rains had turned the hills green but they had not washed away the rubbish, buai stains etc that give Moresby its most distinctive character.

Together with the recognition of the filthiness comes a realisation of the shocking state of the roads.

— From a letter from Peter Schaper of Katherine, Australia, to the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

THE Monarch stressed the value and importance of the Holy Bible and the hymnal.

"I was in American Samoa for the installation of Governor Peter Coleman. He took the oath of office from the Chief Justice without using a Bible," the King said. "Nor did the LMS minister who said the benediction carry a bible."

— From a speech by King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga when opening a new church at Pelehake in Nukualofa

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An illustrated comment on the effects of logging, in the Solomon Islands Development Trust's Link magazine.

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Transition

Died: Viliame Toalei Molimea 'Ilohahia, 70, legendary Tongan-born butler who served New Zealand Governors-General since 1941. He began his life of service while still enrolled in Tonga College during the 1930s before emigrating to New Zealand in 1941. He became the manager of the Northern Club in 1964, a position he held until 1984. Mr 'Ilohahia waited on Queen Elizabeth II during visits to New Zealand and Tonga and attended to the needs of both British and Tongan Royal families. In 1981 he served at the wedding banquet of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. He helped found the Tongan Society in 1948 and was an active member of Auckland's Tongan Community. He is survived by his wife Melenaita and three children.

Died: Aloysius Noga, former Catholic priest, councillor, politician and businessman. One of the North Solomons' most outstanding leaders, he was at the forefront of the 1975 Bougainville Secession Movement. Mr Noga served from 1976 to 1980 as Speaker of the Provincial government and had been president of the Buin local council under the Australian colonial administration.

He is remembered for his work to eradicate illiteracy and promote education in the region.

Died: Talu Bolt, former MP for the Papua New Guinea seat of North Wahgi in the Western Highlands district. Mr Bolt, 55, was a former *luluai* and *tutul*. He is survived by three wives, several children and grandchildren.

On Display: An unidentified body named Taru, in the limestone cliffs of Mt Antina in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea. The preserved body is that of a Wambulin tribesman thought to have been killed in a tribal fight 40 years ago between the Yanuni and Pindikin tribes in the Tsak valley. Taru's people reportedly believed him to be a great leader and so preserved his body rather than burying him as tradition prescribed. His body stands upright in the cave, and is so well preserved even his eyes, teeth and hair are intact. The body has been previously displayed at the Mount Hagen Show and the Lae Agricultural Show.

Died: Dr Tevita Puloka, 65, renowned physician, in Seattle, Washington on January 12. A graduate of Tupou Col-

lege and dux of the 1942 class at the Fiji School of Medicine where he earned gold medals in surgery and medicine. Dr Puloka joined the Civil Service in 1947 and served for 31 years in a number of hospitals, rising to the position of superintendent. He is a member of the renowned Puloka family of physicians.



Died: Terence Acraman, 52, Fiji-born architect, in Auckland on January 21. Mr Acraman worked for the architectural section of the Public Works Department and served in the Fiji Military Forces. He qualified as an architect in Perth, Western Australia, and was chief architect at the Auckland Education Board at the time of his death.

Died: Annie Barbara Parry, 88, traveller, painter and sculptor, in Canberra last December. Mrs Parry was a trained nurse who married radiographer Arthur Parry in 1922. The couple moved to Papua New Guinea and pioneered radiography services in that nation. Mrs Parry joined her husband on many island patrols and was reputed to be the first white woman to enter many remote areas. Mr Parry was captured by the Japanese during World War II and never returned, but Mrs Parry remained in PNG to establish a coffee plantation. She returned to Australia and worked as a chropodist until 1982.

The Washington Pacific Report

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Jeannette Diana
SPNFZ
Greenpeace
The Dibb Report
The Pons Plan
The Vladivostok Initiative
Reinscription
Soviet-Kiribati Fishing Treaty
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Book Review

THE SACRED REMAINS: MYTH, HISTORY AND POLITY IN BELAU
By Richard J. Parmentier. University of Chicago Press, 1987. \$US17.95.

Reviewed by **Harvey Zone Helfand**

THE BELAU archipelago has been the subject of several noted Western anthropological and ethnographical studies, beginning in the 19th century with J S Kubary and Augustin Kramer and continuing to modern times with the works of Roland and Maryanne Force, Homer Barnett and others. Smith College's Professor Richard J Parmentier contributes to this body of research in *The Sacred Remains*. The book is a fascinating description of Belauan culture, both anthropological and historical perspectives.

The "sacred remains" are the *olangch*, or the "permanent signs which function as present evidence of a significant past". These signs are varied and include sacred stones, exchange valuables, carved stories, seating patterns, titles, names, and even tree plantings, among others. The *olangch* can be both "signs of history" and "signs in history". For example, the traditional meeting house *bai* constructed for Belau's museum was called *Ngesechel a Cherechar* (reminder of the past) and was "designed as a unifying pan-Belauan sign of history . . . until it became also a sign in history when it was vandalised and then burned to the ground during recent political struggles". A more typical, and less catastrophic recollection of earlier times is that of one village presenting a sacred stone to another village as payment for providing assistance in battle. In this way the stone, "a sign of history", was utilised for socio-political purposes, so that it also served as a "sign in history".

This concept of continuity contrasts with the more traditionally separate views of history by historians and anthropologists.

Parmentier concentrates his study in Ngeremlengui, on the west coast of Babeladob, where he lived for two years, recording stories and observing the use of historical markers in Belauan culture. He informs the reader that the book "is not about Belau in general, but about Belau from the vantage point of Ngeremlengui" where he was led to find the elderly man known for his expertise in myths and historical narratives. The stories he heard "depict Ngeremlengui as the highest-ranking district in the archipelago".

In addition to these first-hand accounts, Parmentier draws from the oral history tapes recorded some years earlier by the Palau Community Action Agency, and the text is enriched by more than 25 priceless stories, songs and chants, recounting origin myths, village histories and cultural events including "The Closely Guarded Story of Ngeremlengui".

As historical evidence is often subjective and incomplete, the author also plays the sleuth in referring to written accounts of Western contact in Belau to find and fill in the gaps. Excerpts from the observations of Captain Henry Wilson and his ship-wrecked crew in 1783, the trader Andrew Cheyne in the mid-19th century, and others, reinforce or clarify names and events as well as illustrate the outside world's influence on Belauan polity.

A structure of social relations is described, based on the four physical concepts of the path, the side, the cornerpost, and the contrast between larger and smaller. These elements, however, have been compromised by historical changes: "The decision to base colonial governmental and commercial institutions on Oreor village (Koror) automatically undermined the co-ordinated political relations characteristic of the traditional cornerposts of Belau. Oreor in fact became a district centre, a notion completely alien to Belauan political ideology."

By their nature, scholarly ethnographic books may be somewhat esoteric and slow-moving for the lay reader. While *The Sacred Remains* has such moments, it is a valuable resource for anyone wanting a better understanding of Belau. The text includes a well organised geographical,

cultural and historical introduction and, in addition to illustrations, maps and tables, is supplemented by a short English-Belauan glossary, a list of place names, and an extensive list of references.

This is a sensitive and thorough study that provides an insightful look at the roots of Belauan culture.

TAI — HEART OF A TREE: A COLLECTION OF POEMS By Momoe Malietoa von Reiche. ISBN 0-908652-36-4. New Women's Press \$NZ19.95

Reviewed by **Leonie Hellmers**

THE ENJOYMENT of poetry for many of the world's children is effectively prevented by over-zealous educators determined to hand down their own concept of the artform rather than a broad perspective of the many faces of verse. Too many impressionable young minds have been switched off for ever by teachers thumping out stiff iambic verse groaning under the weight of impossible rhyme, or by the academic's quest for enlightenment and meaning in the accidental juxtaposition of words in vapid 'free' verse. Interest in poetry, and other forms of literature rapidly flags and in most cases, is never revived.

Tai — Heart of a Tree is an accessible collection of poetry that could win back many of those lost hearts and minds. Samoan-born writer Momoe Malietoa von Reiche here offers a selection of more than 100 poems originally published in Fiji and Western Samoa as three booklets between 1979 and 1986. Von Reiche's gift for rich, evocative imagery and her painter's eye transform her poems — generally brief, one-scene sketches — into vivid and thought-provoking works. She is mainly concerned with the lot of a Pacific woman searching for love, raising nine children, stoically enduring the iniquities of insensitive men and discovering the curious ways of the 'outside' world.

She also manages to give optimistic voice to the strange hybrid combination of island and Western cultures in heartwarming (and sometimes bitter-sweet) images:

*It was a far cry
From being a flat-footed Samoan,
When I got on those Planes.
The reason pushed hard,
And I wasn't scared to dare
The blue skies.*



Wood carvings form the craftsmen of Koror — signs of history.

*Hijack was a spook,
But I prayed to all the gods,
And the one God
To preserve me
For no other better purpose
Than to see my five babies again.
I felt like a neanderthal being
Threading the space age,
But after two flights,
It was fun.*

Von Reiche is particularly sharp with her accounts of male-female relationships, and she runs the gamut of emotions from romantic exuberance to scorn for the young bed-hopping men so admired in sections of the male-dominated Pacific society. In many modern poets these themes seem to inspire only terminal cynicism and gloomy dirges, but von Reiche has a joyous approach that finds hope and humour even in despair. She also writes with strength of anger, disappointment and betrayal, while avoiding the trap of self-indulgence.

She is a true citizen of the Pacific — born in Western Samoa and educated in New Zealand at Wellington Teachers' College and Victoria University. She returned to Western Samoa in the mid 1960s to teach art, to marry and then to raise her nine children. She is now back in New Zealand, working on a new volume of poetry and preparing an exhibition of her paintings to be shown in Whangarei later this year. This volume is the first book by a Samoan woman to be published in New Zealand.

Momoe von Reiche's strength as a poet lies in the fact that she is also a painter; she approaches her writing with the attitude of a visual artist. She sets a scene, colours it with her perceptions and leaves room for the reader's own responses to become part of the message. Her vision of the Pacific is undoubtedly romantic, tamed by the perspective of a healthy realist:

*'Who wants to buy a
Lantern? Four tala a . . .
Save your breath old man —
Those young girls are laughing
At you. They don't need lanterns yet.
They'd rather fumble in the
Dark, in the foliage,
By the sea, with their
Bare-chested lovers
That laugh in the night wind.*

It has been argued that poetry romanticises simple events and confers on them meanings that could not be found at the time. But the truth appears to be that romance and higher meaning can be found everywhere; a poet finds the ability to perceive those elements and to portray them in writing. In *Tai — Heart of a Tree*, von Reiche shows this ability in abundance. It is an adult selection, but it is a fine answer to the young child's question "What is poetry?"

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: A Travel Survival Kit by Tony Wheeler. Lonely Planet Publications. ISBN 0-86442-048-X. \$A15.95

Reviewed by John Hunter

TRAVEL companies have proclaimed Papua New Guinea as the "land of the unknown", "adventure country" and "every place you've never been". All of these labels are certainly apt — especially the "land of the unknown" tag. Too few Australians really know much about PNG, their closest neighbour, and unfortunately don't care to learn about the country. What little they know is usually learned from sensational headlines reporting events which befall expatriate Australians living in PNG.

For intending tourists, the lack of informative and useful material is a major problem. The PNG Tourist Office does not print any material, so it is left to Air Niugini and private tourist companies to produce printed travel information. Understandably, such material is of a promotional nature with each company pushing only its own services and tours.

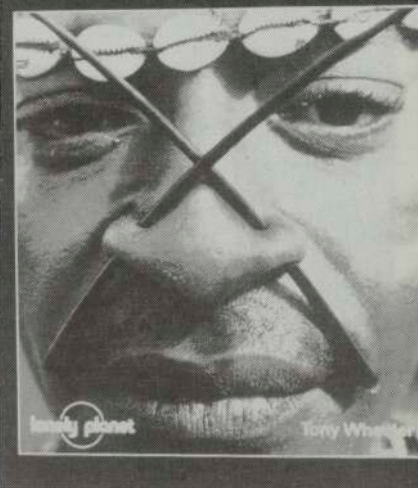
Only the Lonely Planet company publishes travel information for the intending tourist. I can remember when I was holidaying in PNG in 1985 and someone gave me a copy of their Lonely Planet Guide to the country. Though I had travelled widely in the country for many years, this book opened my eyes to much more than I could see and to previously unknown ways of getting there.

Lonely Planet has now released its third edition of the survival kit book for PNG. The two earlier editions proved very popular. This latest edition is a complete revision, 100 pages longer than the original and almost twice the price. The updated information is most welcome, and while it will date quickly, it is the most recent information available. The book is divided into sections covering each of PNG's provinces, with comprehensive details on transport, activities, history and maps.

The book is a must for any intending tourists, business person or worker. The introduction is a well written background on the country, transport, visas, health, food and law and order. The latter section is well handled — the book correctly states that "PNG is often unjustifiably classified as a high risk area. If you take reasonable care you are most unlikely to experience anything other than tremendous friendliness and hospitality."

A number of errors have crept in,

Papua New Guinea a travel survival kit



the most embarrassing of which is the suggestion that *pasim* is the pidgin word for 'intercourse'. More information could always be included, especially sections on the 'wantok system', 'payback' and what is referred to as 'Papua New Guinea time'.

The guide recommends the tourist gets to know the local people, eat local foods, stay in villages and use local transport. This is the best way to see any nation, especially PNG. I highly recommend the guide to tourists from overseas and PNG residents intending to travel their own land. □



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Shipping Schedules

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — HAWAII — NORTH AMERICA

PACE Line (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised service every 17 days from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to 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, Lyttleton 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 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.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx: AA24066; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx: NE44171; or lines' local agents.

EUROPE — W. SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

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

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (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 Westfarmers 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.

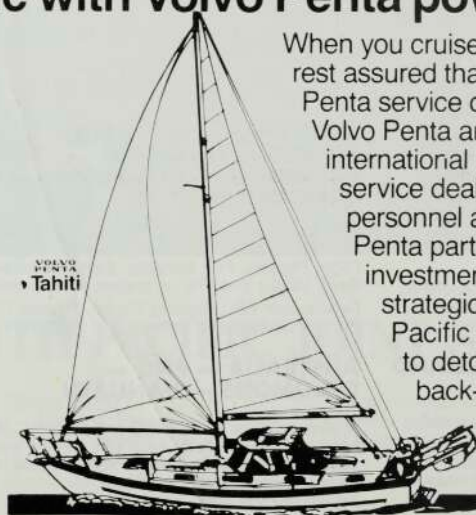
Details from PNG Line, Box 543, Port Moresby (211 174), Tlx 22269.

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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PO Box 1081, Suva
Phone: 25795

Tonga
Scan Tonga Engineering Ltd
Private Bay, Nuku'alofa
Phone: 22599

Tahiti
Comptoir Polynesian
BP 628, Papeete
Phone: 28027

Guam
Pacific Orient Company
PO Box 6247, Tamuning
Phone: 646 1400

VOLVO PENTA
S-405 08 Gothenberg, Sweden
Telex 20755 S

KCA 9826

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 Lyttelton, 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 from 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 NZ2554f; 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 Kielang, Penang then to Mediterranean ports and Europe via the Suez Canal (other New Zealand ports subject to inducement).

Details from Universal Shipping Agencies Ltd, 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 transshipment.

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 Vetari 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 (423466), 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 (423466); Tlx: NE 44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, 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.

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OUT OF THE PAST

Vacant Possessions

Stuart Inder recalls the scramble for possession of two islands contending governments admitted were unfit for human habitation.

A two-line notice stating that the British Government had agreed that Matthew and Hunter Islands should be attached to New Caledonia, under France's control, appeared in the French Residency information bulletin in Vila, New Hebrides, in November 1965.

The notice seemed to resolve ownership of the two useless, volcanic chunks of South Seas real estate two centuries after Europeans first saw them — islands that were among the last places on earth not claimed by any government.

But 23 years later, their ownership is still far from settled. Both New Caledonia and Vanuatu — administered jointly by Britain and France as the New Hebrides until independence in 1980 — now claim them.

It is interesting to note that territorial disputes in the South Pacific are surprisingly rare and those few to arise in recent times have been resolved painlessly. The fierce disputes took place last century, when the great powers of the day disputed possession of a number of important groups, including the islands of Samoa, the Solomon Islands, New Guinea and the New Hebrides. It was the bitter Anglo-French struggle for supremacy in the New Hebrides that resulted in the compromise joint administration of those islands.

In 1965 Britain was able to annex the unclaimed Conway Reef, west of Fiji, and incorporate it in Fiji's boundaries without any dispute. In 1972, after a group of commercial adventures planned to set up a private republic west of Tonga on unclaimed Minerva Reef, Tonga promptly erected a couple of tiny artificial islets there and annexed them — warning off the claimants without further trouble.

In 1979 the United States cleverly walked away from some old claims that might have led to squabbles with the Cook Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Kiribati if they had been allowed to remain on the record. The century-old claims were for the three islands that now constitute Tokelau, for four islands in the Cooks, four in Tuvalu and 14 in Kiribati. Political reality, in the form of possession, had long since

overtaken the claims, so the US cleverly drew up treaties that made the islands over to the possessors as goodwill gifts. The islanders accepted the "gifts" in the spirit in which they were offered, and honour was satisfied.

A similar approach could resolve the competing claims for Matthew and Hunter — but this outcome is unlikely until the constitutional future of New Caledonia is settled, which promises to be a slow and painful process. Vanuatu's post-colonial sensitivities are, naturally, understood by the leaders of New Caledonia's Independence front, who indicated to Vanuatu a few years ago that an independent New Caledonia would resolve the dispute in Vanuatu's favour.

Vanuatu stakes a traditional claim to ownership of the islands. Matthew is known to the Vanuatu people as *Umaenupne* and Hunter as *Umaenaeg*. According to Vanuatu, the islands were officially unclaimed but appeared on the map of the New Hebrides for most of the long condominium period and the French never disputed it. Only towards the end did France pressure Britain to agree to their attachment to New Caledonia. However, Vanuatu argues, Britain had no authority to give the islands away.

Matthew Island is about 480 kilometres east of New Caledonia's southern tip and 240 kilometres southeast of Vanuatu's most southerly populated island, Anatom (formerly Aneityum). Hunter is about 50km southeast of Matthew; both are little more than rocky havens for sea birds, actively volcanic, and incapable of supporting human life.

Matthew was first recorded and named in 1788, by Captain Thomas Gilbert, commander of the *Charlotte*, one of the fleet of convict transports that colonised Australia. He named it Matthews' Rock after the *Charlotte*'s owner. Hunter was sighted and named in 1798 by Captain Fearn of the British merchant ship *Hunter*.

Volcanic activity has considerably changed Matthew, the larger of the two, since Captain Gilbert first sighted it. As pure real estate, the two islands are worthless: their new significance lies in the fact that with the creation

of the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone, the country that owns them can extend its resource rights.

Few people even knew of the islands until 1962, when they won some local notoriety and not a little amusement when a claim for Matthew was made in the Condominium Joint Court in Vila by two island businessmen of independent and entrepreneurial spirit — Bob Paul, an Australian and long time Vanuatu resident, and the late Henri Martinet, a Frenchman living in New Caledonia.

Their joint application cost them 15 shillings each, but it caused a more expensive flurry of activity among British and French officials of the day. The two men weren't too serious, but became more determined when they saw the official reaction: France sent a warship to Matthew, probably to claim it, but couldn't put a party ashore because of the sea conditions. Later the weather prevented Paul himself from getting ashore with a bag of cement to erect a cairn, but he did swim ashore and plant a coconut as a gesture.

The daredevil Martinet then tried to land a light aircraft on the island, but crash-landed and was rescued by a French naval helicopter. He returned in a second plane to repair his first, but came down in the sea and had to be rescued again.

The aircraft wreckage on Matthew began attracting the curiosity of passing yachts, and in 1973 the Australian Navy was asked to blow it up. Martinet went ashore with the team from HMAS Melbourne so that he could salvage the engine. The official RAN photograph of this exercise was captioned 'the desolation of the island, a volcanic formation composed mainly of basalt and slag. The cliffs were nearly 600 feet high. All around the Navy men as they worked were signs of a possible active volcano — the smell of sulphur was everywhere'.

In 1975 a French warship officially took possession of the islands for France, erecting plaques. But following its independence, Vanuatu sent a party of its own to raise the flag.

In the end, however, neither Bob Paul nor Henri Martinet ever received a satisfactory answer to their claim. □

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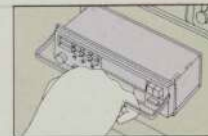
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