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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

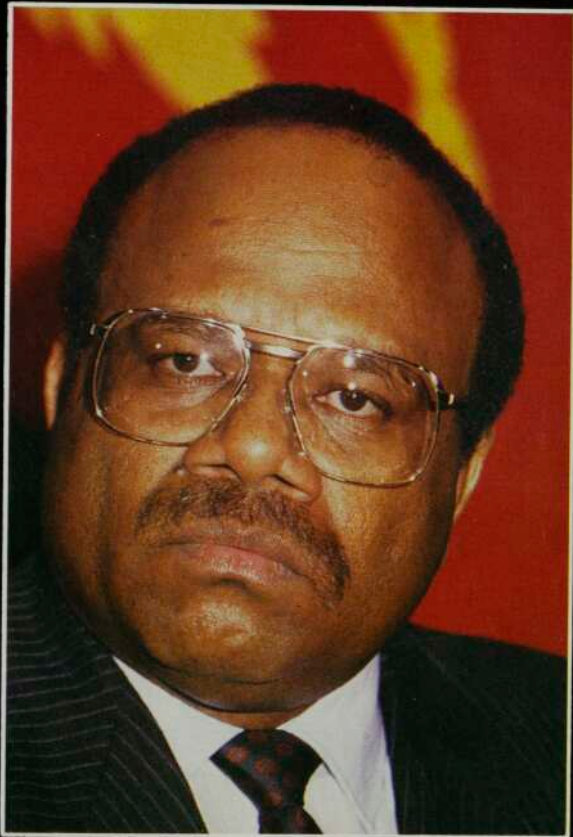
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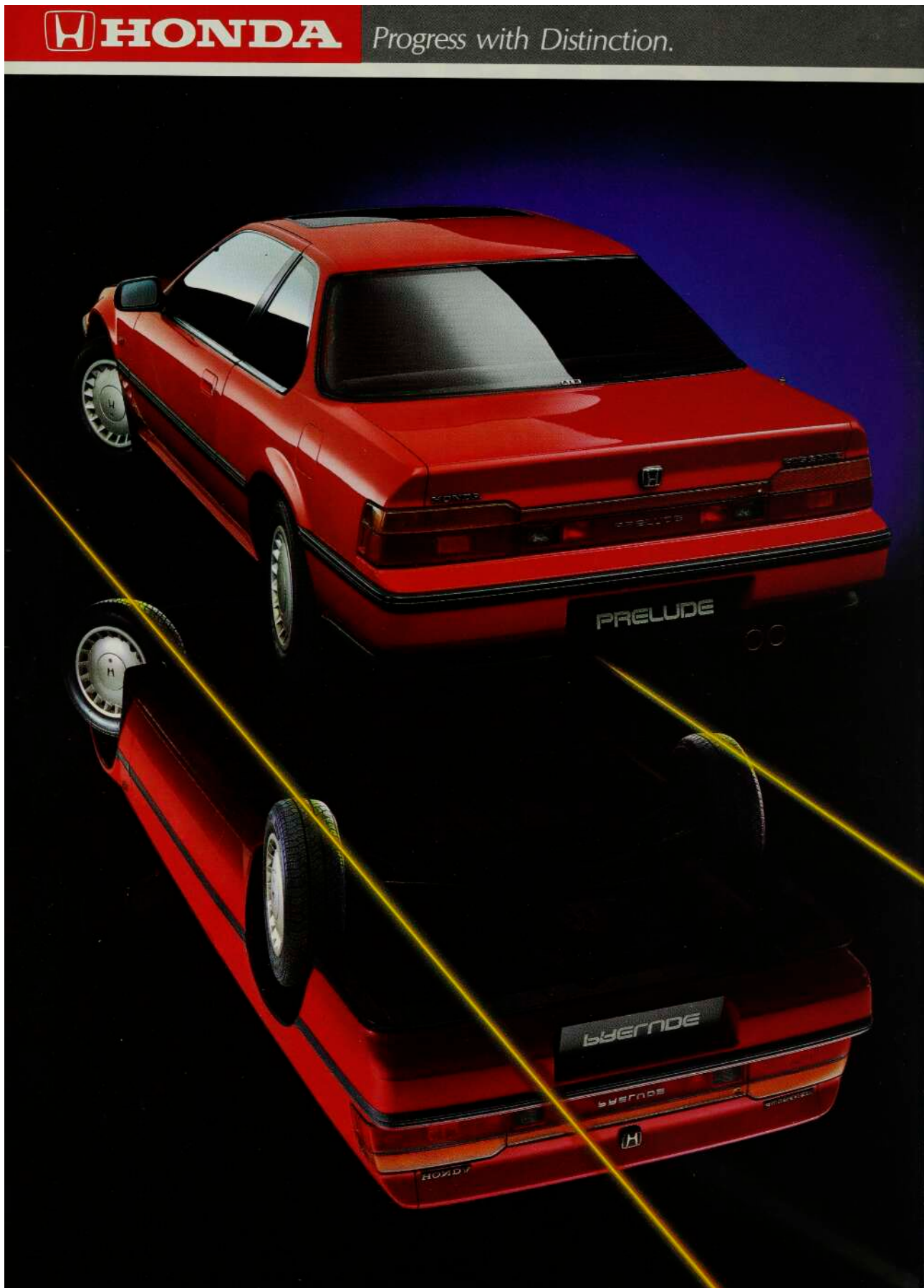
AUGUST 1989

Facing the odds

Wingti's new plot to topple Namaliu



Sailing out of the red



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your turning response, at any manoeuvring speed.**

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol. 59 No. 19

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

August '89

COVER

The Bougainville rebellion has enveloped Papua New Guinea in a state of political and economic crisis. Worse is coming for Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu: former Premier Paias Wingti announced in Port Moresby his intention to overthrow Namaliu through a vote of no confidence — most likely in September. And as the region's biggest nation slips deeper into turmoil, other countries united in Tarawa to tackle some of the Pacific's most pressing problems. **Starts page 10.**



Cover photo: Namaliu by Matthew McKee

THE REGION

Palau

The United States House of Representatives approved the principles of the Compact of Free Association by a voice vote. **Page 16.**

Vanuatu

Businessman Cheung Siu Wah jailed for the shipment of heroin to Australia via Port Vila. The judge warns the region. **Page 17.**

New Caledonia

The spirit of Jean-Marie Tjibaou lives among the Kanaks as they begin the long trek to independence. **Page 19.**

Solomon Islands

Walter Haganu was an illiterate village man when he signed a 20-year logging contract he now regrets. **Page 20.**

New Zealand

David Lange's government is under fire as New Zealand goes through a period of racial tension. **Page 22.**

Northern Marianas

It is certain that Tenorio will win the election for Governor. But the question is: which Tenorio. **Page 25.**

Sport

Schuster makes his mark as one of the most exciting New Zealand All Blacks of recent times. **Page 49.**

BUSINESS

Finance

Fiji's Air Pacific announces another profit — and plans for expansion into Asia. **Page 36.**



Shipping

Forum Shipping Line is making money — and becoming a successful example of regional cooperation. **Page 40.**



DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS.....	7	BOOKS.....	50
STAMPS.....	8	PACIFIC PEOPLE.....	51
OPINION.....	9	ISLAND PRESS.....	53
HEALTH.....	46	OUT OF THE PAST.....	54

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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — AUGUST 1989 5



The advertisement features a large, detailed image of the AIWA X-D900 Hi-Fi Component System. The system includes a large floor-standing speaker on the left with three drivers (a large woofer and two smaller tweeters), a stack of five components in the center (tuner, amplifier, CD player, cassette deck, and another tuner), and a smaller satellite speaker on the right. A remote control is visible next to the large speaker. The background is a stylized blue and white graphic of a mountain range. A yellow oval badge on the left side of the speaker stack reads "1000wPMPO".

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with high speed CD dubbing

The new high speed dubbing feature on the AIWA X-D900 system allows you to dub CDs in about half the playing time. And, it's the world's first midi component system with new high definition BBE sound originally developed for audio professionals. BBE brings out more sonic detail, particularly in vocals and solos. In combination with AIWA's original DSL and a full 1000W (PMPO) high power output, you'll enjoy authentic soundstage presence. The X-D900 also offers audio/video compatibility, with 3 A/V inputs and 2 A/V outputs, along with a built-in A/V surround sound system. It's everything you could want in a genuine high quality separate component system.

1000wPMPO

Pure Hi-Fi Component System
X-D900

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TROPICALITIES

LETTERS

Too much on Wea?

THE June 1989 article, 'Did Wea gun down the Accord', by Mr David Robie, concerning the murder of Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Yeiwene Yeiwene, and the death of one of their assassins, Djoubelly Wea, unfortunately lacks balance and contains errors. Accordingly it could mislead an uninformed reader. To begin with, the attention given to Wea is almost equal to that given to the two leaders whose death he plotted. An uninformed reader could be given the impression that Wea's stature and importance was broadly equivalent to that of his victims. This seems odd, since although Wea was well known as a long-time militant campaigner for independence, his influence scarcely extended beyond the small village of Gossanah in the north of the outer island of Ouvéa. In contrast, Tjibaou and Yeiwene were the leading figures in the Kanak nationalist movement, and senior and widely-respected participants in New Caledonian politics. Both also had a high reputation in the region. Had he been spared, Tjibaou's qualities as a statesman probably would have ensured that in the longer term he played an important part in South Pacific affairs.

Moreover, the comments made on Wea are all highly positive, which seems an odd way to mark the memory of a man who apparently coolly planned and executed the murder of the leaders of his people. Thus we are told that he was "... a maverick but respected leader", "... typical of the new generation of leaders", the "... undisputed leader of the Ouvéa militants", and "... an unlikely assassin: a respected and long-time advocate of non-violent action". In addition, we are told that he "... was a man of humility, preferring to live simply and to conduct his activist life by example", who, unlike "... some other elected Kanak leaders [none specified] ... shunned the use of his salary for personal benefit."

The presentation of Wea in these heroic terms could be read as an endorsement of his crime. Moreover, the "non-violent" label seems especially incongruous. After all, Wea strongly supported the violent "active boycotts" of the elections in November 1984 and May/June 1989, and supported the armed hostage-taking of the gendarmes on Ouvéa, which — although no doubt intended as a symbolic exercise which would end through negotiation — necessarily carried the risk of casualties. After

the tragic outcome of the hostage-taking, Wea isolated Gossanah village from the outside world, with armed teenagers guarding the barricades, patrolling the village, and intimidating opponents. Moreover, Wea indulged himself in wild and violent rhetoric which had little to do with the hard realities and limited options in New Caledonian politics. The emphasis on Wea's simplicity and dedication also, at least by implication, could be read to reflect badly on Tjibaou and Yeiwene. Such aspersions would be completely unwarranted: they also lived simply, putting the cause to which they were dedicated above all else.

Yet despite the dedication, integrity and high calibre of the dead leaders, the article's comments on them have a carping quality, especially compared with the eulogistic treatment of Wea. The article contends, quite incorrectly, that the two men were "... struggling for their survival against younger hardline leaders." In fact, as Tjibaou's success in bringing the great majority of FLNKS supporters around to support of the Matignon Accord demonstrated; and as the vacuum left after their deaths confirmed; their leadership was under no serious challenge, despite criticism from the extremist fringe of the nationalist movement. We are told, correctly, that Tjibaou "... was a spiritual man, a visionary", but no mention is made of his human warmth, of his great skills as a speaker, leader and political tactician, and of his deep commitment to economic development. Neither is any mention made of his achievements as Mayor of the northern municipality of Hienghène, as head of the territorial government from 1982 to 1984, and as President of the Northern region from 1985 to 1988. We are also told, in a misleading oversimplification, that Tjibaou's rise to prominence in the nationalist movement dated from the Melanesia 2000 Cultural Festival in 1975, which he organised and inspired. Then a slur is put on this noteworthy achievement by the distorted and unsubstantiated claim that he was "backed" in mounting the Festival by Nouméa's right-wing mayor, Roger Laroque and the "ultra-conservative business establishment".

Meanwhile Yeiwene Yeiwene, despite his much greater stature than Wea, is given only scant attention. We are told that he was "representative of an entrepreneurial group of Kanaks", an assertion which no doubt would have left him mystified, as it would anyone who knew him. He is described, correctly, as Tjibaou's loyal deputy, and his arrest at Christmas 1987 is recorded, but no mention is made of his dynamism and charm, or of his skills as a tactician and

orator. The article also fails to mention his role as a leader of demonstrations, and as a master of symbolic protest, including, for example, his September 1984 "takeover" of Mare airport. This incident involved the temporary "confiscation" and daubing of slogans on the helicopters and plane of visiting DOM-TOM Minister Georges Lemoine and his entourage, to the great embarrassment of the French administration. Yet while failing to record Yeiwene's true merit, on the other hand the article comments disparagingly and misleadingly that "... he faced increasing criticism from some FLNKS members [none specified] who regarded him as being full of platitudes and reluctant to take action."

The article also contains factual errors. The names "Machoro" and "Cortot" are rendered incorrectly as "Machuro" and "Courtot". The French newspaper referred to is "*Le Monde*", not "*De Monde*". Since its formation, the FLNKS has included five, not four, political parties, namely the UC, the PALIKA, the UPM, and PSK and the FULK. (However it is true, although this is not mentioned in the article, that the FULK — which is a small party with very limited support — has, in practical terms, excluded itself from the movement, and may be formally ejected at the next congress in August or September). Rather than halting development programmes and Kanak training, as the sixth paragraph on page 13 seems to suggest, the Matignon peace plan in fact embodies these measures. Meanwhile, the report from Paris accompanying the article states incorrectly that the French government had announced the postponement of the June regional elections, following the deaths of Tjibaou and Yeiwene. The French government did suggest a postponement. However the FLNKS leadership insisted that the elections go ahead as planned.

In addition, the article's attempt to draw a parallel between the death of High Chief Atai in 1878 and that of Jean-Marie Tjibaou in 1989 is strained and absurd. Atai was slain after a period of warfare, by members of a rival tribe, in an era when an overall sense of Kanak nationalism was non-existent. In contrast the unarmed Tjibaou, the acknowledged leader of the Kanak nationalist movement, had travelled to Ouvéa, with his stalwart deputy and other senior colleagues, to heal wounds and make peace. But he was betrayed and slain, his arm stretched out in a gesture of openness and friendship.

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TROPICALITIES

STAMPS

The Michel Rundschau list

By John Hunter

EACH year I have given you selections from the *Michel Rundschau's* list of stamp issues for the year. The *Michel Rundschau* magazine has again listed stamp issuing details, this time for the year 1987. It is always interesting to see whether the issues for the year have indicated a fall or rise. The good news for the year 1987 is that the number of issues is down on those of 1986. The number of stamps produced in 1987 shows a small reduction from 9509 to 9107. Perhaps the reality of the philatelic market as begun to sink in. Let us hope that the trend of fewer stamps being produced will continue. I have written before on numerous occasions about the stupidity of some postal authorities over producing in the hope of attracting that elusive dollar.

The country to head the list of stamp

producers is Guyana (certainly not an honour) which issued a staggering 356 stamps for the year 1987.

In a list of those countries that issued 100 or more stamps for the year there were 16 offenders. Unfortunately there were two offending Pacific nations. These two nations have, sad to say, been in the top list for a number of years. Tuvalu was the fifth largest producer in the world with 181 stamps and the Cook Islands was the eleventh top producer

with 112 issues. It was good however to see that both these countries had issued fewer stamps than the year before.

A close examination of the above table will show which countries have not been tempted to over produce. It is good to see that a large percentage have kept their numbers in the low twenties or even lower. I have also indicated in the table the value of the new issues in Deutschmark. In the listing of the top 10 countries with the highest value of stamps issued, it is unfortunate to see one Pacific country and that is the Cook Islands.

The Cook Islands holds second place in the world. With such a high value on the stamps issued one can imagine how difficult it would be to maintain loyalty and continue to collect stamps from such countries. Again it is a case of the authorities chasing the elusive dollar.

When we look at the figures for 1988 I am afraid that we will see the number of stamps issued by Australia take a dramatic leap as this was the year that the bicentenary stamps appeared in large numbers and caused collectors to abandon Australia in large numbers.

COUNTRY	TOTAL UNITS	STAMPS	MINIATURE SHEETS	VALUE (DM)
Australia	61	61	—	73.40
Cook Is	112	103	9	825.00
Fiji	19	17	2	45.00
French Polynesia	28	27	1	113.40
Kiribati	16	15	1	31.70
Nauru	12	11	1	19.70
New Caledonia	22	22	—	77.70
New Zealand	33	31	2	56.35
Niue	13	12	1	47.25
Niue	19	15	4	189.50
Norfolk Island	31	31	—	81.20
Papua New Guinea	22	22	—	37.75
Penrhyn	12	8	4	156.75
Pitcairn	16	16	—	37.00
Samoa	24	21	3	59.00
Solomon Is	38	37	1	75.25
Tokelau Is	12	12	—	9.50
Tonga	23	21	2	99.60
Tuvalu	181	169	12	512.00



Remembering a disaster

On March 16, Western Samoa issued a very interesting set of four setenant stamps to commemorate a disaster, the Apia Hurricane of 1889. Of the seven warships in the Bay of Apia only one managed to escape, the *Calliope*.

The captain of *Calliope*, H.C. Kane, gave this account of the event:

"As the afternoon of the 15th wore on, the wind came up from the N.E., and gradually freshened. By midnight it was blowing a gale, and it increased all through the middle and morning watch. By daylight, when it was blowing a hurricane, we found we had dragged quite close to the reef. By that time the 'Eber' had gone down with all hands but five.

I managed to keep clear, but our port cable parted and we came against the *Vandalia's* stern, and carried away the jibboom, and all the fastenings of the bowsprit. Then the *Olga* came up on

our starboard side and very nearly rammed us. I just managed to steer clear, but she caught our foreyard and damaged it severely.

"Seeing that everytime we tautened our cable we were getting nearer the reef (in fact it had become a question of feet), I made up my mind to slip and try to go out, reserving as a last resort the hope of beaching the ship on a sandy patch, which the *Olga* afterwards succeeded in reaching. Luckily I had confidence in the strength of the ship and the power of the engines, and determined to go out. At about 9.30, I sent down to the Staff Engineer for every pound of steam he could give me, sheered well out to starboard of the *Vandalia*, put her head to the wind and slipped the remaining cable. It was an anxious moment: for some time, how long I know not, she remained perfectly still, moving neither way, and then gradually drew ahead, pitching tremendously, bow and stern in turn right under water. We gave the *Vandalia* a wide berth, and stood out to-

wards the *Trenton*, which was still holding on right in the entrance passage between the reefs, I sheered close past the *Trenton's* stern, our foreyard actually passing over her quarter as we rolled. The engines were going very fast by then, and the ship answered her helm admirably. We came up to the wind in splendid style, clearing the reef by 50 yards, and then stood right out to sea.

"As we passed the *Trenton* all the officers and crew who were on deck gave us a ringing cheer, which was heartily returned by us. We were much affected by that proof of goodwill from another ship at a time when they might well have been thinking about themselves alone.

In five minutes after passing the *Trenton* there was nothing to see but the driving mist. We still had the reef on either hand, but trusted to our compass to take us clear. We made about one knot as near as I could estimate it, driving the ship at the utmost power of the engines. But we were safe."

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

OPINION

Good news, bad news

WHAT did July bring? Good news — and bad. First the good news.

In New Caledonia, the country witnessed a peaceful transfer of administrative power from Paris to the new Territorial Assembly. With Kanaks controlling two provincial administrations and the white settlers one, the country has launched itself strongly in the direction of the Matignon Accord and towards the referendum on independence in nine years. For the Kanaks, often militant in their struggle for independence, the spirit of Jean-Marie Tjibaou was alive, and orators eulogised him as they tried to set the pace for the future. For the white settlers, hoping for New Caledonia to remain under the French flag, the future is made easier by the fact they control the nickel-rich Southern Province, and its developments and financial centre. The Accord seems to have won the unity of the majority. The future for New Caledonia seems peaceful.

Fiji made some headlines. Pundits living far away predicted a third coup this year, and warned of impending doom, much to the astonishment of the local residents. Methodist Church fundamentalists erected roadblocks, again, in their continuing battle with the law to preserve the sanctity of the Sunday. They were put in jail. The economy continued to bloom with the Asian Development Bank predicting a growth rate of between two and three percent for this year and next year. Quite contrary to what the critics say about Fiji, the Bank report said the political situation has stabilised, the tourism industry recovered and earnings from sugar, gold and garments have risen.

Vanuatu was swift in acting against the use of Port Vila as a trans-shipment port for heroin from Asia headed for the Australian market. The country remained politically stable. The brightest spot was news of the successful health care programme being run by the Save the Children Fund Australia and the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). In a country that had poor health and one child in every 10 dying in their first year, Vanuatu has been able to arrest the problem and working for a health for all.

In French Polynesia, a hunger strike achieved some form of success when the territory's President promised a special sitting of the Territorial Assembly to discuss nuclear testing. The mellowing of official attitude in the territory was a good sign for anti-nuclear activists although it would not have much of an impact on French nuclear testing in the region.

One of the best examples of successful regional cooperation is the Pacific Forum Line which will announce another profit this month. From very jittery beginnings many years ago Forum Line has managed to sail away from financial trouble and is becoming a profitable enterprise for Pacific Island countries.

Like all good things come to an end, so, too, good news. The bad news of July was the unsolved crisis in Papua New Guinea where the government was still having a shootout in the jungle with Francis Ona's rebels. The crisis, followed by an impending motion of no confidence in the government, has created havoc in the country's economy. In Tarawa the rest of the Pacific gathered for the 20th Forum, a meeting that was acknowledged a happy one — until Japan again refused to agree to a ban on driftnet fishing in the region. □

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COVER

Back to square one

Paia Wingti wants to return to power. He has lost faith in the government of Rabbie Namaliu and has announced his intention to move a motion of no confidence in the government. The motion, withdrawn in July, is now likely to be tabled in September. It will catch Namaliu in an awkward position: the rebellion on Bougainville continues, the economy is diving, and parliamentary unity now seems lost. Frank Senge looks at the crisis:

PAIAS Wingti threw a sumptuous feast on July 21, and immediately declared to some 300 guests that it would be the last party he threw as Papua New Guinea's Leader of Opposition. The message implied that the next party he hosted would be in his capacity as Prime Minister of the country.

Wingti's declaration was made on the last day of the July sitting of Parliament. Two weeks previously, on the first day of Parliament, the Opposition (with Wingti's full blessing) had withdrawn a motion of no confidence in the 12-month-old government of Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu. The motion had named Wingti as alternate Prime Minister.

As the party went on, Wingti told his guests the motion of no confidence was the work of his "lieutenants". He was reluctant to entertain it and said many times he wanted to give the Namaliu Government time and room to perform — or self-destruct. (Wingti's own second term in office had been short-circuited by a Namaliu motion of no confidence eight months into office).

Namaliu's 12 months in office have not been enough to allow the work of his government to bear fruit, particularly with the turmoil in Bougainville and recent unrest a big hinderance. But because of those violent problems, Wingti has had a change of mind and concluded Namaliu's government is not only self-destructing but also taking the country down with it.

Wingti has had enough. He is now committing his party and the Opposition to "working 24 hours-a-day" to change the government. This announcement has jolted his audience back to the reality of Papua New Guinea politics. Nothing has changed, even though things looked

different in the first two weeks of July. For a short while then political observers in Papua New Guinea thought the country was achieving political maturity and acquiring some parliamentary stability.

It is said that crisis mould nations. There was an indication of this during the July sitting of Parliament when MPs — faced with the threat of a national crisis of frightening proportion — tried to shake themselves loose of their small party, factional and regional shells to make one giant effort to work together to save the country. From this effort emerged Parliament's best and most constructive debate on the State of Emergency at Bougainville. For once Members of Parliament put aside the ugly below-the-belt politics which had been the feature of independent Papua New Guinea and collectively sought to solve the violent problems of Bougainville.



Wingti: wants to take over power.



Namaliu: facing another challenge.

them under police supervision. There was no recognition of Bougainville's strongly matrilineal society where the woman is the landowner. Instead the colonial administration and the House of Assembly representatives drew up a "gentleman's" agreement. The Bougainville Copper Agreement contains provisions for reviews every seven years. There has been no review since 1974 despite requests by individual parliamentarians, landowners, provincial authorities, and the company itself.

Bougainville is a long story. There have been drawbacks in attempts to bring peace since violence erupted with the sabotage of Bougainville Copper Li-

imited and government installations after the theft of a large quantity of explosives from BCL last November. In the committees formed to deal with the crisis, government had overlooked the need to appoint a Bougainville leader to negotiate with the landowners. The National Intelligence Organisation has also been accused of not being good enough to warn government of Bougainville before it erupted. One Member of Parliament even blamed the organisation for the deaths of civilians, members of the security forces and militants.

Namaliu told Parliament that the militants, led by former BCL worker Francis Ona, were preparing for their military campaign as early as 1987, codifying district names and regional commands. As the security forces battle inch-by-inch into the jungles of Panguna they find expertly dug trenches and tunnels. Namaliu pointed out the militants have changed their demands from seeking compensation for land to secession for Bougainville. Ona and his guerillas have made secession an unconditional demand, saying they will fight on until independence is achieved, or die trying.

The general population of Bougainville has turned against Ona, now fighting a desperate battle in Panguna's forested mountains with his lines of supply cut by security forces. But Government forces' appeals for surrender only attracted defiance from the rebels. In such a situation government has been able to win Opposition support for a two-month extension of the State of Emergency on Bougainville. The extension expires on September 5. Parliament is due to meet again in Port Moresby to discuss the Emergency. It is in this meeting that pundits believe Wingti will move his motion of no confidence in the government (if he is really serious about it). Bougainville had occupied Parliament so much that it adjourned without discussing constitutional reforms that is so crucial to Namaliu's survival until the next general elections.

The proposed reforms included new constitutional provisions that will restrict motions of no confidence, and provisions governing the timing of the convening of Parliament after general elections. Without having had these constitutional matters cleared in July, Namaliu has ex-

COVER

LINDSAY SWANSON



Bougainville: troops fly in but Ona's still entrenched in the jungle.

posed his government to renewed attack in the next session which is likely to produce a more uncooperative Opposition entertaining a new motion of no confidence. Should Wingti return to power through such a motion he is likely to also face an uncooperative Namaliu probably unwilling to help pass any legislation, particularly the constitutional reforms which Wingti drew up in his previous term of office.

Despite its willing participation in the constructive debate on Bougainville, the Opposition's withdrawal in July of its motion of no confidence in the government was not totally a sign of cooperation. Fate had intervened in the form of the assassination of Communications Minister Malipu Balakau at his home in Mt Hagen. Four members of the Opposition come from Enga Province up in the Highlands where Balakau had strong support. This support, spearheaded by Balakau's relatives and catalysed by the threat of a vendetta war, pressured the Opposition to withdraw the motion of no confidence at the time of mourning. Even if the Opposition had gone ahead with the motion, it would have certainly lost because it would not have had the Highlands support it needed to provide the 55-vote majority

to win. A count at the time showed the motion would have attracted only 47 votes.

For Wingti, it was wise to withdraw the motion in the face of so much opposition at the time. Had he moved it at the time and lost, it would have encouraged the Opposition to look beyond him the next time for an alternate prime minister. Now with this latest announcement, Wingti has two months before the next sitting in September to prepare for the new motion. Whether he can drag the Members of Parliament back with him to the instability that marked Parliament in the past is not known. However, many hope that the good signs that emerged in Parliament during the Emergency would remain, encouraging greater unity during the yet unsolved Bougainville crisis.

The Bougainville copper mine was still closed in the last week of July with little indication of when it would reopen. Ona and his rebels were still fighting and well entrenched in the jungles of Panguna. For the government of Rabbie Namaliu, a new headache emerged, one not related to Wingti's threat to unseat him in September. The highly toxic wastes of Ok Tedi mine on the mainland was discharging into the Fly River, threatening

to destroy life as it flowed to the ocean. The government was being required to act; temporarily close the mine and lose more essential revenue or keep it open and watch the Fly River turn its deltas into a toxic desert.

What was needed was a tailings dam to contain the dangerous waste. A temporary one would cost K300 million. A permanent one would cost K1.2 billion. Ok Tedi contributes K100 million to Papua New Guinea's foreign reserves, it directly or indirectly employs 4500 people, and it supports a range of local companies with a combined annual turnover of K22 million. On the other hand, Fly River and its delta support a huge barramundi population, with annual catches fetching K2.5 million. Fly River's prawn and lobster fisheries earn K10.5 million a year. These figures mean more to Namaliu now because of the closure of Bougainville copper mine which contributes 20 percent of the annual budget. It seemed that as he contemplated what to do, Namaliu slipped deeper into a situation where it was difficult to win. □

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

Ironing out key issues

JAPAN'S refusal to stop driftnet fishing in the South Pacific is likely to force Forum member countries to take the issue up at the United Nations. This possibility surfaced after last month's Forum meeting in Tarawa when Greenpeace campaigner Mike Hagler urged New Zealand to introduce the subject for discussion at the UN. Japan continue to refuse to stop the use of the devastating driftnets in the South Pacific, offering in Tarawa to instead reduce the catch if it could be scientifically proven that the highly-priced albacore tuna stocks were being wiped out. But like they did to a similar approach by Japan in the past, the countries of the region refused to except the compromise, saying it was the same delaying tactic Japan used when it faced strong opposition in the North Pacific.

The use of driftnets, also known as gillnets and now dubbed the 'wall of death', was a major issue at the 20th Forum meeting on the tiny atoll of Tarawa. "The Forum expressed its profound concern at the damage now being done by pelagic driftnet fishing to the economy and environment of the South Pacific region," said a Forum communique. In the face of such a threat to the regional fisheries, the Forum adopted the Tarawa Declaration which, proposed by Australia, declared the region a driftnet-free zone (see box). But the declaration did not have an easy passage with some countries, like Fiji, having reservations. A convention in New Zealand later in the year will iron out loopholes and try to produce a final detailed policy statement.

Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister, Josevata Kamikamica (who attended instead of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara), tried to amend the Australian proposal. He sought a more workable arrangement with Japan and Taiwan on the issue of driftnet fishing rather than "shutting them out" completely. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke had sought a comprehensive ban which could lead to a global ban. But Fiji, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands maintained there was not enough "expert knowledge" on the issue to justify such a drastic measure. Fiji doubted the viability of policing

such a ban on the high seas. "We simply need more information, in particular expert knowledge on the issue," said Fiji delegate Ratu Finau Mara, a lawyer at the Crown Law Office in Suva. "Australia wanted to present the convention and declaration as a package but some leaders thought this was too fast. One thing at a time."

It was evident that Japan had a strong influence in the Pacific Islands, prompting suggestions that "cheque book diplomacy" was being used to gain political clout in the region. "One consequence of this is that the island countries are certain to get more Japanese aid," an Australian official was reported from Tarawa as saying. "But this is not much good if their future fish resource base is being severely eroded." Japanese aid to the Pacific Islands is estimated to be \$US70 million a year.

Japan is doing its homework. While the leaders of the Pacific Islands were in Tarawa discussing a

ban on Japanese driftnetters, Japanese diplomats were making deals in the capitals of the region. In Tarawa itself, on July 13, during the Forum, Suva-based Japanese Ambassador Toshio Isogai gave the government of Kiribati \$US6.7 million for the construction of a new hospital in Tarawa. At the same time a Japanese company gave \$US10,000 to Vanuatu to help send a team to the Games of Disabled People in Japan next month. Also on the same day Radio Tonga reported that a Japanese company, Teisei Maru Marine Products, had approached the Tongan government for an agreement to fish in the kingdom's exclusive 200-mile economic zone. On July 20 Japan gave Tuvalu \$US1 million as part of a multi-million dollar grant to pay for Tuvalu's community fishing project development. On July 26 Japan gave Vanuatu \$US8 million to pay for the construction of a new terminal building at Bauerfield Airport outside Port Vila. Japan is also funding

Muller's challenge to Asia

PHILIP Muller has accused the Japanese and Taiwanese fishing fleets of deliberately keeping data from Forum Fishing Agency (FFA) to hamper attempts to prove the disastrous effect of driftnets in the South Pacific tuna fisheries. Muller, the Forum Fishing Agency Director, said: "If they were not afraid they would have voluntarily given (us) that information. But they're deliberately hiding it from us. I challenge them find a scientist... (who) would say there's no threat." Muller spoke to *Pacific Islands Monthly's* Honiara correspondent **Dykes Angiki** when he returned from the South Pacific Forum meeting in Tarawa. Extracts:

"We have monitored the driftnet fleets since October 1988, when we heard it was going to expand by the movement of the Taiwanese fleet to the South Pacific. We became very concerned. The Taiwanese fleet had been fishing in the Indian Ocean. We knew the catch rate was declining so badly that they would have to move. We collected all the evidence we could put our fingers on — those of other fishermen, mainly Americans, the Levuka cannery (in Fiji), the American Samoan canneries, we got

together and tried to compile a scenario of what would happen to our tuna resource with the coming in of the driftnetters.

"We decided to invite the three Asian driftnet nations (Japan, Taiwan, South Korea) to come to our meeting. During the later half of June (1989) we convened a legal consultation in Suva. We met on our own before we met with the representatives of the driftnet countries. Korea with only one driftnet vessel on experimental basis said they would withdraw it. The Japanese whom we thought had 30 vessels acknowledged they had 60, the Taiwanese said they had 60 vessels also. The Japanese said their 60 vessels catch between 7-10 thousand tonnes a month and the Taiwanese said they catch about 9-thousand tonnes. We know that this information is not true. The catch rate they were admitting are not big enough to sustain the fleet. The fleet operates four to five months in the South Pacific and if you break down the catch by the number of boats it is an uneconomical venture. In essence they are not telling us the truth.

They said they have no data but we know they have data. We know both

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM



Geoffrey Henry speaks to the press: *Australian patrol boats too expensive to run.*

a similar project at Tonga's Fua'amotu Airport. The list goes on as Japan builds friendship in the islands.

Environmental issues were the key agenda at the Forum which "noted with appreciation" the ratification of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty by the Solomon Islands, making it the 10th party to the treaty. China has also ratified the treaty's Protocols 2 and 3. The Forum called on major powers, particularly the United States, France and Britain, to ratify the protocols and accept the treaty. The Forum Secretariat in Suva was also authorised to exchange information and cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Nuclear Arms in Latin America (OPANAL). France again came under attack for its continued testing of nuclear weapons in French Polynesia, and was urged to stop the tests "immediately".

In Port Moresby a week later, the government of Rabbie Namaliu, which was represented at the Forum by Deputy PM Akoka Doi, told Parliament it would monitor all developments in nuclear-related matters in the region. Foreign Affairs Minister Michael Somare said gov-

fleets report to their companies and agencies. We know firsthand the Japanese Fisheries Agency and industry are conspiring to deprave their own scientists and our own scientists of the precise data. Their attempt is to gain a few more years of fishing but we cannot let this happen because it would just wipe out fishery stock. If we take their advice we'll see in five years time what has happened in the Indian Ocean and in the North Pacific.

"The first thing to go is the adult fishery. Where we are involved will suffer most. Currently we have fleets that pay access fees and we have lots of Pacific islanders fishing for albacore tuna.

"In the north Pacific, the catch went down from 120-thousand tonnes to 40-thousand tonnes. It went from longline catching 420,000 tonnes to two-thirds being caught by driftnets and only one-third by longline. The longline went from about 120-thousand down to about 15-thousand, almost to one-tenth. Our involvement in this exercise is to be able to bring to the attention of FFA member countries what is really happening in this issue. To provide the best information possible and to draw to their attention the danger posed by such a fishing technique. We've met with the Japanese, the Taiwanese and the Koreans. The

Japanese and the Taiwanese came without any position. They were not prepared to negotiate. They came with accusation that we have no data and that we were being emotional.

"The fact is they have the data and they're not giving it to scientists. If they were not afraid, they would have voluntarily given that information to prove their claim that driftnet fishing is safe. But they're deliberately hiding it from us. I challenge them to give it. I challenge them to find a scientist to use that data and say there's no threat to the tuna stock . . . get a reputable scientist who would put his personal reputation and the reputation of his institution, use their data and prove that it's safe.

"Many Pacific Islands have no resources. We only have fish. We have never deprived the Japanese and the Taiwanese access to our resources. On this occasion what we're saying is 'help us conserve it that their children and our children can reap benefit in future'. Let's ensure the sustainability of the resource.

"What we need now is a new political direction. In Tarawa, at the request of some governments, we tried to advise the officials from various Forum governments on what we considered a serious conservation issue. We have a long relationship with the Japanese and the

Taiwanese in the industry, and we have aid and trade relations. It's not a question of whether we should give away our resources for the price of aid.

"The Japanese and the Taiwanese admit they have a combined fleet of 120 vessels. The previous year they had a combined fleet of 27 vessels, 7 Taiwanese and 20 Japanese. The 20 Japanese were mostly working in the Tasman Sea. They concentrate on the South Pacific convergence zone where the young tuna gathered during the summer months. In previous years we only catch the big tuna using long lines. Now they are taking both the adult fish and the young. Once it gets to a certain level, the decline will become irreversible.

"The Tarawa Declaration means we call on them to cease their use of this method of fishing. It means we're calling on the international community to help us because this issue means the survival of the indigenous people in an island environment. We are immediately putting a ban on port visits, trans-shipment, refuelling and supplies, and other provisions such as food and water. We are trying to deny them easy access to our ports. These actions may be slow in having an impact but they certainly will eat into their profitability in the long run. □

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

ernment would recommend reviews of the treaty to improve existing provisions with a view of covering aspects not adequately covered. Of the superpowers, only China and the Soviet Union have supported the treaty.

Hawke confirmed his government's commitment to fund a network of monitoring stations in the region to study the Greenhouse Effect which some scientists are saying will cause sea levels to rise and swamp some of the Pacific's coral atolls. The cost of such a project, including the design phase, will be \$A6.25 million. Work will begin early next year. Talking about the Greenhouse Effect, Hawke told *Fiji Times* journalist Mesake Koroi that the issue was "a matter of life and death" for some countries in the Pacific. "This is why we as a nation would like to help out and ensure that we are well aware of what the region is in for. The Australian funding was in response to a request made by the Forum at their meeting in Tonga last year. While the focus of discussions concentrated on how to prevent the Greenhouse Effect, Australia and New Zealand did commit themselves to the relocation of people in cases of islands being swamped.

Dr Timoci Bavadra, whose Indian-dominated Coalition government was overthrown by a military coup in Fiji two years ago, tried to get the Forum to discuss the Fiji situation. Vanatu strongly denied speculation that Bavadra had won its support to lobby for the inclusion of Fiji in the Forum agenda. Kamikamica met Vanuatu Prime Minister Walter Lini at a dinner hosted by Kiribati. Speaking to *The Fiji Times* later, Lini's secretary, Jo Natuman, said: "We will have nothing to do with such a proposal." He confirmed Bavadra sought a meeting with Lini when both were in New Zealand as Lini travelled to Tarawa. "We could not meet him," Natuman said. "Dr Bavadra however was told that Vanuatu would be prepared to listen to his views, but there was no way Vanuatu would bring the issue up at the Forum."

The Forum, however, did discuss the developments in New Caledonia and officially "expressed its deep sadness" at the assassination on May 4 of Kanak leaders Jean-Marie Tjibaou and his second in command Yeiwene Yeiwene. Representing the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) in Tarawa was Rock



Lange and Hawke: commitment to the resettlement of islanders swamped by rising seas.

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

Wamytan, a member of New Caledonia's newly-elected Southern Provincial Assembly. He urged the Forum to continue to monitor the progress of the Matignon Accord, through which the French Government has assured a referendum on independence in 1998. He met with Hawke and discussions were understood to have centred on Kanak training and development. He also had meetings with Lini and New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange. Also in Tarawa was Yann

Celene Uregei whose Kanak faction, FULK, has been threatening violent opposition to the Matignon Accord.

Endorsing Australia's offer to train Kanaks to occupy key positions associated with government, the Forum reiterated its willingness to contribute to the process of reconciliation and training.

On security, Cook Islands Prime Minister, Geoffrey Henry said that although countries have been encouraged to participate in a joint programme of surveillance of ter-

ritorial waters, the cost of running an Australian-built patrol boat was around \$A350,000 a year and still too expensive for the small nations that rely almost entirely on overseas aid grants to keep their economies afloat.

The media came under the target of some rather sharp criticism, mainly Doi. The target of his comments were Australia and New Zealand. Doi accused Australia of biased and misinterpreted reporting, especially on recent events in Bougainville and Port Moresby. He accused the Australian media of not understanding enough the culture and traditions of Papua New Guinea to be able to present a better view of events in the country. Because of biased reports, Doi said, PNG lost revenue as potential investors were discouraged. Tourism also suffered. When asked if he thought Australian journalists were anti-Papua New Guinea, Doi replied: "No, it is a case of not understanding the situation, or bothering to make sure the reports are accurate." He said Australian journalists "beat" up stories and create sensationalism. He said Fiji, Vanuatu and Nauru shared his views. Hawke on the other hand, said the Australian media was committed to the freedom of the press. While he acknowledged that some countries had expressed dissatisfaction over Australia's media reporting, he said Australian media reporting was of a high standard. Even he himself often received unfair treatment from the press at home, he said.

China missed the pre-Forum dialogue. The Chinese delegation was to have travelled from New Zealand with Lange. But Lange said: "There was no room on the plane for them". Asked if he had given them "the cold shoulder" treatment because of the recent trouble in Beijing, Lange replied: "I suppose you could say that, anyway China has a lot more planes than New Zealand has so they still could have got here".

Next year's Forum meeting will be in Vanuatu. □

Shuttle strip nears completion

WORK is nearing completion at Anderson air force base on Guam for the \$US500,000 emergency landing strip for American space shuttle missions. The final touches to the site should be added within two months. □



TOURISM COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the position of Director of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific, an inter-governmental organisation of twelve island countries of the South Pacific.

The main objectives of the Council are to promote, coordinate, plan and implement projects and activities designed to strengthen regional cooperation in tourism development and to optimise the contribution of tourism to socio-economic development of the member countries. Most funding is currently provided by the Pacific Regional Tourism Development Programme financed by the European Economic Community.

The Director will be the chief executive officer of the Council, responsible to the Management Board for the administration of the TCSP affairs and for the management and operation of the Secretariat located in Suva, Fiji.

The post is restricted to nationals of the member countries* of the TCSP. Applicants should have qualifications and experience appropriate to the post and a record of achievement in tourism in the region at senior level.

Those interested in the appointment are advised to obtain a copy of further particulars of the post available from the Secretariat (Phone: (679) 315277; Fax: (679) 301995) before applying. Applications including a detailed curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees with whom the applicant has been associated in a professional capacity, must be submitted by 30 September 1989 to the Chairman, Tourism Council of the South Pacific, P.O. Box 13119, Suva, Fiji. Envelopes should be marked "Director Application". The successful candidate is expected to take up the position as soon as possible and at the latest, by the end of 1989.

**Member countries of TCSP are American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.*

THE REGION

PALAU

Voicing approval for the Compact

By Ed Rampell

THE United States House of Representatives approved the proposed Compact of Free Association between the Republic of Palau and the United States by a voice vote in the Congress on June 27, taking a major step forward toward implementing a proposed Compact of Free Association between the two nations. The legislative package includes the Subsidiary Agreements signed by Palau Vice-President Kuniwo Nakamura and the U.S. State Department's James Berg at Guam on May 26.

This enhanced accord provides Palau with additional funding of at least US\$9.3 million for a hospital, prison,

Zeder sails in

AMBASSADOR Fred Zeder, President Bush's nominee to head a United States development agency, was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate for the job in question. Zeder was criticised by some for his alleged role in connection with Palau's purchase of an expensive generating plant. But he sailed through both Senate Committee and full Senate consideration without a voice being raised against his appointment.

This was the case despite Zeder's staunch Republican ties, and despite the fact that the Democrat-dominated Senate

has been adamantly opposed to other Republican nominees, such as John Tower, the former Texas Senator first chosen by Bush to be the US Secretary of Defence.

Zeder served as the Reagan Administration's envoy in the status negotiations with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. An old friend of the President, his new post is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Council (OPIC). OPIC is a US Government agency which encourages and guarantees private investments in the Pacific and elsewhere. □

and an anti-drug programme. A special prosecutor and public auditor will also be appointed to investigate the violence and corruption plaguing the Micronesian nation. In addition, the House bill makes up to US\$36 million available to Palau to pay off the onerous debt incurred by the IPSECO power project.

But anti-nuclear and other treaty opponents hold the trump card in Compact electoral politics, since the accord requires a 75 percent vote in order to override a constitutional nuclear ban,

which it has repeatedly failed to garner since 1983. The Compact of Free Association remains, in essence, the same document, which Congressman Ron De Lugo, told the House from the Virgin Islands, on June 27 "would provide Palau with self-governing authority in all matters other than those affecting security. The United States would retain full military rights in Palau . . . (including) the authority to deny military access to any other country in perpetuity. They also include the requirement that Palau



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THE REGION

make land designated by the U.S. available for military bases for 50 years. In combination with bases in Guam and base rights in the Northern Mariana Islands, these base rights figure into almost any scenario for alternatives to our important bases in the Philippines . . . 500 miles from Palau."

The proposed Compact would phase out a 42-year-old American administered United Nations Strategic Trust in the strategically located Western Pacific archipelago. As representative Stephen Solarz pointed out on June 27, the Compact "is of considerable importance . . . to larger American interests in the South Pacific". But as Solarz, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, pointed out, the Constitution's nuclear free provision and 75 percent requirement will stand in the way of the overall United States strategic game plan regarding military and nuclear policies for Micronesia and the rest of Oceania.

House Joint Resolution 175 makes concessions regarding two essential sticking points: land rights provisions and the IPSECO power debt. As lawyer and former Palau Senator Johnson Toribiong once said, the Compact, along with its Subsidiary Agreements, are legalese "masterpieces in cross-references", hence making them difficult to comprehend. Originally, the Compact stipulated that the Palau government would provide land within 60 days for sites selected by the military; the Republic would also compensate the landowners. The U.S. would provide only US\$5.5 million for land it had option on. Compact critics such as activist attorney Roman Bedor maintain that under the treaty, the Pentagon has rights to up to one third of Palau's land.

But Subsidiary Agreements amend this. De Lugo told Congress: "The U.S. would be committed to enter into agreements for financial assistance if requested by Palau to acquire land, other than at the airfield and harbour, that the U.S. requires Palau to provide . . . Palau would not be obligated to make such land available until such agreement are reached. The U.S. would be committed to extend the 60-day period . . . if Palau justifies such an extension."

Regarding the disastrous IPSECO power project, which has plunged Palau into a US\$48 million debt upon its birth, the Subsidiary Agreements allow Palau to provide funds set aside for energy and capital improvements over the 15-year term of Compact funding. The multi-national consortium of bankers, which has successfully sued Palau in a United States federal court, agreed to a deadline whereby the financiers will accept the millions made available to the Republic for IPSECO by the House legislation.

VANUATU

Stopping the drug barons

By Macel Manua

VANUATU'S Chief Justice, Frederick Cooke, has warned Pacific Island countries to be on their guard against drug barons using the region as market or trans-shipment point. Justice Cooke made the warning on July 10 when sentencing Chinese businessman Cheung Siu Wah to five years imprisonment and a fine of 200,000 vatu for importing and possessing heroin.

Wah pleaded guilty to importing into Vanuatu 50 kilograms of heroin between last February 12 and March 17, and being in possession of 677 grammes of heroin between last March 17 and 18. Justice Cooke said the consignment of heroin was brought from Hong Kong and destined for Australia. "It was clear from investigations that not only the accused but a large number of Chinese both in Hong Kong and Australia played a part in the operation. The organisation dealing with the drugs was linked with the Triad Society in Hong Kong, and that the accused had connections with the Triad Society in setting up the enterprise of the importation of the heroin," said Justice Cooke.

The court was told that Vanuatu was chosen as a staging post for shipment on the consignment because the accused had legitimate business interests in Port Vila which he could use as a cover for the first leg of the consignment of heroin from Hong Kong to Australia. The organisation in Hong Kong realised a shipment of heroin from Vanuatu could easily enter Australia undetected.

Wah first arrived in Vanuatu in May 1988 to explore business possibilities. He was associated with a Hong Kong company connected to the Port Vila firm of Olympic Investments Limited. Wah wanted to set up a garment factory. An application to operate such a company was lodged and processed early this year. The company provided a front for the importation into Vanuatu of a consignment of sewing machines and a mini bus.

Said Justice Cooke: "In that mini bus was concealed 50 kilos of heroin. The mini bus and garment equipment were shipped from Hong Kong to Vanuatu aboard the ship *South Island 45*. The vessel arrived in Vila last March 12.

Said Justice Cooke: "The Bill of Lading was made out with the accused as consignee, and Customs clearance was carried out by agents. The heroin was

removed from the mini bus by either the accused or two others engaged by him and concealed in the vacuum between the inner and outer lining of a large refrigerator. Some was put in kitchen equipment." The refrigerator was acquired from Mandarin Restaurant, a Vila restaurant which closed last December.

Wah's name appeared on the Bill of Lading as shipper to Australia. The name of the person to be notified on its arrival in Australia was also listed on the Bill of Lading.

The consignment left on April 21 on the vessel *Nimos* for Australia. Said Justice Cooke: "Two of the packets of heroin were not sent to Australia and were later removed from the mini bus in Vila by the authorities in May 1989." However,



Port Vila: trans-shipment port for Asian heroin.

er, on April 21 Wah flew to Australia and told Australian authorities of the consignment of heroin.

His information resulted in Australian police intercepting the shipment. People were arrested in Hong Kong and Australia. Wah then returned to Vanuatu last May and he was arrested in Vila on the 18th of that month. He told police he was expecting to be paid \$HK20,000 per unit of freight from Hong Kong, making a total of \$HK1.5 million. The court also heard that Wah knew the drugs were in the mini bus before it left Hong Kong for Vanuatu and was expected to be paid another \$A630,000 if the consignment arrived intact in Australia.

Said Justice Cooke: "In this case, Vanuatu was used as a stepping stone for the drugs to Australia. It was thought that the Australian authorities would never expect a consignment of drugs would come from Vanuatu. It nearly succeeded." □

An advertisement for Dunhill De Luxe 25's cigarettes. The background is a textured, yellowish-gold fabric. In the center, an open pack of cigarettes is shown, with several cigarettes visible. The pack is white with a red rectangular logo in the center. The logo contains the word "dunhill" in a stylized font, with "DE LUXE FILTER" and "25" below it. To the right of the logo, the text "SMOKING REDUCES YOUR FITNESS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "Health Authority Warning" in smaller text below it. To the left of the pack, the text "Always in good taste" is written in a large, elegant, serif font. Below the pack, a small, rectangular, textured object, possibly a lighter or a case, is shown. In the bottom right corner, the Dunhill logo is repeated in a smaller size. The overall tone is sophisticated and classic.

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NEW CALEDONIA

The way ahead

If July 14 was a day to look back for all French citizens who commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of their revolution, it had a special significance for Kanaks and Europeans living in New Caledonia: July 14 marked the end of the one-year direct administration by the state and the beginning of the new statute dividing the Territory into three largely autonomous provinces.

On July 17 the Assemblies of the northern province and the islands held their first meetings in Kone, on the west coast, and Lifou, in the Loyalty Islands. Two days later it was the turn of the southern province after the first official session of the new 54-member Territorial Congress composed of the three assemblies.

A few days before July 14 French Prime Minister Michel Rocard had written to the three newly-elected Presidents of the provinces and to the President of the Congress and said:

"It is now the New Caledonians who have to carry out the economic, social and cultural development" in their country. Referring to National Kanak Socialist Liberation Front (FLNKS) leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) leader Jacques Lafleur, he added that in Paris in June 1988, the two men "had agreed that the state should govern the Territory under direct administration for one year in order to restore civil peace, to prepare new institutions accepted by a large majority of New Caledonians and to lay the foundation of a more balanced development".

"The baton has been passed," said the High Commissioner of the republic, Bernard Grasset, who attended the three meetings in Kone, Lifou and Noumea. He will remain the executive chief of the Territory and the head of the Territorial Administration. But the three assemblies

(2 pro-independence, 1 pro-French) will now govern the provinces with extended powers and important financial means.

"We have nine years ahead of us before the Territory freely chooses its destiny. We have nine years to forge the tools necessary to that free choice. Peace has been restored but the germs of division, the germs of clashes still exist. The country is convalescent," Grasset said. In the north and the islands, where independentists have a huge majority, the memory of Jean-Marie Tjibaou and the lieutenant Yeiwene Yeiwene, both assassinated at Ouvea on May 4, was very present on July 17. The two men were favourites in the two FLNKS lists for the elections and should have therefore become the Presidents of the two provinces.

"Somebody is here among us," said Grasset in Kone. "It's Jean-Marie Tjibaou. Without him, the task wouldn't have been achieved. He would have been here, at this table today. I believe he will be here, invisible but vigilant, attending the meetings during which the future of the Territory and all its inhabitants will be discussed."



Yeiwene, Tjibaou, Joredie: the dream lives.

was Tjibaou's obsession. He knew that the Kanak community lacked skilled professionals ready to hold key positions in the future independent state of Kanaky.

"I don't want immediate independence for my country if that means being listed among the 20 poorest countries of the United Nations," he used to say. "There's no point in waving your flag at the front of the door if you have to crawl through the back door and beg for money." This explains why he accepted in 1988 in Paris (and imposed it to a rather reluctant FLNKS) the 10-year transition period and the provinces leading to a referendum on self determination in 1998. "Contracts for Development" will be signed between the state and the provinces in order to "favour the counterbalancing between Noumea and the rest of the Territory" explains

Article 85 of the Bill about New Caledonia passed in Paris on November 6, 1988.

Indeed the south is bigger and richer. It has more skilled people and potential. Noumea generates (or attracts) and keeps all the wealth. There is a risk Europeans will create a golden circle in the capital, surrounded by a Kanak underdeveloped desert in which people will be left with the crusts of the cake. 82.8 per cent of the small businesses are in the Greater Noumea area: 205 garages out of 276, 166 electricians out of 191, 1051 contractors in the building industry out of 1233. Tjibaou used to ask: "Who will want to open an ice-cream parlour in Ouayagette?" up in the remote mountains. Money is generated in Noumea, jobs are created in Noumea and Kanaks who do not live there are generally still living in the rural self-subsistence system.

For many rural Kanaks, money comes only from family allowances and scarce old-age pensions. The average income of a Kanak family in the bush is half the income of a Kanak couple in Noumea and only a quarter of what an average European couple make in the capital. "The new administration of the northern and island provinces will need computers and furniture. Where will they get them? In Noumea. The new system will make us earn more money," says a Noumea-based businessman.

There's another danger hampering the fragile construction of the Matignon Accord: 3000 of the 4000 territorial civil servants will be placed under the authority of the provinces. Most of them live and work in Noumea and their new administrative roles won't mean much change: Noumea, capital of the southern province, will employ most of them. A few hundred (primary school teachers, officers of the department of agriculture, for instance) will be assigned to the Loyalty Islands. For those who are European, and opposed to independence, it will mean leaving the comforts of city for rural settlements that lacked basic amenities, few shops, doctors, cinemas and provides neighbours strongly opposed to their political views. An incentive bonus of 1,000,000 Pacific francs (about AU\$11,500) doesn't seem to attract many volunteers.

The French government is aware of these dangers. It hopes the creation of a deep sea harbour in Nepoui, near Kone, and the opening of the Kone-Tiwaka road linking the west coast with the east will create jobs. But reluctant civil servants and reluctant investors will make the challenge difficult and risky. □

THE REGION



BOB PEISLEY AOIS

Walter Haganu: watching loggers destroy his land.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Regrets over logging deal

WHEN Walter Haganu, a landowner from Kaonasuglu village on the island of Makira, signed a 20-year lease with a Philippines company to extract logs from his land he was hoping the royalties would provide his family with a steady income. It is a decision he now regrets. "Before [logging] gardens were good because things grew. We went and harvested what was grown. These were mainly root crops. Now you see the leaves on the top but there is no root. This is because all the top soil has been spoiled," Haganu says.

Since 1982, Haganu has received about SI\$3000 in royalties from the logging company. Because he is illiterate he has entrusted another man in his village to look after the accounts. "The question, 'Is this amount of money fair?' is really impossible to answer because I don't know how many trees have been taken out," Haganu says. "Even if it was \$10,000 it wouldn't be enough, because damage has been done to my land — and there's a lot of people here. The money has to be shared by all these people."

South East Asia's rapidly disappearing forests are forcing logging companies to turn to Pacific nations like the Solomon Islands to satisfy world demand for high quality timber. According to the Solomon Islands National Development Plan 1985-89, approximately 10,000 hectares of forest are being felled annually while

the rate of reforestation is less than 1000 hectares a year. Government officials and aid workers predict that if pending licence applications by foreign timber companies are accepted, the resource life of the country's forests could be less than 20 years. Meanwhile the damage done to the local environment by logging companies who disregard operating regulations is placing the livelihood of thousands of villagers at risk.

Around 85 per cent of Solomon Islanders live in rural areas and depend on forests for their economic survival. The forests ensure sustained food production by protecting against soil erosion and maintaining soil fertility. They also provide local timber, fuel wood and hunting areas. The effects of logging around Walter Haganu's village on Makira can be seen clearly from the air. Rivers with catchments in logging areas dump their muddy discharge far out to sea, covering the once pristine reefs that surround the island with a fine layer of silt. Those which meander through virgin forest and farming land run clear and clean.

The forestry industry is the Solomon Islands' second largest export earner, providing about one third of all foreign exchange income in recent years. But high rates of timber exploitation are threatening the industry's long-term future. The Government has asked for assistance from major aid donors to preserve its forestry resources. The country currently does not have the capacity to undertake large-scale reforestation or the necessary trained manpower to manage its forests and control the practices of logging companies. Australia, through

the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), is planning a five-year, \$14 million package of projects to the forestry sector. The first of these will be the development of a national forest resource inventory which will enable the Forestry Department to effectively plan and manage the country's forest resources.

At present there is no comprehensive information on forest resources in the Solomon Islands. Existing data are out of date due to increased logging, cyclones and subsistence activities. The other major project planned for the Solomon Islands is a \$10 million reforestation development on the island of Isabel, which will help ensure a controlled and sustainable exploitation of forestry resources. With royalties and other payments for commercial forms representing a readily available form of cash income for villagers, the country's forests are coming under intense pressure.

According to the senior forest officer in the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Chris Turnbull, one of the Government's first priorities is to increase the rate of reforestation on customary land, where almost all logging has been carried out. "The division realises that planting on customary land must be a priority because that is where the mass of the land is. The revenue from logging is such an important source of income for the villagers and that source must be replaced somehow," he said.

Turnbull says the traditional system of land ownership has deterred large-scale investments in reforestation on customary land. "A lot of landowners are keen to have their land replanted. The difficulty arises in the customary land tenure system and the need of any company doing replanting to have a guarantee of a long-term security of its investment," he said. So far most reforestation has been confined to Government-owned land which makes up only 9 per cent of the total land area. Increasing the rate of reforestation on both Government and customary land depends on the availability of trained manpower to manage the plantations and pass on forestry skills to interested villagers.

To ease the shortage of manpower in the Solomons, AIDAB has funded the construction of the country's first forestry training centre at Poitete on the island of Kolombangara. The centre produces around 20 graduates a year. The Government's reforestation policy is to plant high-value species such as teak and mahogany on about one-third of available land, with the remainder being used for faster-growing, low to medium-value species such as gmelina, terminalia and cedraia. □

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NEW ZEALAND

Government under fire

By David Robie

PRIME Minister David Lange's government has attempted to cope with the growing controversy in New Zealand over the Treaty of Waitangi by drawing up a set of principles which have been attacked by opponents as "election propaganda" and a "cop out".

But as race relations with the Maori and Pacific communities loom as a major issue for next year's general election, one of the strongest defenders of the guidelines last month was Mana Motuhake party leader Matiu Rata. He is a former Maori Affairs Minister and father of the Waitangi Tribunal legislation which opened the door to the settlement of some Maori land claim grievances. While Rata admitted that most Maori would regard the formula with cynicism, he said the principles showed "common sense" and were a sign that the government was still positive about the treaty. He added: "There has been more progress towards implementing the treaty with this government than with any previous one."

But advocates of biculturalism were quick to seize on Lange's downplay of the notion of "partnership" — a widespread interpretation of the treaty which ceded government to the British crown in 1840. Maori Council chairman Sir Graham Latimer, for example, denounced the guidelines as not being "done in the spirit of partnership". Instead, it had been done by bureaucrats and presented as a *fait accompli* — "partnership means that in matters of importance to Maori there should be consultation".

The principles announced by the government to help make decisions such as those involving recommendations from the Waitangi Tribunal are:

- the government has the right to govern and make laws;
- *iwi* (tribes) have the right to organise as *iwi* and under the law, to control the resources they own;
- all New Zealanders are equal under the law;
- the government and the *iwi* are obliged to accord each other reasonable cooperation on major issues of common concern; and
- the government is responsible for providing effective processes for the resolution of grievances in the expectation that reconciliation can occur.

While the principles restated aspects of articles one and three of the treaty, said Sir Graham, they completely ignored



David Lange: his government's facing growing controversy

articles two — which guarantees Maori protection of their lands, forests, fisheries and other *taonga* (treasures) for as long as they wish to keep them. Opposition Maori affairs spokesman Winston Peters accused the government of an "attempt at election propaganda" which was not a serious attempt at addressing the treaty issues.

The Lange government has also been under fire for its appointment of the High Commissioner to Zimbabwe, Christopher Laidlaw, as the new Race Relations Conciliator. Laidlaw, regarded by many New Zealanders as having an exemplary record on race matters, was singled out for a harsh attack by Peters. Taking up his post last month, Laidlaw faced bitter criticism by opponents while being defended by many leading Maoris and race relations personalities. Peters described Laidlaw's appointment as "sickly white liberalism gone mad"; Laidlaw retorted it was a "cheap shot".

Insisting he was interested in the positive side of New Zealand race relations, Laidlaw added: "It is a challenge that is arguably going to be the most important area of New Zealand life over the next few years and I want to see if I can make a contribution." The Race Relations Office, which deals with racial slurs and victimisation against Pacific islanders as well as other minority groups, has become the centre of several controversies in recent years — including a row last

year with the news media over the reporting of a "kill a white" statement by a Maori activist.

Some critics have condemned Laidlaw's appointment because he is Pakeha and has not lived in New Zealand for several years; others because he is an "unabashed supporter" of the ruling Labour Party. However, although two predecessors were Maori the outgoing Race Relations Conciliator, Wally Hirsh, was also a Pakeha. A leading Maori academic, Dr Ranginui Walker, called on the Maori community to support Laidlaw in his new role. He also defended the appointment of a Pakeha.

"The heat is coming from the Pakeha side as the Maori win a few battles in court on issues such as fisheries," said Dr Walker, who is also chairman of the Auckland District Maori Council. "It isn't a Maori job — and it is a thankless task." He added that the original legislation was drawn up too hastily and introduced into Parliament so the government could ratify the United Nations international convention on eliminating discrimination.

Matiu Rata said he hoped Laidlaw would inspire an improvement in race relations, adding: "New Zealanders are getting a fixation on bigotry." Laidlaw, a former Rhodes Scholar and diplomat in Suva and Paris before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat in London as an assistant director, toured South Africa with New Zealand's national All Blacks rugby union team in 1970, later becoming an outspoken opponent of apartheid. His book, *Mud in Your Eye*, published in 1973, sold 25,000 copies, but caused an uproar in South Africa and within New Zealand rugby circles for its harsh criticisms of racial discrimination in South Africa. Laidlaw and fellow All Black Bob Burgess declared themselves unavailable for the South African tour that year because of their anti-apartheid views.

Under the new legal structure announced by Justice Minister Geoffrey Palmer, Laidlaw would be a member of the Human Rights Commission with responsibility for race relations. This arrangement is expected to mean better organisation and improved procedures for dealing with complaints.

The Race Relations Act's controversial section 9a, the measure used to investigate the "kill a white" row involving the country's mass circulation *Sunday Star*, is being repealed in the Law reform Miscellaneous Provisions Bill. Although the statement by Maori activist Hana Te Hemara was made in private at the Au-

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THE REGION

ckland University marae (Maori meeting place) to a seminar for law students, it was picked up third-hand by the *Sunday Star* and published sensationally in violation of the act.

Former conciliator Wally Hirsh was unable to act against Te Hemara because the statement was not made in a public place — as required under the act — in spite of 74 complaints being filed against her. Complaints were also filed with the Race Relations Office against the news media, particularly the *Sunday Star* for its role in publishing the statement out of context and "fomenting disharmony" throughout the nation.

Eventually Hirsh ruled that the *Star* had violated Section 9a and asked the newspaper to apologise for the original article (the only action the office was able to take). The *Star* refused. Instead, the newspaper claimed freedom of the press and freedom of speech as principles in conflict with the law. Winston Peters, often tipped as potentially a future prime minister of New Zealand, attacked the office's ruling, calling it "reverse apartheid".

In the row that followed, the influential *New Zealand Herald* called on the government to scrap the Race Relations Office. Justice Minister Palmer declared at the time that the government would consider changing section 9a.

The office has faced other controversies, too. In 1983, an Auckland City Councillor, Jolyon Firth, made a statement in private referring to "curry-munchers" following a council meeting. A journalist present reported the comment. The conciliator at the time, Hiwi Tauroa, failed to obtain an apology from Firth to the Indian community because he had no jurisdiction.



**WINSTON
PETERS**

invoked. "Neither the Firth nor the Graham case elicited the kind of outrage experienced over the Te Hemara case," wrote Dr Walker in a newspaper column. "Maori people, as the more sinned against in matters of race, know why."

In another case the following year, headmaster John Graham of an elite boys school, Auckland Grammar, gave "laziness" as a reason for Maori failure in school. The technicality of a negative remark made in private was again in-



Sandy Beach: voted in favour of housing development.

HAWAII

Victory for Sandy Beach

By Ed Rampell

AFTER a long struggle involving a petition drive, plebiscite, court rulings, and charges of high level corruption, the Honolulu City Council has unanimously voted in favour of Bill 170, killing a proposed housing development across from Sandy Beach. The bill changes the land status designation of the property across the popular beach from residential to preservation. This downzoning prevents Bedford Properties (formerly Kaiser Development Company) from building 171 luxury homes on 31 acres of land owned by the Bishop Estate. Thus, one of the last stretches of virgin coastline on congested Oahu, where a view of Diamond Head unobstructed by high rises is as rare as a pure Hawaiian, will retain its unspoiled scenic beauty.

The battle to save Sandy Beach, a favourite local body surfing and boogie boarding site, crystallized and galvanized opposition to Oahu's overkill overdevelopment. The City Council's controversial 1987 vote to allow the construction of housing across from the beach sparked a sort of Children's Crusade of citizen surfers versus powerful landowners and developers. Grassroots activists, called the Save Sandy Beach Initiative Coalition, rallied against the project. Through a last minute petitioning campaign, the Sandy Beachers arranged for the public to vote on the issue via a plebiscite during the November 1988 gener-

al elections. 164,000 Oahu voters cast their ballots against the development and in favour of the initiative to save Sandy Beach. They won by a 2 to 1 margin, winning in every voting precinct on the island.

But legal loopholes remained, and Sandy Beachers allege that behind the scenes power-plays and backroom deals transpired. On May 17, the Hawaii Supreme Court upheld a March 31, 1988 Circuit Court ruling that county councils alone have the power to decide land status zoning, not voter initiatives. This rendered the Sandy Beach referendum not legally binding and threw the rezoning ball back into the Honolulu City Council's court.

The Honolulu City Council action downzoning Sandy Beach caps Hawaii's most popular protest movement in recent times, but activists stress that their struggle is far from over. The developers may build yet another Oahu golf course at the East Oahu site. At the City Council meeting, Sandy Beachers and several councilmen announced that they will lobby the State Legislature to pass laws allowing direct democracy to determine development at Hawaii by legalizing land zoning by voters' initiatives. Other United States states permit these popular referendums to have the force of law, on zoning and other issues. Even Morgado says he will support changing the law in order to allow these plebiscites. And Councilman Neil Abercrombie said Hawaii — where 72 private landowners own almost half the State — needs "land reform". In the meantime, the people have won a battle, if not the war, saving Sandy Beach and triumphing over private property and profits at Oahu. □

THE REGION

NORTHERN MARIANAS

Tenorio confusion

By David North

It is pretty safe to predict that after the Marianas' November elections the Governor will be Tenorio — but the question remains, which Tenorio? Will it be Pedro P. Tenorio, the popular Republican incumbent Governor who may, or may not, seek a third term. Or will it be Pedro P's Lt. Governor, Pedro A. Tenorio, who is seeking the Republican nomination? Or will it be Froilan Tenorio, currently the elected Resident Representative in Washington of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands? Froilan has the Democratic nomination, and appears to be the front runner at the moment.

To complicate matters, there is a constitutional question, something like the one that bedeviled the American Samoan gubernatorial race of a few years back. After Pedro P. won his first four-year term as Governor in 1981 the Commonwealth adopted a new constitution, which like the Mainland constitution, prohibits more than two consecutive terms for the Governor. But did the Marianas constitution make an exception (as the mainland one does) for the Governor in office at the time the new rule was adopted? Lawyers disagree, and Governor Tenorio has not ruled out the possibility of a third term.

Meanwhile the Democrats have selected their candidate, and the Republicans were slated to do so in late July. On the Democratic side Froilan Tenorio defeated Territorial Senator Herman R. Guerrero and Tony Guerrero in the primary, while the Republicans faced their own Tenorio-Guerrero conflict, with the Lt. Governor, Pedro A., favoured to win the nomination over Larry Guerrero, former president of the Territorial Senate.

But Tenorios and Guerreros are not always in conflict; take the relationship between Froilan Tenorio and Herman T. (for Tenorio) Guerrero. The latter has served as Froilan's deputy in Washington for the last half dozen years, and secured, with his boss' help, the Democratic nomination for the job as resident representative. The two men are also first cousins. Herman T. Guerrero's Republican opponent will be Juan N. Babauta, a freshman Territorial Senator from Saipan, the most populous of the Mariana islands.

Also up for grabs this November will be six of the nine seats in the Senate,

currently dominated by the Republicans, and all 15 seats in the House of Representatives, which currently has a Democratic majority. The speaker of that body, incidentally, Pedro R. Guerrero, brother to Senator Herman R., almost was not renominated by the Democratic Party for another term in the legislature, but the party's central committee changed its mind and put him back on the ticket.

The members of the House of Representatives serve two-year terms, while the other offices up for election have four-year terms.

Unlike the political melting pot of Guam, where candidates of Chamorro, Haole, Filipino and Japanese extraction win island-wide selections, every Marianas islands candidate mentioned above is all or part Chamorro, most of whom bear names reminiscent of the more than two centuries of Spanish rule.



Froilan Tenorio: will this Tenorio be Governor?

This reflects the voting population — if not the work force — of the Marianas. Most of the foreign-born workforce in the Commonwealth have not become citizens, and the island government is not pressing for a change in that situation.

In addition to a handful of Haoles and other foreign-born, the principal non-Chamorro citizen population consists of Carolinians. Senator Herman R. Guerrero is part Carolinian and his current dissatisfaction with Froilan Tenorio may complicate the latter's campaign in the Carolinian community. As in many island elections, Mariana islands citizens living elsewhere, notably on Hawaii and in Southern California, will play an important role with their absentee ballots. The substance of the November cam-

paign has not yet taken shape, but two sets of issues will surely be debated. One is the state of the island's infrastructure — its roads, its water, sewage and electrical systems, all apparently needing more than a little attention. Froilan Tenorio is expected to use his professional background — he is one of few islanders to hold a mainland degree in civil engineering — when he discusses the subject.

He will be expected to say that with booming tourism and access to federal dollars the islands should have better utility systems, and to be critical of the incumbent Republicans on that score. He may also talk about "privatisation" of one or more of the utilities — apparently the only Marianas utility in private hands is the telephone system, which has a reputation of working reasonably well.

The Republican candidates, on the other hand, will try to focus island discontent with Washington on the island's representative in Washington, Froilan Tenorio. As the island and the Mainland have worked through the details of the Commonwealth relationship, established in the Covenant, many in the Marianas have become unhappy with the new relationship. Some feel that the mainland dollars come with too many strings (like federal control of immigration policy and the Interior Department's Inspector General auditing the books of island agencies.) And, privately, there are some who are not sure that the award of United States citizenship to many of the residents was important enough to compensate for the continuing rocky relations with Washington.

The Governor has an option of placing a referendum on the ballot this November asking for the islanders' opinions on whether the Covenant should be re-negotiated, but it is unlikely that such a referendum will appear this year.

One item that might be expected to be discussed probably will not be. That is the question of the role of the Resident Representative in Washington. Those playing that role for Guam and American Samoa, Ben Blaz and Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, sit as delegates in the United States House of Representatives, where they have votes in committee, and in party caucuses, but not on the Floor. The US Government, not the island governments, pay their salaries and office expenses.

The Marianas representative, at Commonwealth expense, plays a quasi-ambassadorial role which some think gives the Commonwealth more independence. None of the candidates appear to be in any rush to get closer to Washington by seeking to place the Marianas' representative in the Congress of the United States. □

THE REGION

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Cornered by hunger strike

By Al Prince

THE first hunger strike to protest French nuclear tests in French Polynesia has produced a victory of sorts. That victory was a promise on July 7 by Territorial Government President Alexandre Leontieff to request a special session of the Territorial Assembly starting August 17 to discuss the French nuclear tests, among other potentially explosive subjects (see box).

President Leontieff has yet to explain publicly why he promised the leaders of the hunger strike that he would convene the Territorial Assembly to debate the nuclear tests for the first time. However, there are at least three possible explanations for that promise. First, the hunger strike was making almost daily headlines in the local French press, which may have been politically embarrassing to President Leontieff and his majority coalition government. The hunger strike may have been particularly embarrassing in view of the majority coalition's recent refusal to approve a motion by its only independence political party member — Ia Mana Te Nunaa — that called for a Territorial Assembly debate on three aspects of the nuclear tests.

Second, with increasing demands from majority coalition as well as opposition political party leaders for a public debate, as well as a public polling of voters on the nuclear tests, Leontieff may have concluded that the issue could not be postponed any longer without risking more protests against the nuclear tests. Finally, Leontieff may have concluded that to continue postponing a public debate would have only risked exposing his majority coalition to increasing political attacks from opposition party leaders.

Regardless of Leontieff's motives for promising the Territorial Assembly debate, the nuclear testing issue has clearly been revived during the past month, making regular headlines in the local press. And the leaders of the hunger strike cleverly took advantage of every possible occasion to further their cause. On July 4, a delegation of 15 persons out of the some 30 conducting the hunger strike marched to the offices of French High Commissioner Jean Montpezat and then to the Territorial Assembly building nearby. At the High Commissioner's office, the delegation deposited two letters, one addressed to Montpezat, the other addressed to French President Francois Mitterrand. Both letters were accepted by an official

on behalf of the High Commissioner's secretary-general, who was reported busy.

The letter to Mitterrand asked the French President to approve the hunger strikers' request for a democratic popular vote in Tahiti on whether the nuclear tests should continue or stop.

The letter noted that since the beginning of the tests in 1966, the Maohi (the ancient name for Tahitian) people have never been consulted. However, the letter did not note that the Territorial Assembly's Permanent Commission, which meets behind closed doors when the assembly is not in regular session twice a year, approved the French nuclear testing programme in 1964, two years before the tests began. The letter claimed that nearly all of Tahiti's political, religious and union leaders have repeatedly called for a halt to the nuclear tests. Although the same claim was made in the letter to the High Commissioner, the public record would indicate this to be a slight exaggeration. Such a demand by "several" political, religious and union leaders would appear to be more correct than the hunger strikers' claim of "nearly all" (*"la quasi-totalite"*) such leaders.

The next day, July 5, the hunger strikers presented a similar letter to Jean-Michel Boucheron, president of the visiting Defense Commission of the French National Assembly. This letter called on Boucheron to inform the National Assembly in Paris of a demand in Tahiti for a halt in the French nuclear tests and for using the money previously spent on the tests to repair the alleged economic, ecological and health damage that the testing program has allegedly produced. On the eve of the National Defense Commission's July 7 return to Paris, Boucheron held one of the most incredible, if not stupefying, press conferences ever held in Tahiti by an elected French politician on the nuclear testing issue.

Judging from the reports by Tahiti's



Leontieff (left) and Boucheron in Papeete: finding a peaceful solution to potentially explosive issues

two French daily newspapers, Boucheron salt-and-peppered his answers with remarks that at times were overly simplistic, naive, erroneous or arrogant to the point of being demeaning if not insulting. Both newspapers suggested by implication that if Boucheron represents the type of elected French politician who claims to be informed about what is going on in French Polynesia, Tahiti does not stand much of a chance of ever

Opening the door

PRESIDENT Alexandre Leontieff, facing some potentially explosive issues in French Polynesia, has opened the door of dialogue and promised to convene a special session of the Territorial Assembly on August 17. While nuclear testing in the French Pacific territory will be a key issue in the discussions, other major subjects have been included in the agenda:

- A controversial 34-billion French Pacific franc (about US \$303.57 million) five-year French State-Territorial Government economic and social development plan for French Polynesia. A protocol agreement was signed in Paris on January 21 by French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, French Overseas Departments and Territories Minister Louis

THE REGION

being understood. Although that may be as much of an exaggeration as some of Boucheron's comments he certainly cannot be accused of having been evasive or of having used a vague dialogue of double talk that is often the habit of elected officials anywhere.

Boucheron claimed that while the French Pacific Testing Centre (CEP) played a role in the beginning of Tahiti's new era of economic progress, it now plays more and more of a weaker role in the Territory's gross interior product.

When asked about a potential polling of voters in the future about independence, Boucheron said that the purpose of his visit was for military matters. However, he noted the progress the Territorial Government has made with greater self-government during the four years since his last visit.

"Now there's a choice. Does France bring in nothing and is it of no use? Look at the figures: the C.E.P., but also the direct aid from France . . .," he said. Looking at all of France's overseas territories, Boucheron claimed that French Polynesia's situation "is the most intelligent of all". And he added: "What I don't want to see are people killing each other, people starving to death, people losing their cultural identity. We are advancing, but there's a long way to go before all Polynesians have access to the profit of development. There are misery and poor people in Polynesia, but also in France. Then, when we will have advanced further along this road, it is evident that the question (about independ-

ence) could be raised. I'm saying that it is not in the interest of Polynesia. It is certainly not in the interest of Polynesians. I'm absolutely convinced of that. The debate should be aimed at serious subjects — the budget, economic aid, technical assistance, etc. Those are the things that have direct, daily results for the Polynesians."

Boucheron then launched in to a discourse about the economic progress made by the Leontieff Government with the fundamental idea of respecting the Polynesian identity and the cultural identity. But that does not mean there is not a lot of progress left to be made, he said. "If we go too far in the area of all types of investments," Boucheron said, "we are going to end up with a situation like Hawaii. If we don't go quickly enough, the development will be harmed, there will be poverty. The poverty problem doesn't suit Polynesia."

In attesting to the solid progress made in French Polynesia, he said, "I saw a telephone booth in each island (he visited). I won't hide from you that I was surprised. I was staggered to see a colour television on a lost island hundreds of kilometres from Papeete," an obvious reference to his visit to the Marquesas Islands. "I'm going to share a secret with you," Boucheron told journalists at the press conference.

"I called Paris. I reached my secretary in Paris more quickly in telephoning from Huahine than when I call from Rennes. I had her on the line in a few seconds."

Le Pensec and President Leontieff. However, the Territorial Assembly has yet to debate the plan, which is supposed to start this year and run through 1993.

- Bringing up to date the Territory's provisional 1989 budget of 70.355 billion francs (about US\$628 million) in view of expenditures already made or committed and revenues already collected. Although normally a routine procedure, this, too, could prove controversial in view of the current debate among majority coalition and opposition political leaders over whether President Leontieff's economic recovery plan announced last August has really taken effect.

On the nuclear testing issue, two items are reportedly scheduled for debate during the Territorial Assembly's special session. They are:

- A three-item motion submitted on May 26 by independence political party leader Oscar Temaru calling for a debate of Tahiti's relationship

with Europe starting in 1993; the role of the French Pacific Testing Center, known locally as the C.E.P. (Centre d'Experimentation du Pacifique); and a public polling of voters on whether they are for or against Tahiti's independence from France.

- A three-item motion submitted and then withdrawn by the independence political party Ia Mana Te Nunaa. That motion was initially opposed by fellow majority coalition leaders of the Leontieff Government and supported by opposition leaders. The motion called for the creation of a special Territorial Government Commission to study the economic and social impact of the C.E.P.'s presence; the creation of a special commission to evaluate the health and ecological consequences of nuclear testing in French Polynesia; and the organisation of a public polling of voters on whether they are for or against continued nuclear testing in this French overseas territory of nearly 200,000 people. □

Boucheron was told at one point that Tahiti's independence supporters claim that while the C.E.P. has participated in Tahiti's economic development it has also been responsible for Polynesians losing their identity. Boucheron totally disagreed. He asked for examples of how the C.E.P. has brought about a cultural degradation. "If there are people who want to live like it was 2,000 years ago, that's their problem," he said.

Asked for his feelings about the demand for a public polling of voters on whether French nuclear tests should continue or stop in French Polynesia, Boucheron replied: "I would like a popular polling on peace." He claimed that if Polynesia lives in serenity it is because Polynesia is France and that Tahiti's internal autonomy, or self-government, statute confers security. Implying that peace relies on France's nuclear disuasive force, Boucheron claimed: "Assuring peace is the most important. This is what France does in Polynesia." He denied the French nuclear tests pose any ecological problems for French Polynesia. To underscore his point, he proposed that a hotel be built on the nuclear test site atoll of Moruroa to receive all those who are afraid of such tests.

As president of the French National Assembly's Defense Commission, Boucheron confirmed that starting next year the number of nuclear tests conducted in French Polynesia will drop from eight to six a year.

The number might drop further to one a year in 1992. By reducing the number of yearly tests and grouping all of the tests into one period, the French Government hopes to save 20 billion French Pacific francs (about US\$223.2 million).

Boucheron's comments prompted a response the next day (July 7) from Enrique "Quito" Braun-Ortega, president of a center group in the Territorial Assembly. In a published letter to Boucheron, Braun-Ortega noted that the 1964 decision by Tahiti's Permanent Commission calls for the C.E.P., in the event that nuclear testing stops in French Polynesia, to return the Tuamotu test site atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa to the Territory in the same condition they originally were, without any compensation or reparation of any sort by the French State. Braun-Ortega called for the Territory to be given sufficient advance notice of an eventual halt in the C.E.P.'s nuclear testing. He also claimed that the C.E.P.'s evolving needs over the years, which were unforeseen in 1964, have created an uncontested degradation of the two atolls and their lagoons. As a result of this alleged damage, Braun-Ortega called for an indemnity for public works damages from the French State. □

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CONFERENCES

WASHINGTON

Driving home the point on security

By Chris Ashton

THE notion that the South Pacific is a tranquil backwater to global conflict dies hard. In terms of United States security it was long seen as an American lake, meaning overwhelming US naval superiority underpinned by the ANZUS Pact, with Australia and New Zealand ensuring the security of the Pacific Islands. Not any more. And to drive the point home to the Bush Administration this was signalled through a two-day conference in Washington in May.

Called Strategic Co-operation and Competition in the Pacific Islands, it brought together diplomats, politicians, defence force personnel, academics and civil servants from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, France and Japan for the presentation of papers and round-table discussions with their American counterparts for policy in the Pacific, including Micronesia. Dr Fedor Mediansky, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of NSW, Sydney, and Conference co-ordinator, told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that the US interest in the South Pacific was militarily driven, meaning that it was perceived for its bearing on US security interests. Unless US policy managers for the Pacific

could understand it and adapt its policies accordingly in terms of Pacific island interests, its own security interests would ultimately be imperilled, he said.

The conference was meant quite expressly to correct US misconceptions about the Pacific.

Such conferences, often with the same figures giving the key papers, have been presented elsewhere, notably in Hawaii and Canberra. And what they had to say this time was familiar with a specialist interest in Pacific affairs. The difference was that for the first time the venue was Washington. The South Pacific ranks low in America's list of global priorities. Many of the speakers accepted this, and added that it should remain so. Their plea was rather for greater sensitivity and willingness to listen to Pacific Island states, and the urgent need to develop a core of career specialists in Pacific policy management in the Defence and State Departments, in place of generalists whose limited expertise was lost when they were posted elsewhere.

Will the Washington Conference make any difference? Don't look for a blinding revelation comparable with Saul on the road to Damascus. To the extent that it changes anything, those changes will be piecemeal, incremental, slow and largely invisible.

But nor should it be discounted as merely another academic talkfest. A six-page summary of the main points emerging from the Conference was distributed the following week to the under secretary for policy in the Office of De-

fence; to the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and to desk officers in the East Asia Pacific division in Defence.

One of the highlights of the conference was the bafflement of the eminent Japanese professor advising his Government on its Pacific aid programme, Dr Akio Watanabe, as to the attitude of its Western partners in the Pacific to Japan playing a more active role in its security.

Another was the universal derision with which American, but also Australian participants greeted the claims by New Zealand's spokesman, American-born Dr Stephen Hoadley, of Auckland University, that despite the rupture to the ANZUS Pact, New Zealand's capacity to safeguard Western security interests in the Pacific was not impaired.

A third, oft-repeated point was that the Pacific Islands were becoming increasingly open to so-called new "players" from outside the region. They varied from Libya with a special interest in New Caledonia, and India with a special interest in Fiji, to the growing intelligence gathering activities of the USSR through its fishing fleets.

The feeling of most participants was that the dangers posed by some of the newcomers was at least equal to the benefits others would confer. Drug running, terrorism, arms smuggling, organised crime and scope for exploiting ethnic and racial tensions were cited. For the Western nations already involved the moral of this was that its security interests would need more careful management than in the past. □

WELLINGTON

Hurdles in the islands

By David Robie

IN his recent book *Lo Bilong Yumi Yet*, Papua New Guinea Justice Minister Bernard Narakobi tells an anecdote about a group of villagers who want to take their young people to court. The youth had taken off to the city and refused to send any money back to the village to assist the old folk.

According to custom it is right that the old people insist that the youth send them payments. After all, if the young people were still in the village the fruits of their labour — from the gardens, forests on the sea — would automatically be shared.

However, faced with the problems of living in an urban environment, the youth found it difficult to accept that their pay packets should be handed over to their parents, grandparents, siblings and even cousins.

In Western Samoa, a distraught young man searching for his runaway wife turned to a local church social worker for help. When the worker offered to put a discreet message on a radio programme, however, the young man refused. He believed the message would bring shame to his village and he would risk being ostracised for having being incapable of "keeping" his wife.

In Fiji, a high chief beat up a commoner — as was his customary right — with a walking stick for a minor offence against himself. The commoner, claiming his right under the law, took the chief to court.

These are some examples of the growing conflict between traditional communal rights and the rights of individuals in the South Pacific cited by Suliana Siwatibau at May's Aotearoa and Asia-Pacific Human Rights conference in Wellington. In a keynote speech on Pacific human rights at the New Zealand

government-sponsored conference, she outlined serious problems facing the region.

Mrs Siwatibau, a Fijian United Nations consultant now living in Port Vila, advocates the establishment of a Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Charter for the Pacific, an idea already proposed by a Lawasia research group. She also appealed for better rights for women, youth, handicapped people, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups — "only then will Pacific societies be truly free".

During recent years Pacific islanders have become increasingly concerned over the growing erosion of their cultural integrity.

"This has been manifest, for example, in discussions on the formal incorporation of indigenous custom-based laws into the laws of the land in various Pacific states, and in the surge of interest in native languages," Mrs Siwatibau says. "It was one of the main justifications of the military coup that overthrew the democratically elected government of Fiji in 1987." □

**PACIFIC
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BUSINESS

REPORT



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EDITED BY ROBIN BROMBY

BUSINESS

Bank survey sees growing Fiji economy

FIJI'S economy has picked up growth momentum after performing poorly in 1987, according to a new outlook survey from the Asian Development Bank. As the political situation has stabilised, the tourism industry has recovered and earnings from sugar, gold and garments have risen following the currency's devaluation. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) report predicts growth of between two and three per cent for 1989 and 1990 provided export markets stay buoyant, and political stability and investor confidence are restored.

"The maintenance of economic growth in the longer term will require attention to a number of . . . basic issues, including further diversification of the economic base, growing unemployment, and the effects of the emigration of Fiji Indian professionals on the supply of skilled labour," said the report. "Above all, there is a need for continued political stability, without which the projected course of the economy could be drastically affected."

The Fiji economy showed a significant turn-around in 1988, with two per cent growth after a negative growth rate of nearly eight per cent in 1987. Sugar production (which accounts for half the country's export commodity earnings) rose nine per cent, with prices up 14 per cent. The ADB draws attention to what it calls the increasingly serious problem of unemployment in Fiji. The low rate of growth throughout the 1980s had meant the economy was unable to generate a sufficient number of jobs to cope with an annual two per cent growth in the labour force. In 1987 and 1988, the formal jobs sector was able to employ only a quarter of the new entrants into the labour force.

Inflation was up from six per cent in 1987 to 13 per cent in 1988 as a consequence of marked growth in the money supply, rising economic activity, and the depreciation of the Fiji dollar against that of its largest trading partner, Australia. The rate of growth of Fiji's money supply (M2) accelerated from an annual rate of four per cent in 1987 to 20.6 per cent in 1988, and the Reserve Bank of Fiji — in order to stimulate economic recovery — had to abandon its tight money supply policy.

Reflecting that economic recovery, imports were up 20 per cent in 1988, with the main increases being in manufactured goods and fuel. On the other hand, export earnings rose 30 per cent,



Sugarcane: harvest in Fiji: three percent growth expected.

so that the \$F27 million trade deficit in 1987 was narrowed to \$F2 million in 1988.

Sugar production is expected to grow by three per cent in 1990, the ADB report said. But it will still be about 50,000 tonnes short of its 1986 peak of 502,000 tonnes. But next year the number of visitors is expected by the bank to recover fully to the 1986 record year of 280,000 visitors, and tourist spending will reach \$F196 million, roughly equivalent to Fiji's earnings from sugar exports. The bank also foresees more Japanese investment in the country's tourist industry.

The bank expects manufacturing exports, especially garments, to expand at a brisk rate. Primary production should rise in the medium term. The Asian Development Bank believes that controlling inflation will be a major challenge for the Fiji government. The inflationary effect of the 1987 devaluation would eventually work itself out and an import duty reduction this year covering a range of consumer goods should help contain prices.

The budget deficit was expected to widen under a relatively expansionary fiscal policy. The budget deficit will rise by eight per cent this year as expenditure increases more quickly than revenue, and the import duty reductions on consumer goods have not been matched by new revenue measures. □

High hopes in Solomons

SOLOMON Islands are placing high hopes on a foreign investment boom. The country's Minister of Primary Industry and Commerce, Edmond Andresen, said proposals worth more than \$S100 million are being considered. These included hotel developments worth \$62 million, an \$18 million brewery, and timber processing worth \$30 million.

Thirteen proposals are being studied by the Foreign Investment Division and will be ready for approval by the Foreign Investment Board. This list of specific plans includes two fish processing projects worth a total of \$3.185 million, mining prospecting (\$1.9 million), cocoa planting (\$3.2 million), timber and veneer production (\$31.5 million), shoe manufacturing (\$300,000), hotel (\$42 million) as well as car rental, furniture making, shell buttons and insurance proposals.

A West German company executive recently visited Honiara to update costings originally made in 1982 when his company proposed to build a brewery in the Solomon Islands. But at the time there was much community opposition and little government support for the proposal.

Andresen said most of the investment enquiries came from Australia, and some from Europe and Asia. □

BUSINESS

Cocoa in crisis

COCOA is becoming a real quandary for the Papua New Guinea government. The world price continues to drop, the stabilisation fund is out of money, but the government must keep the industry going at a time when the Bougainville crisis is eating deeply into its revenues.

Papua New Guinea has made a substantial investment in the cocoa industry in recent years, with both the quality and yield improved by the introduction of new hybrid varieties. About 13 per cent of the population depends on the crop for its livelihood, so cocoa is a major political consideration. The fact that one of the two major produces is the North Solomons Province which has been economically devastated by the Bougainville copper mine closure (East New Britain is the other prime cocoa area) just makes the task of the national government in deciding on a future policy all that more difficult. It does not want to get dragged into permanent price support, but at the same time, the industry's collapse would pose even greater problems.

The growers have done their bit. Papua New Guinea exported 31,000 tonnes in 1985, rising to 37,400 tonnes in 1988.

The problem is that prices have fallen. In 1985 the country received K2021 per tonne of cocoa exported. In 1988 it was down to K1221 and this year the price is unlikely to average more than K1000. Back in the late 1970s, prices hit K5000 and above, and the government and industry then had the foresight to plough much of that money into a stabilisation fund. That fund ran out of cash in May, which is why cocoa has become an issue; a committee set up to recommend future policy will report to the national government at the end of August.

Papua New Guinea cannot turn to the International Cocoa Organisation (ICO) for help, because that body is paralysed by the crisis in world prices. Meanwhile, most of the major producers have invested in expanding production. In 1981 1.7 million tonnes was placed on the world market. Now the major growing nations (including Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Brazil, Malaysia and Indonesia) push 2.33 million tonnes on to the World market. Demand has risen from 1.569 million tonnes to 2.08 million tonnes, but the lag in the latter's growth has brought about a very high level of cocoa stocks — about 54.6 per cent of a year's requirements is now held in warehouses.

On the positive side, the world demand for cocoa is continuing to grow

(compared with coffee, where health concerns have seen as easing of demand). There are signs of the Eastern European and Japanese markets opening up for substantial volumes. But the fact that the size of the stocks overhanging the world market has never been higher does rather overshadow the good news.

There is no sign that countries are winding back on the cocoa production, although the World Bank has been knocking back projections to try and discourage more planting. The latest Westpac tropical product bulletin says prices are unlikely to recover much unless weather conditions deteriorate drastically in West Africa.

The unpredictable element is the stocks held by the ICO — all 250,000 tonnes, which it bought in to try and maintain the price. There are certain parallels with tin — a falling world price, vast over-production and an international body falling apart at the height of the crisis. The ICO cannot control its membership, and many of those members have refused to pay their annual fee to the organisation — the fear now is that the ICO will start liquidating the cocoa stocks it holds, pushing them on to the world market just to earn some money to keep itself going. There is also considerable unsold stock held by Cote d'Ivoire (held back to try and get the price moving upward) and by Ghana (about five months' consumption). The Westpac report says these stocks dwarf any probable changes in the demand-supply balance.

"It appears more likely that these stocks will be liquidated in the next year, resulting in a price collapse," said Westpac. More importantly, any such price collapse is unlikely to have an effect on production: cocoa, once established, requires little additional cost to harvest.

Just across the border, Papua New Guinea faces greater competition from Indonesian cocoa growers. They are planning not only to step up production, but quality as well. That has immense implications, because one edge which Papua New Guinea has is that its cocoa is of high quality and better than most produced in West Africa. Recently, the chairman of the Indonesian Cocoa Association, Ibrahim Hassan, was reported as saying his country would concentrate on cocoa quality to make inroads in the world market. He said Indonesia would cope with world demand by improving quality and aiming at the same top end users who buy PNG cocoa. Most Indonesian coffee goes to the Netherlands.

The March 1989 trade figures from Port Moresby show that cocoa export volumes increased by 76 per cent to 8600 tonnes over the March 1988 quarter. The increase was due to higher production from rehabilitated cocoa planta-

tions. Output is expected to increase further as more of the newly planted cocoa matures.

The government's loan of K15 million to the Cocoa Stabilisation Fund in May has enabled farmers to receive a K528 per tonne bounty (on top of the K750 per tonne they earn from the processors) but that money will run out by the end of October. And here is the government's quandary: it does not want to get itself into a situation of permanent price support, both for reasons of not setting a precedent for other crops and because it cannot afford the money with no revenue from Bougainville. The short-term outlook for cocoa is poor, with several years of rock-bottom prices, and therefore the need for Papua New Guinea growers to be supported.

On top of that, about 45 per cent of the country's cocoa comes from the same North Solomons province which is now in turmoil over the mine dispute and violence. The government is anxious to keep the lid on the province, but in a wider sense its whole policy has been to foster agriculture to keep people on the land and not drifting into Rabaul, Lae, Port Moresby and other towns to become urban poor. About 13 per cent of Papua New Guineans depend on cocoa for their livelihood. (Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu himself having been a cocoa producer).

The importance of cocoa transcends its role as an export commodity — it is part of the cornerstone of government economic and social policy.

There is one other complication, too. Cocoa and copra are complementary crops; about 90 per cent of cocoa producers are also involved with copra, and the price of that commodity has also suffered a major downturn in price over the last three years. The March quarter also showed a 17 per cent decline in copra exports.

The Bougainville Copper Ltd mine provides 40 per cent of Papua New Guinea's export income, and 17 per cent of the national government's revenue when the mine is in full production. The closure of the mine has made a catastrophic hole in state income. Namaliu can neither afford to prop up the cocoa growers, nor afford not to. □

Crab export ban

THE Solomon Islands government has banned exporting of coconut crabs, a popular delicacy in island and Asian nations. No official reason was given, but it seems the government was alarmed by the rate of harvest overtaking breeding rate. □

BUSINESS

Banks on fast growth

RECENT bank reports from the region indicate that sector continues to grow at a faster rate than general economic development, and that lending and deposits show a steady upward trend.

The Bank of Kiribati, which is 51 per cent owned by Westpac and 49 per cent by the Kiribati government, reported another good year. The bank lost a \$A6 million trustee investment which was transferred to a specialist superannuation manager in Australia, but general deposits increased by \$3.3 million. The bank, in line with its charter to increase credit within Kiribati, expanded its loans portfolio by 71 per cent to \$4.02 million. The bank's 1988 report commented that much of the increased lending had been for personal, rather than essential housing, purposes and in the following year lending policies might need to be analysed in an attempt to direct money into developments more in line with the gov-

ernment's economic policy.

The bank had opened a branch on Kiritimati Island and at the end of the year deposits there totalled \$531,000 which was more than 50 per cent higher than the bank had predicted in its planning. Most of the business at the branch was new to the bank and had not been just transferred from the head office on Tarawa. Its opening meant that only Australian dollars were now being used on the island which, the report said, was a major contribution to the economic development of the country.

The Bank of Kiribati made a profit after tax of \$553,620 and had total assets of \$32 million.

The Bank of South Pacific reported another good year in Papua New Guinea, with after-tax profits of K2.12 million (compared with K1.34 million the year before) to September 30, 1988. Income was up 25.4 per cent, while deposits and loans grew by 12 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. Deposits grew with a large increase in mineral activity more than counterbalancing the fall-off in the agricultural sector.

In its comment on the general economic outlook, the bank's report said it

continued to support the government's desire to promote a competitive financial sector as one of the most effective ways to achieve the goal of sustained long-term growth for Papua New Guinea. The bank believed the financial sector would remain strong. But the report warned that, while Papua New Guinea had a wealth of resources which should ensure long-term prosperity, the country must control the temptation to generate short-term benefits.

The latest available report for the Bank of Western Samoa, to December 31 1987, shows a 23 per cent increase in deposits for the year. After-tax profit almost doubled to \$WS1.87 million. There was a large increase in international business, most of it in the form of remittances, but the bank commented on Western Samoa's widening trade gap, caused mainly through a decline in exports, and voiced concern about the trend. In 1987 the trade gap reached \$106 million, compared with \$81.88 million the previous year. This gap widened despite a slight improvement in export prices, especially for coconut oil, and the growing number of tourist visiting the country. □

Hawaii construction's going up

CONSTRUCTION in the state of Hawaii is having a banner year, reports the First Hawaiian Bank in its latest economic indicators report. And the industry was still headed for growth after a 16 per cent increase in activity in the last year. Private permits authorised, a measure of future construction activity, increased in most countries through March. Oahu's residential and non-residential permits rose by 66 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

Public sector construction is also on the rise, contracts being up 56 per cent in value to \$US183 million. Meanwhile, the real estate industry showed signs of slowing down, according to First

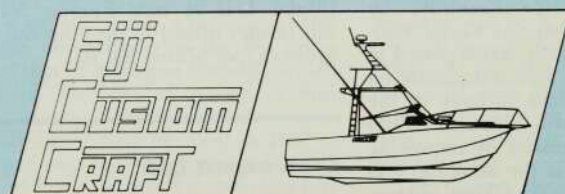
Hawaiian, home prices being down three per cent.

In a special on construction in the state, the Bank of Hawaii put a value of \$US2.5 billion on new buildings in 1988, bringing the industry back to the peaks achieved in 1969 and 1973-75. When these high levels of construction activity are reached, all the sector's resources become heavily committed. The bank says the resultant backlogs should keep activity up for another year at least before any major decline occurs.

The Bank of Hawaii does draw attention to the housing shortage through the islands. It says research indicates that the slowdown in issuing of housing permits

began at the same time as population and urban growth management became major policy concerns of the state government in the early 1970s, reflected in law changes covering the use of land. Government measures included placing a high priority on agriculture and the preservation of farm land. "Interestingly enough, agriculture received constitutional attention during a period when it was dropping in relative importance in the state's economy and while non-agricultural industries, especially tourism, were providing most of the state's economic growth," said the Bank of Hawaii report.

The state's Land Use Commission continues to exercise pre-emptive control over the use of land. □



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BUSINESS

Hawaiian Air's big move south

HAWAIIAN Airlines will be moving next month to step up its capacity on some South Pacific routes to consolidate its already strong position in the region. The new schedule, provided governments approve the changes, will mean the introduction of a TriStar 1011 on the Honolulu-Papeete run, the first time Hawaiian has used any of its wide-bodied jets on South Pacific routes, and the adding of capacity between Honolulu and Rarotonga.

In the past, the airline flew a triangle service from Honolulu to Rarotonga and then Papeete, returning to Hawaii. The problem, so far as Cook Islands tourism was concerned, arose from the fact that most of the bookings outward for the trip were American tourists heading for Tahiti, which left only a small number of seats for Cook Island traffic. By dedicating a TriStar to serve Papeete direct, and using the DC-8 jet direct between Honolulu and Rarotonga, the company will be offering all 174 seats each week to that traffic.

The DC-8 will, on reaching Rarotonga, fly return on to Auckland under Air Rarotonga's colours. That local airline is now looking to attract more Australians to use its service out of Auckland. Most Australians going to the Cooks fly either by Cook Islands International Airlines from Sydney in an aircraft operated by Ansett, or via Auckland to connect with Air New Zealand flights.

But now Air Rarotonga has handed their business in Sydney to the same company which acts as Hawaiian Airlines' selling agent, Walshes World. Its managing director, Robert Dell, told *Pacific Islands Monthly* the company will be aiming to introduce innovative packages for Australians, and was talking to other trans-Tasman carriers (including Continental, United and Qantas) about a combined package with Air Rarotonga. There was the possibility in the future of Hawaiian itself seeking rights for the highly lucrative Auckland-Sydney run.

Dell said there was much unused capacity in the Cook Islands. The original plan with Cook Islands International Airlines was that Ansett would use a 767 jet, but was now operating the smaller 727 — and it also had to carry passengers for Polynesian Airlines to Apia on the same run. Air New Zealand landed at Rarotonga three times a week.

But at Christmas, said Dell, all flights were full out of Auckland with Cook Islanders returning home to visit their families, and Air Rarotonga would be looking to get increased lift into the country at that time — the monopoly on



Winning combination: Lyn (left) and Pat Manly receive their gold medal plaque from Air Niugini's Maggie Worri.

Second time around

For the second year in a row, Air Niugini's inflight magazine, *Paradise*, has won an international award for excellence. *Paradise* won the 1989 Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) gold medal for best travel story in an airline magazine. For last year's gold medal, *Paradise* was declared the best inflight magazine.

In taking out the successive honours, *Paradise* has prevailed in competition against publications produced by major airlines serving Pacific destinations. This year the judges singled out 'Black Jack's Last Mission', which appeared in the 1988, May-June issue, as the outstanding entry. The gold medal was the only one given to an inflight magazine this year.

Winning authors and photographers

Lyn and Pat Manly are a Sydney-based scuba diving couple who enjoy some of the world's greatest diving destinations in Papua New Guinea. They are regular *Paradise* contributors. One of their interests is the undersea relics of World War II. This led them to an involvement in the filming of a documentary on the discovery of the ill-fated American bomber Black Jack.

'Black Jack's Last Mission' combined colourful underwater adventure, war history and poignant 45-year-old photographs of the young crew. "This award is confirmation that *Paradise* magazine is achieving its aims as a publication of which Air Niugini can be proud," said Geoff McLaughlin, the airline's public relations manager and editor. □

seats by islanders returning home meant the hotels were almost deserted at Christmas. This left the prospect for making some attractive accommodation rates if extra aircraft seats could be found.

Air Rarotonga will also be looking at the country's unused landing rights. Hawaiian Airlines flies into Rarotonga on United States landing rights, which means that the Cook Islands has recip-

rocal rights. There is one problem: the Cook Islands has two international carriers — Rarotonga and Cook Islands International. Ansett, which manages the latter and has maintained the Sydney link in deference to Cook Island government requests, has shown considerable interest in using the Cook Islands' American rights with its new A320 Airbus fleet. Ansett is determined to become an international airline. □

BUSINESS

Air Pacific considers new routes

AIR Pacific, after announcing a \$F9 million profit, is now considering new routes and the purchase of a Boeing 767 aircraft to supplement its existing fleet.

Fiji's national airline declared an after tax profit of \$9.079 million on a turnover of \$95.6 million. The airline's chairman, Gerald Barrack, paid tribute to management and workers for helping to turn the previously troubled airline around. He said projected revenue for the current year was \$124 million, reflecting the recovery in Fiji's tourist industry. Barrack said the 1988 profit was achieved despite the set-up costs associated with the introduction of the Tokyo and Melbourne services, the acquisition of two ATR-42 aircraft, and industrial problems.

The chief executive of Air Pacific, Andrew Drysdale, has said the airline may extend its services to South-East Asia and North America. The next five-



Drysdale: looking at expansion.

year plan would include studies on such route extensions. While he regarded North America as an important source of potential passenger traffic, Air Pacific's lack of aircraft and fleet flexibility ruled out this route in the short term.

The airline is also looking at buying a 767 wide-bodied aircraft, suitable for the heavily-patronised hauls between Australia and New Zealand and Fiji.

The airline reports reasonable load factors on its Nadi-Tokyo service and Air Pacific is finalising interline fares beyond Japan — to South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thailand. This mar-

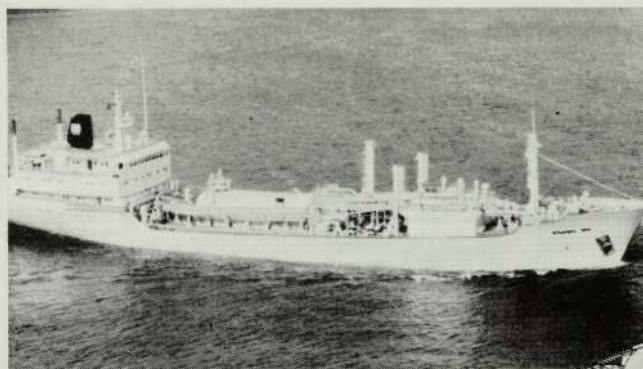
ket is being seen as complementing the seasonal troughs of traffic from Australia and New Zealand. The Melbourne-Nadi service, which began on March 30, is proving very successful.

Meanwhile Vanuatu and New Zealand have signed an agreement setting up direct airlinks between the two countries. Air Vanuatu may fly to New Zealand via Nadi and New Zealand's airlines may fly to Vanuatu through Noumea. New Zealand airlines also have the right to fly on to two destinations beyond Port Vila. Air Vanuatu is studying the feasibility of an Auckland service operating before the end of the year. Vanuatu Prime Minister Father Walter Lini was in Wellington for the agreement's signing.

In Suva, Air India has closed its office, citing the declining traffic between India and Fiji. Qantas and Singapore Airlines were now competing on the run to New Delhi, the airline said. Cargo between India and Fiji had dropped significantly after a trade ban between the countries which had been imposed by India after the two military coups in Fiji in 1987, according to an Air India spokesperson.

And Solomon Airlines has cut staff and services in a bid to trade its way out of current financial constraints and to make the company more profitable. □

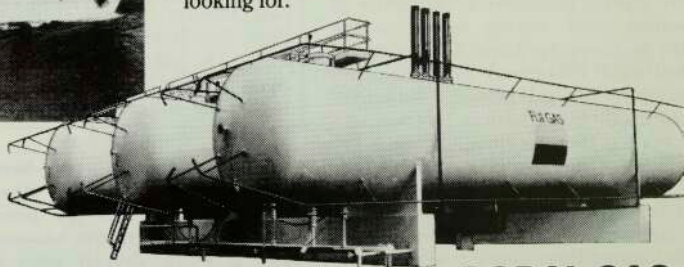
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BUSINESS

Good news from oilfields

THE continuing gloom surrounding the Bougainville copper mine in Papua New Guinea — some sources say it could be six months before full production is resumed — has been at least partly offset by good news from the Iagifu and Hedinia oilfields. Chevron Niugini, the subsidiary of the giant American-owned Chevron Corporation, has been undertaking land surveys for a 330-kilometre pipeline to carry the oil to the Gulf Province port of Kerema.

By November the company is expected to know whether the project is viable, and the country will be pinning its hopes on the likely event that the pipeline will go ahead. Chevron's public relations manager, Brad LeDu, says the drilling results are "very positive".

The one major problem, apart from the terrain between the oilfields and the sea, will be negotiations with landowners. One local member and the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Allan Ebu, has said no pipeline would be built unless landowners were satisfied. Ebu has demanded that Chervon Niugini set aside a contingency financial package for local people in case of a serious oil spillage, and that the company be ready to move in and clean up any spill.

LeDu said the company had conducted meetings with local people and they had been assured the pipeline would not harm the environment. He said Chervon would build it to the best safety standards, and that it was the only cost-effective way in which to transport huge quantities of oil overland.

Drilling has indicated encouraging results, with one well producing 1110 barrels a day.

Meanwhile, the North Solomons provincial government has cut its budget spending proposals by almost a half because of the Bougainville crisis. Travel, overtime and transport hire by government employees has been banned unless absolutely essential.

The production totals from the giant Panguna mine up to the end of the June quarter illustrate just how the company has been hit since the mine closed on May 15: copper output was 28,080 tonnes and gold 1465 kg compared with 42,712 tonnes and 3909 kg respectively for the previous corresponding period. The national government in Port Moresby is losing about K3 million a week in revenue since the mine closed.

The full impact on Bougainville Copper Ltd's earnings may not be felt until the quarter now under way because the company was still making shipments after the mine closed.

Even if peace is restored, the mining company will have trouble getting an early re-start on operations. Skilled workers have left the North Solomons province for jobs elsewhere, while many expatriates who have fled Papua New Guinea are not expected to want to return. The company also has some mechanical problems to remedy when the mine re-opens. □

Concern in Norfolk

IN a budget which sought to increase revenue by a general increase in government fees, the Norfolk Island Minister of Finance, Neville Christian, voiced concern at the overheating of the island's economy caused by consumer over-confidence. The impact of higher interest rates and inflation on the Australian mainland was also being felt on Norfolk: tourists were being more careful with their money while on holiday.

The island's traders had been specifically hit by Australia's introduction of a \$A400 duty free limit. The Norfolk Island administration was to urge the Australian government to either exempt the island from the limit, or raise the duty free threshold.

To cover its budget estimates of \$4.9 million, the Norfolk Island government increased duty and fees:

- Duty on cigarettes, cigars and tobacco went from 15 per cent to 60 per cent;
- General rate of duty from eight to nine per cent;
- Immigration fees up;
- Property conveyance fee doubled;
- Vehicle registration charge increased by 50 per cent;
- Duty on beer up 10c per can, with larger increases for bottles larger than 375 ml and for kegs.

• Quarantine and health fees up, and an increase on the financial institutions transactions levy of 400 per cent, from 0.05 per cent to 0.25 per cent.

The increase on government charges were expected to raise an additional \$560,000, said Christian. A thorough review of the postal service had been undertaken and the government planned to revitalise philatelic sales and the post generally.

Christian said the government needed to keep its expenditure under tight rein in view of the delicate nature of the island's economic base. Section heads would be meeting to find ways of keeping costs under control, as the island's economy must not be eroded by careless spending. □

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TRADE WINDS

Nauru House crumbles

NAURU House, the 53-level tower built with phosphate royalties in Melbourne as an investment for the island's future, is having serious structural problems. According to newspaper reports, concrete chunks the size of bricks have been found on the building's plaza area and scaffolding was erected to protect pedestrians from falling debris. Experts say the cause of the problem is spalling, where the concrete is physically knocked off the edge as the steel reinforcement corrodes and expands.

The building, erected as part of Nauru's plans to invest phosphate royalties against the day when the deposits were exhausted, returns about \$A12 million a year in rents.

Gaol threat for stamp dealer

A FORMER chairman of Stanley Gibbons faces trial over the alleged unauthorised production of stamps for Tuvalu. Clive Feigenbaum was ordered by the British High Court to hand over stocks of Tuvalu stamps after the island's government claimed he was printing them without any legal authority. The Tuvalu Attorney-General, David Ballantyne, will now press for a prison sentence on the claim that Feigenbaum defied a court order banning him from producing stamps.

Feigenbaum's solicitor said his client denied any wrongdoing and had no involvement in stamp production.

Burns Philp quits Niue

BURNS Philp (South Sea) Ltd has sold its commercial operation in Niue to a local company, Kinggurra Nominees Pty Ltd. The sale was for an undisclosed sum. The sale reflects the changing face of the old south seas trading company as Burns Philp now concentrates on developing as an international food and fermentation operation.

NZ dependent on farming

GOVERNMENT policies in New Zealand, aimed at lessening dependence on agricultural exports, had actually resulted in the country being more reliant on farmers than ever, according to the director of the New Zealand Meat and Wool Boards' economic service, Neil Taylor. He said farm exports now made up 65 per cent of the nation's total sales abroad — the highest level for many years. But he voiced concern that New Zealand's severe economic recession had resulted in rapid disinvestment in farming, with capital expenditure now running at only a third the level of the 1984 figure.



Kabua: eyeing Fiji sugar.

Marshalls seek sugar deal

MARSHALL Islands President Amata Kabua said during a recent visit to Fiji that his administration was looking at taking some of the country's sugar needs from Fiji. Kabua said the Marshall Islands had been given an annual export quota of 500 tonnes, and Fiji sugar would be cheaper than current import supplies from the United States.

The Marshall Islands are looking to diversify their trade links and lessen reliance on imports from the United States mainland.

Solomons to keep postal service

SOLOMON Islands Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Ben Gale, has announced that earlier plans to privatise the nation's postal service have been dropped, with the government deciding to retain control. The minister said the government was looking at ways to improve the service, including the installation of more private boxes in Honiara and an express mail service.

PNG gold edge for nationals

PAPUA New Guinea Deputy Minister, Akoka Doi, is leading a campaign within the government to restrict alluvial gold mining to nationals, with foreign companies able to seek licences only in partnership with PNG citizens. Doi has asked the Bank of Papua New Guinea to liberalise procedures for the issuing of gold export licences on the grounds that the present regulations make it hard for citizens to become involved in the gold industry.

Corruption claim in Pago

A FORMER acting director of the Port of Pago Pago has claimed it was losing up to \$US1 million a year due to corruption and inefficiency. Leroy Ledoux, who recently failed to get Senate confirmation as port director, is staying on as a special assistant to the new acting director, Sione Talamaivao.

He cited illegally stored containers, payment of less than full fees to the port authority, and ship supply companies operating on port property without licences as some of the causes of revenue shortfalls. He alleged some fees paid had not found their way into the port's revenue.

Firm takes Tonga air stake

AN American company is to become a joint shareholder with the Tongan Government in Friendly Island Airways, with Tonga-Guam flights being considered. In announcing the move, King Taufa'ahau Tupou declined to disclose the U.S. firm's name but said the company would finance a 50-seater Convair aircraft for the Fua'amotu-Ha'apai-Vava'u Pago Pago service. A leased DC-8 jet could link Tonga with Fiji and Guam.

The King also announced the government planned to buy land in Auckland. One property would be used for a government warehouse handling the transshipping of Tongan goods exported to New Zealand and as an assembly point for goods bound for Tonga. The other tract, of five acres, will be used to raise sheep, pigs and poultry for export to Tonga.

Lan Chile shares sought

IN a move which has implications for South Pacific aviation, Air New Zealand is trying to buy a 25 per cent stake in Lan Chile. The Chilean government is planning to privatise its national domestic and international carrier.

Lan Chile flies twice weekly between Tahiti and Santiago, using a Boeing 707 aircraft. Air New Zealand sees such a link as making possible growth in Latin American tourists visiting the South Pacific as well as increasing the profit potential for itself.

Such a move (the Chilean government is expected to announce the successful bidders by the end of August) would be another step in the dominance of the South Pacific by a few large airlines, especially now that Qantas has a substantial holding of the New Zealand carrier. This dominance has made it difficult for small regional carriers to break into the lucrative long-haul routes between major population centres.

TRADE WINDS

Fiji timber boost

FIJI Forest Industries, a joint venture between an Australian company and Fijian landowners, has recently signed contracts for a major expansion programme, including a sawmill, new kilns and a 23 km access road. The total cost of the expansion plan is about \$US10 million. The investment is being made to allow an increase of exports by about \$20 million a year.

Growers hit by coffee plunge

PAPUA New Guinea coffee growers are now receiving the lowest payments on record, a development which has been blamed on the fall in world prices since the collapse of International Coffee Organisation talks. The growers are urging the PNG Coffee Industry Board to raise bounty payments, and to force exporters to remit a greater share of export prices to them.

Meanwhile, Indonesia is attempting to increase its share of the world coffee market during the suspension of the world export quotas. Trade Minister Arfin Siregar has been reported as saying Indonesia would exploit the unregulated market and export as much coffee as it could grow under its low-cost production system. The country exported 160,000 tonnes last year.

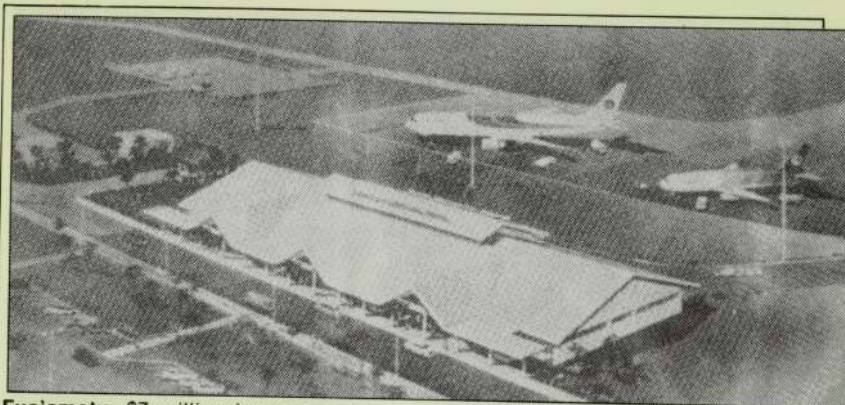
Tonga mission a success

FIJI Trade and Investment Board chairman Professor Asesela Ravuvu has declared a recent trade mission to Tonga a success, with sales expected of \$F180,000 for Fiji goods. He said the mission was overwhelmed by the response from the Tongan business community and several members were planning follow-up visits.

Stamp promotion urged

A MEETING of island stamp-issuing nations held recently in Suva has identified promotion as being a major problem facing the industry, and through the South Pacific Forum Secretariat the countries will seek out new markets, especially in Asia. Represented at the meeting were Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Western Samoa, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Niue.

Most countries in the region have been experiencing a fall-off in stamp sales, partly due to a general world-wide decline in the hobby and to what many commentators have called excessive stamp production, with Tuvalu, the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands having come under criticism from philatelists.



Fua'amotu: \$7 million improvement.

New terminal at Fua'amotu

TONGA'S international airport is to get a new \$T7 million terminal to be built with Japanese financial assistance. The building, to be erected on the opposite side of the runway to the existing terminal, is due for completion in August next year.

The two-storey terminal will have separate entries for domestic and international passengers, with conveyor belts and carousels to handle baggage, duty-free shop, conference room and VIP lounge. The building will more than triple the number of passengers now able to be accommodated.

Henry defends tax haven

COOK Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry has stood by his country's tax minimisation status, telling the recent South Pacific Forum meeting in Kiribati that he regarded it as a legitimate operation. Henry indicated he had no qualms about the Cook Island laws, saying that the publicity about Alan Bond's use of the country to cut corporate tax in Australia had made the Cook Islands a household name in Australia.

Savings and loan cuts

THE troubled PSA Savings and Loans Society is to close all its regional branches in Papua New Guinea and replace them with agencies in an effort to cut costs after losses last year of K1.25 million. Some employees would lose their jobs, others would be re-located, said caretaker board chairman Nick Bokas.

Solomons tag the tuna

WITH the help of the South Pacific Commission, the Solomon Islands Fisheries Division is involved in a tuna tagging programme to establish whether pole-and-line fishing and purse seining can be carried out simultaneously in the country's 200-mile economic zone. The study will show the growth rate and mortality rate of tuna, and whether more than the present 60 pole-and-line vessels and three purse seiners which are licensed for Solomn waters can be allowed to work the zone.

Air Niugini seeks new Airbus

AIR Niugini is seeking permission from the government in Port Moresby to acquire a second A-310 Airbus, as well as another F-28 jet. The national carrier took delivery of its first Airbus in mid-March. The airline has found the introduction of cheap internal air fares put the existing fleet under pressure and internal services were now experiencing frequent delays, it was reported.

UTA strike in Papeete

A WEEK-LONG strike of UTA pilots and its local subsidiary Aeromaritime-French badly hit the people of Tahiti in early July. It is the latest in an on-going industrial dispute affecting the international airline's air crew. UTA has been reducing its losses in the Pacific by cutting one of the four weekly Los Angeles-Papeete flights, and handing over its Sydney-Noumea service to Air Caledonie International.

Tonga joins fish pact

TONGA has joined other island countries in signing the fishing treaty with the United States, thus becoming eligible for funding of about \$US100,000 a year. Tonga's accession, signed by Labour, Commerce and Industries Minister Baron Vaea, means that American purse seine vessels may fish in Tongan waters. In return Tonga will receive a royalty for four years plus technical and economic assistance.

SHIPPING



Forum Line: servicing the region like no other.

Forum Line's making money

By Jope Balawanilotu

THE sensational days of Pacific Forum Line are gone — lost astern in the wake of three successive years of profit. Those were the days when the shipping company's knockers would have filled the deck of its first charter ship, the *Ai Sokula*. And they were the days when it seemed that bad news was good news to the media, says regional manager Ormond Eyre. Tags like "financially-troubled" were synonymous with Pacific Forum Line and they were used with monotonous regularity. They also turned into clichés. Before the financial year ending December 1985, there was every reason to believe the Apia-based Pacific Forum Line was sunk and beyond salvaging.

But 1985 recorded its first profit of \$WS3.6 million. A year later, it jumped to \$WS6.6 million then \$WS4.2 million in 1987 — the year when the South Pacific Forum islands nations experienced their first military coup with Sitiveni Rabuka taking over the Fiji government on May 14.

On the 17th of this month, in the Fiji capital Suva, Pacific Forum Line's general manager, John MacLennan, will announce to his Board that 1988 was not

only a year of performance for Fiji, but also for the shipping company. MacLennan will not say just yet exactly how much, but it's "a profit, in line with the three previous years".

The 1988 profit will further reduce losses accumulated over eight years since the Pacific Forum Line was established in 1977 (started operating in 1978) up until 1984. The profits of 1985 through to 1987 had reduced the losses to only \$7 million.

The knockers are silent including the fly-by-nighters who were around for a quick buck, says Eyre. The sensational stories against Pacific Forum Line no longer appear in publications. Neither do the good news, which only appear on the shipping company's brochures. The passage for Pacific Forum Line has been stormy and credit where it is due has not been forthcoming. Yet, it is one outstanding example of regional co-operation that has succeeded.

Historically, Pacific Forum Line was never to be. Originally, the South Pacific Forum agreed upon a regional airline, Air Pacific. But member countries, after agreeing to the concept, went their own ways and formed their own national air carriers. Fiji was left alone with Air Pacific. And because of the unsuccessful regional airline idea, Fiji cold-shouldered Pacific Forum Line when it was mooted, even though it had equity 'A' shares of \$WS10,000.

The bad days changed when Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara

threw his weight behind Pacific Forum Line. New working capital was organised and approved. It has taken fewer backward steps since the revamping drives of the early eighties.

The relocation of its headquarters from Apia in Western Samoa (which is east of the Dateline) to Auckland in New Zealand (which is west of the Dateline) meant a full five-day week; it also meant that better communications saw more efficiency and savings in the relocation of its Wellington office to Auckland and the closure of its Sydney office. Apia was turned into a stevedoring centre and naturally grew into a shipping agency, not only for Pacific Forum Line, but also holds major contracts for other shipping companies and agencies. The relocation also meant not having to deal with the hardening US dollar. Favourable money fluctuations both in New Zealand and Australia meant more substantial savings.

Pacific Forum Line got its first pat on the back in September 1981 when it was requested to manage the Kiribati and Tuvalu feeder service jointly financed by the Australian and New Zealand governments as aid to the peoples of those two countries.

The pat on the back was spine tingling to the loyal group of workers in the shipping company, most of whom had started their careers there and had experienced little else but kicks in the teeth. They were driven to greater heights of performance and innovation as they steered Pacific Forum Line into major acquisitions which saw the shipping company acquiring and establishing its own shipping agent, major shares in chartered vessels and bought its own containers with more funds from the New Zealand government, soft loan from the European International Bank and assistance from the European Economic Community through its Lome Conventions with the African Caribbean and Pacific communities.

In the face of adversity, due to industrial problems in New Zealand, Pacific Forum Line bought *Forum New Zealand II* from The Shipping Corporation of New Zealand.

Operational efficiency determinations saw studies in container holdings, fuel consumption and ship speed. Adjustments were made and unnecessary costs saved.

Re-routing services went onto the drawing boards.

Pacific Forum Line now services the region like no other shipping company has ever done.

It is steaming full speed ahead towards achieving its objectives to:

- ensure regular shipping services;
- offer a modern shipping service to encourage the economic development of the South Pacific region;

SHIPPING

- contain freight rates; and
- operate a viable shipping service.

With four ships — *Forum Micronesia*, *Forum Samoa*, *Fua Kavenga* and *Forum New Zealand II* — Pacific Forum Line is getting closer to achieving those objectives.

The purchase of its own office premises in Suva, the acquisition of Union Maritime's agency services both in Suva and Lautoka in Fiji, the growth of its Fiji staff from three to 27 and the acquisition of Akarana Freights in New Zealand indicate that momentum has not peaked.

The demise of the Daiwa Lines saw Pacific Forum Line moving in to fill the gap, also servicing New Caledonia and the Melanesian Spearhead Group nations.

Pacific Forum Line now links Micronesia, Polynesia, Melanesia, New Zealand and Australia.

Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua is talking about more trade with and amongst the Pacific Forum islands nations, continuing a swelling growth potential.

Pacific Forum Line is having its share of shipping Fiji's booming garments exports and booming timber and pine chips exports.

Jacques Sellam, a Frenchman of Tahiti

who has garments factories in Chicago, Chile and France, is talking joint venture with a Fiji concern for the European and American markets. It will give added volume as Pacific Forum Line eyes Asia, Europe and the Pacific-West-Coast of the American continent where it already has trans-shipment arrangements.

And there is more good news. The Pacific Way works. Those South Pacific countries which had sat back during the bad days are welcome to join and buy shares. General manager MacLennan confirms that talks are going on with the Marshall Islands to join.

Pacific Forum Line is indeed a pleasant irony. It is taking off from a regional airline idea which failed to reach the sky. □

Help sought for shipping

THE Fiji Inter-Island Ship Owners Association has warned the government its policies would lead to the collapse of the industry. Association president Leo Smith said private operators faced competition from government and military vessels. Better jetties and roads leading to ports were needed, he said. □

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. Sofrana Unilines operates a RoRo/container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. Vessels continue (as PAD Line) to the US West coast. Details from Sofrana-Unilines (Aust) Pty Ltd, Sydney, Tel 264 8944, Telex AA170090, Fax 267 6547. Sofrana Unilines, Noumea — Tel 275191, Telex NM3048, Fax 272611. Wiltrans Agency, Melbourne — Tel (03) 6144788, Telex AA30163, Fax (03) 6145909. Wiltrans Agency, Melbourne — Tel (03) 6144788 Telex AA30163 Fax (03) 6145909. Wiltrans Agency, Brisbane Tel (07) 8541855 Telex AA40712 Fax (07) 2524953. Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel 25141 Telex FJ2188 Fax 301572.

AUSTRALIA — SAMOAS — TONGA

Warner Pacific Lines operates a regular

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

FIJI
TONGA
KIRIBATI
VANUATU
COOK ISLAND
SOLOMON ISLANDS
NEW CALEDONIA
U.S. SAMOA
WESTERN SAMOA
FRENCH POLYNESIA
JAPAN . KOREA



RORO, CONTAINER &
B.BULK SHIPPING



AGENTS
and
PHONE

SUVA: Burns Philp (B.P.) 311777 Carpenter Shipping (C.S.) 312244 LAUTOKA: B.P. 60777 C.S. 63988 APIA: B.P. 22611 PAGOPAGO: Polynesia Shipping Services Ltd. 633-1211 PAPEETE: Compagnie Maritime Polynesienne 42 84 02 NOUMEA: Etablissements Ballande 687-283384 VILA: B.P. 2456 SANTO: B.P. 230 HONIARA: Sullivans (Solomon Islands) Ltd 21645 TARAWA: Shipping Corporation of Kiribati 26195 NUKUALOFA: B.P. 21500 BUSAN: for general cargo Young Chang Shipping Co., Ltd. 753-0451 for vehicle Pan Continental Shipping Co., Ltd. 778-7680 Soyang Shipping Co., Ltd 752-7755 JAPAN: for general cargo Swire 03-230-9245 for vehicle NYK Lines 03-284-5506 Mitsui O.S.K. 03-587-7123

SHIPPING

container service from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Apia and Vava'u with transshipment 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. Sofrana-Unilines operates a RoRo/Container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transshipment to the Samoas and Tonga. For details see above.

AUSTRALIA — NORFOLK ISLAND — LORD HOWE ISLAND

Sofrana-Unilines (Australia) Pty Ltd operates a regular monthly service with MV *Capitaine Wallis*. Details from Sofrana-Unilines, Sydney (02) 2648944; Telex AA170090 Fax 2676547.

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

Campagne 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 Campagne 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

better-known ports in the above countries plus a number of unspoilt, and largely unknown, island paradises.

Details from Sitmar Cruises, 39 Martin Place, Sydney (239 9000) for NSW, reservations and inquiries (008 42 2277); rest of Australia, reservations and enquiries (088 22 2277).

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS — VANUATU

A consortium of NGAL/PNG and CONPAC has four vessels operating a joint service from east coast Australian ports to Port Moresby, Lae, Alofau, 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.

AUSTRALIA — KIRIBATI

CCS operates a 6 weekly service from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Kiribati (Tarawa). Details from Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

CCS operates a direct service every second voyage to Tuvalu (Funafuti). Details from Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

CCS operates a monthly service from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Vila and Santo. Details from Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

AUSTRALIA — SOLOMONS — VANUATU

CCS operates a monthly service from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Honiara, Vila and Santo. Details from Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

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, 53 Martin Place, Sydney (223 6255), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents. Sofrana Europe Australia Line "Sofeal" operates a regular three-weekly service from North European ports including Felixstowe to Papeete from Noumea. Details from McArthur Shipping Agency Co. Pty. Ltd Tel (02) 5502222 Telex AA24045 Fax 5191382.

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 (423 466), 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, 53 Martin Place, Sydney (223 6255), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; 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 (312 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.

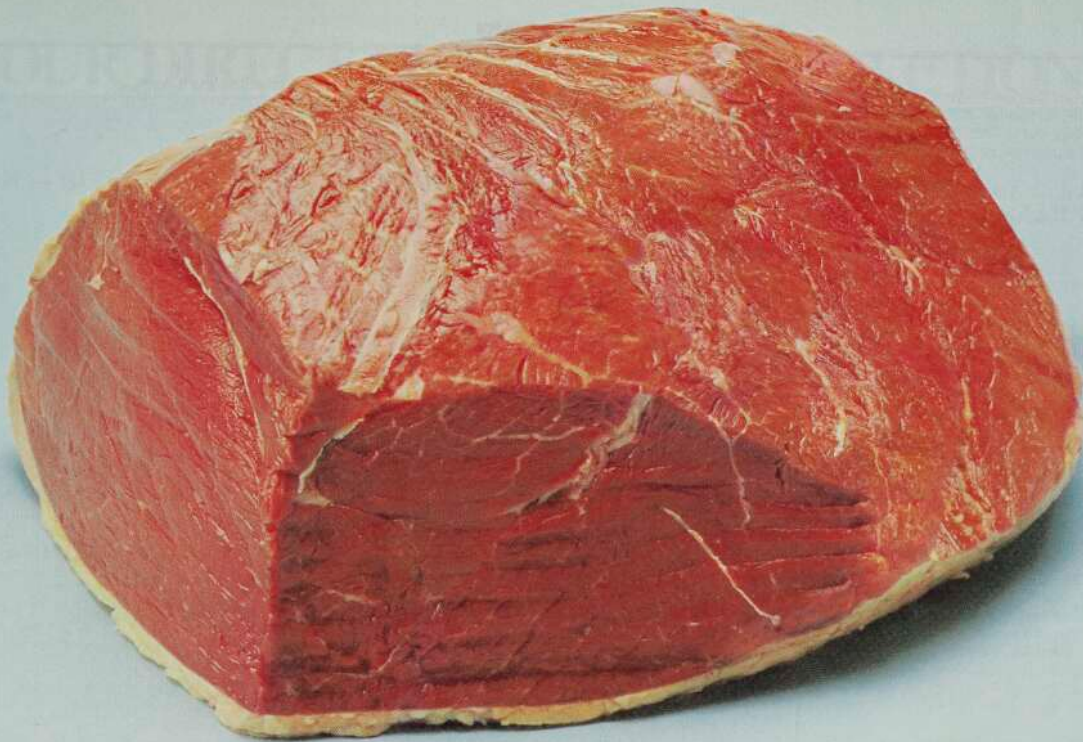
Details from Steamships Shipping, PO Box 634, Port Moresby (220 283 or 220 289).

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.



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ACTA PTY. LIMITED ACTA HOUSE 447 Kent St Sydney N.S.W. 2000 Phone (02) 266 0633 Fax (02) 267 1148 Telex 121369

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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 Citico 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 Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe.

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd., 51 Pitt St, Sydney (259 1000).

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

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, PO Box 8, Saipan, CM 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 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.

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 cargo 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, 53 Martin Place, Sydney (223 6255). 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, 53 Martin Place, Sydney (223 6255). Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. operates a regular three-weekly service from PNG ports to Northern European ports, including Felixtowe. Details from McArthur Shipping Agency Co. Pty Ltd, Tel. Sydney (02) 5502222 Telex AA24045 Fax (02) 519 1382 or from local PNG agents.

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.

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Details from Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd, Tel (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

NEW ZEALAND — FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18-day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Also passenger accommodation.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies, PO Box 3382, Auckland (771 2213). Tlx 60633; MV Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd, Private Bag, Suva (311 056).

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

Details Sofrana Unilines, (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.

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.

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Details from Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd, Tel (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

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.

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Details from Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd, Tel (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

SOUTHEAST ASIA — FIJI

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

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

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

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

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Hamburg, Hull, Dunkirk, Le Havre.

Additional ports on enquiry.

Please contact our regional offices for further information:

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53 Martin Place Telephone (02) 223 6255
Sydney NSW 2000 Facsimile (02) 223 6549



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P.O. Box 1667
Lae/Papua New Guinea
Phone: 42 3466/42 3287
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Telex: Colline NE 44 171

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COL0024

HEALTH

Tackling a problem in Vanuatu

VANUATU, one of the Pacific's youngest nations, is fast becoming a popular destination for tourists attracted by the country's largely unspoiled tropical splendour. What few visitors realise, however, is that behind Vanuatu's scenic beauty is a country where average incomes are around \$US570-a-year. Life expectancies at birth for women are around 30 years less than in most industrialised countries. Almost one in 10 children die in their first year, often because of illnesses that could have been easily prevented and inexpensively treated. Diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and diarrhoea are major problems.

Not surprisingly, one of the Government's main concerns since independence in 1980 has been to ensure adequate health care. But providing health services to Vanuatu's 80 widely dispersed islands, many of which have no roads or airstrips, is a massive undertaking. Around one quarter of Vanuatu's population of 140,000 can only be reached by boat. For many people in rural areas a visit to a health post may require a walk of several hours. What health services there are tend to be underutilised.

In 1984 the Vanuatu Ministry of Health asked the Save the Children Fund Australia (SCFA) to initiate a Primary Health Care Project. The Fund approached the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) to help. AIDAB agreed to provide over \$1 million under the Bureau's programme of assistance to Non-Government Organisations. The project was to help the Health Department provide services in immunisation, maternal and child health (MCH), nutrition and midwifery. The country had four Government doctors (at the time of writing) and a handful of private practitioners. Improving access to health care meant training large numbers of village health workers, midwives, nutritionists and nurses to administer basic medical treatment.

According to the Funds's programme manager in Vanuatu, Euan Lindsay-Smith, the project has taken a grass roots approach in order to reach as many people as possible at the lowest possible cost. A boat, the *M.V. Savinfana*, is used for transporting medicines, vaccines and district health teams to remote parts of the archipelago.

The project's grass-roots approach the health care is clearly evident in the sea of nutrition education. A national nutri-



Helpful line-up: health care workers involved in the Vanuatu project. From left: Euan Lindsay-Smith, Bernie Mott, Auguste Mallesie, Arnold Barrie.

tion survey conducted in 1983 found that almost one in four children under five years of age were underweight. This was due to a lack of awareness of nutrition and the importance of giving a variety of food to babies and children, rather than to food availability. A belief in food taboos for children and pregnant women is still prevalent in many areas. Women often work in gardens all day, leaving their children some distance away in the village, even when breastfeeding. As a result the children are often given food with a high carbohydrate but low nutritional content.

Because many women in rural areas have had little or no formal education, the project began designing posters, T-shirts and tea towels in the national language, Bislama, to promote the importance of good nutrition. Meetings are held with women's councils, agricultural workers and nurses in towns, villages and schools. Radio programmes are produced and courses held for nutrition workers. Even children who go to school are used to educate their parents.

Vanuatu's birth rate of over 4 per cent, the high level of infant mortality and an average life expectancy for women at birth around five to seven years less than for men, highlight the need for improving access to health services for mothers and their children. Material and child health adviser Eleanor Sullivan says they do this by providing what she calls a "well-baby clinic". "We are looking towards monitoring the growth and development of chil-

dren to ensure they grow up healthy. It's a preventive approach rather than a curative approach which tries to ensure that mothers have healthy pregnancies and that children are adequately cared for," says Sullivan. With no specialist obstetricians in Vanuatu and a shortage of skilled midwives there is an urgent need to ensure women have access to adequate antenatal care and skilled assistance during

and after delivery. The project has established a national midwifery education programme to increase the number of midwives and improve the quality of their training. According to Bernie Mott, the project's midwife tutor, maternal and child health services are becoming increasingly accepted.

While a healthy diet, access to midwifery services and an adequate health care programme are important in themselves, the project has not overlooked the need for a comprehensive immunisation programme to protect children from potentially fatal diseases. One of the project's main concerns, therefore, has been the implementation of the World Health Organisation's Expanded Program of Immunisation (EPI) against tuberculosis, polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. But achieving the project's target of 80 per cent continuing immunisation coverage for children under five years of age has proved a daunting task. Vaccines require continuous refrigeration to ensure their potency. Vanuatu has a hot tropical climate and the absence of electricity in many centres means that electric fridges and freezers are unusable.

A complex distribution system known as the "cold chain" for vaccines has been established to overcome these problems. Using a combination of gas and kerosene refrigerators, freezers and insulated carriers, the Health Department has been able to get a much wider coverage for its vaccination programme than ever before. □

PROJECTS

Charming customs

DON'T worry. Be happy. That is if you live in the Cooks, Fiji, the Kiribati, Niue, the Solomons, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, or Western Samoa and you have to deal with a lethargic customs service. CHARM (Customs Heads of Administrations Regional Meeting) in association with the Australian Customs Service, is bringing radical changes which include the Harmonised Tariff System already implemented in four of those countries. But if you are in Fiji, the Kiribati, Niue, or Vanuatu (where the Harmonised Tariff System has been implemented) and dealing with customs is still laborious and frustrating, then don't worry. Be happy. CHARM has found a way.

The fourth annual CHARM held in Honiara last June found out that generally managers and supervisors were not delegating their responsibilities. Alan Murray, an expert in the international section of the Australian Customs Service, says: "Part of the problem, certainly in some countries, is a cultural difference and it's not something any administration can change overnight." Fiji's customs deputy comptroller, Eroni Bale Raturaga, agrees that in his country's case the problem might be racial, but adds that there is no real evidence to support it, except for what is heard on the coconut wireless.

"If such a thing like that does exist, or did exist, then it's something that could affect the morale of the office," says Murray.

The manner in which CHARM has resolved to tackle the problem suggests where the problem lies. It will implement a vigorous training programme for managers and supervisors. Ignorance will naturally be taken care of and there is a fervent hope that the hermits will crawl out of their shells as they gain more confidence and feel more secure with the acquirement of modern management skills.

CHARM is four years old. It was called together in Canberra in February 1985 by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau to formalise a South Pacific Customs Development Project, of which CHARM is a think tank. The project's thrust and emphasis has been training, which (for the bigger part of the past four years) has been at lower levels of the customs hierarchy. Fiji, Kiribati, Niue and Vanuatu are the first to implement the more efficient Harmonised Tariff System of customs

and excise revenue collection. With the changes has come the delights of the world of high-tech and its appropriate training.

One of the immediate successes of the South Pacific Customs Development Project has been the forging of an enviable relationship between the nine members of CHARM with their counterparts in New Zealand and Australia. Free of politics and the stifling nature of egos they resolve to collectively battle narcotics trafficking through the ports of the region. An example of the co-operation forged through the project was the way Australian customs officials contacted Fiji immediately after finding a Fiji-bound shipment of arms in Sydney. Then there was the co-operation between Australia and Vanuatu customs officials which led to the May drug haul in Sydney and Port Vila.

How has CHARM struck such a rapport? "Our get together is just like a family," says Richard Mariner, the deputy comptroller who represented Western Samoa to the Honiara CHARM. "We openly reprimand each other and we also openly express our feelings towards each other, we criticise and help each other." Murray describes CHARM sessions as cordial, quite open, critical "and there's an honesty about it". The Australian International Development Assistance Bureau has responded with an additional A\$500,000 for the 1989/1990 work programme, which will be reviewed in Apia, where CHARM is scheduled for the second of May next year.

What does Australia gain out of this? Apart from stemming narcotics flow little else. For the island nations an efficient customs service means substantial increases in annual revenue. In 1985 the assessed collective average annual revenue from customs and excise levies was 42 percent of total governments revenue. In Vanuatu, where there is no income tax, customs and excise earnings represent 70 percent of the government's total annual revenue. In Western Samoa, it is 60 percent.

The impact in the revenue department will not be immediately visible. The South Pacific Customs Development Project's training thrust is earmarked to be completed by June 1991. When that time comes each member country will have had their own training unit established to ensure continuity and self sufficiency. By that time CHARM hopes to have harmonised training programmes, technical knowhow, standardise procedures and equipment, slow narcotics trafficking, improve security measures and provide a charming life for the people it serves. □



Barbara Luem: studying changes in Tuvalu.

Looking at the changes

SWISS anthropologist Barbara Luem has completed the first phase of a project to examine cultural changes in Tuvalu since, and in relation to, independence. Luem is on leave from the University of Bern where she normally lectures at the Institute of Ethnology. She has a three-year research grant from the Swiss National Research Foundation in collaboration with the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. Luem is associated with a research group which concentrates on Austronesian-speaking peoples in Indonesia and Polynesia.

The study will focus on things like national and parochial identity and its place within the Pacific region, decision-making groups, the urban drift and its consequences, the effects of changes in education levels, income earning capacity and its effects, and changes in family roles amongst other things. The Tuvalu project has been divided into three phases. The first, just completed, was a familiarisation study of the language, people and traditions, the main objective being to learn the language. For Luem the language learning was not so difficult because her doctorate studies, spanning 10 years, were based in a mountain village in East Java, Indonesia, and she found many similarities between the two languages. There she was studying ethnic identity.

She hopes to return and live in Tuvalu for about eight months to continue the bulk of her research. The third part of the project involves a further visit to Tuvalu for discussions with local individuals and groups before publication of the completed findings.

During her initial visit, Luem had consultations with the Ministry of Health and Education, church leaders, community elders on Funafuti and Nukulaelae, business people, representatives of development organisations such as Save the Children Foundation and United Nations Development Programme and the common people. □

SPORT

Rushing for the games

By Carrie Loranger

AS Tonga prepares to host the Mini South Pacific Games, one question keeps cropping up in the media, on sports fields, around the kava bowl: will the facilities be ready in time? The question is one that makes Montgomery Ahi nervous. As project manager of the company overseeing the construction of the track and field stadium, he knows he is cutting it fine with his

deadline. The stadium at Teufaiva Park Ahi's company is involved in is to be completed and handed over to the Tongan government on August 19. By the last week of July the facilities did not look like they were going to be ready for the kingdom's biggest show. "It's a tight schedule, but by hook or by crook it's got to be finished," said Ahi.

The sight at the stadium in late July

was one of Tongan, German and Tahitian workers transporting asphalt for the track, painting the grandstand, and laying tiles in the VIP lounge and changing rooms under the grandstand in order to finish the stadium on time. The hustle and bustle is not predicted to end until August 22, when the games start. Three supervisors from Balsam Company in Germany arrived in the second week of July to help Tongan crews lay the track. Three men from MCM company in Tahiti arrived a week early to oversee the tile work and painting in the lower rooms. The same rush was happening at the indoor gymnasium at 'Atele, where Ekho Lim, owner of Oceanic Industrial Enterprises, contracted to build the facility, was pushing his 140 workers to work day and night.

Even with crews now working from 7.30 in the morning until 10 at night at Teufaiva, Ahi admits that finishing on time for the presentation ceremony and the mini games will be close. Several options were being considered to get the work at Teufaiva done on time. The contractors have applied to the Government for permission to work on Sundays. "It depends on if the Tongan workers will do it or not," Ahi said. With only three Sundays left, it may not make that much of a difference, he added. Lim's crew was already working on Sundays at 'Atele. Another option was to extend the working hours at Teufaiva and have crews work all night. The third possibility was to bring in workers from overseas to boost the workforce.

Construction began at Teufaiva in February this year, but Ahi said that was already too late. "Tongans are not like any other people I've worked with," he said. "I would have liked to have started sooner." Construction at 'Atele began last November but record rainfall early in the year delayed the work. All the furniture and fittings for the Teufaiva stadium are in the country. There was some worry that grass would not be strong enough. Ahi said some work could be done after the games.

Meanwhile Tongan athletes were preparing for a medal haul. Out of Tonga's ten gold medal prospects in the 1989 South Pacific Mini Games, only four of the athletes were trained in Tonga. The United States Information Agency sent two coaches to Tonga in July to prepare the athletes, boxers and weightlifters.

"The Tongans have a lot of potential, it just needs to be developed," said coach Tom Virgets. But he warned that countries like New Caledonia and Tahiti have been training for the past two years, and will be tough. "The difference you'll see has nothing to do with the abilities of the athletes, it's the training," Virgets said. "If they will follow on (with training) they will be very successful in the next one to three years." □



TOURISM COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINERS 3 posts (Hotel and Catering)

• Food Production • Housekeeping • Reception

The Tourism Council of the South Pacific is proposing to form a team of regional trainers to conduct training within its member countries. These specialist trainers will be required to work outside of Fiji on assignments of six to eight weeks.

Applicants will require to have:

- A good education, preferably with a formal qualification in the field of Hotel and Catering.
- A high level of literacy and oral competence in the English language.
- A minimum of seven years operational experience with at least two at supervisory level.
- Strong personal characteristics which allow for flexibility, adaptability and reliability.

Salaries are awarded against a basic rate while in Fiji plus an overseas allowance and per diem while on duty outside Fiji. The overall salary package will be within the range expected at management level within the industry.

Persons interested are invited to submit a copy of their C.V. (Typed), along with a letter of applicant (Hand written). Applicants should state clearly for which post they are applying. Closing date for applications is August 18th 1989. Applications will be dealt with in strict confidence.

**Address to The Project Manager
Tourism Council of the South Pacific
G.P.O. Box 13119
Suva Fiji**

SPORT

Schuster's shoe shuffle

By Paul Moon

THE French rugby union team's recent tour of New Zealand not only confirmed the All Blacks as the world's top side, but also enabled the Kiwis' second five-eighth John Schuster to consolidate his status as one of the most exciting personalities in the game today.

Schuster played superbly during both test matches (won by New Zealand 25-17 and 34-20) and was the most influential figure on the field when his provincial selection, Wellington, downed the French 24-23. It is not only rugby fans in New Zealand who have been delighted by Schuster's progress on the world rugby union scene, for he was born and



On the ball: Schuster attacks against France in another exciting day for the New Zealand All Blacks.

raised in Western Samoa and it was in her colours that he made his international debut.

As his full name of John Nesetorio Schuster suggests, he has a German, British and Samoan family background. Born in Apia on January 17, 1964, Schuster attended Marist College and gained his rugby education on its playing fields and during impromptu games with schoolmates on the beaches of Upolu island. Schuster credits those fast and furious fun encounters with helping him hone his basic skills of ball handling, speed and agility.

There was never much doubt that he would become a rugby player of renown and follow in the footsteps of his brothers Peter (who has coached the Western Samoan national side in recent years), Fred (a New Zealand rugby league international during the 1970s) and David (who has played senior grade club rugby union in Sydney).

John first gained attention beyond Western Samoa when, as a 19-year-old, he played an instrumental role in his native land's victory in the first Three Nations tournament between Western Samoa, Tonga and Fiji in Suva in 1982. However, Schuster realised that Western Samoa, with its small population, isolation from the mainstream of international rugby, lack of top class coaching expertise and poor training facilities, could not offer him the opportunity to fulfil his potential. In 1983, he moved to Auckland.

Although Schuster found New Zealand rugby to be far more demanding than anything he had encountered at home, the young Samoan quickly made his presence felt in Auckland. After gaining a place in the Queen City's colts (players under 21 years of age) combination, he was, in 1985, chosen for an internal tour by the New Zealand Colts (the "Junior All Blacks"). But, attempts to win a place in the powerful Auckland senior side brought

him only frustration.

Beyond much doubt the best team outside test match rugby, Auckland regularly fields an entire team of internationals and gives very few opportunities for newcomers to break into its ranks.

It became obvious to Schuster that, in order to further his rugby career, he would have to play regularly at senior representative level and, to do that, a further move was essential. Therefore, early in 1986, he transferred to Wellington. In the capital city, Schuster immediately caught the eye of Wellington senior team coach Earle Kirton; a former All Black, a disciple of exciting, attacking rugby and a man with a rare ability to recognise raw talent and refine it.

Under Kirton's guidance, Wellington produced breathtakingly adventurous performances throughout 1986 and, due

in no short measure to Schuster's flair and vision in midfield, captured the National Championship. In 16 appearances during his debut season, he scored 12 tries. Since then, the player who is now popularly known as "Shoe", had steadily climbed the rugby ladder. In 1987 he received his first call up for All Blacks duty — on an end of season tour of Japan, but was chosen for neither of the tests during that trip. Early in the following year, Schuster gained further accolades after playing major roles in New Zealand's successes at the Hong Kong and Sydney sevens tournaments but for much of 1988 it appeared that he was destined for a long, and perhaps fruitless, wait for an introduction to the test arena.

Incumbent second five-eighth Warwick Taylor, a hero of the Kiwis' World Cup triumph a year earlier, seemed certain to retain his position throughout the foreseeable future and then, just before the third test of the All Blacks' tour of Australia in Sydney, he suffered a severe injury. Schuster stepped into the breach and capped an excellent game with an opportunist try.

After his exploits against the Frenchmen, Schuster can now be considered an established international and, in the opinion of many, is the world's best in his position. Exquisitely balanced and coordinated; even when in full flight, his side-step (now affectionately referred to as the "Shoe Shuffle" — a term almost as famous in New Zealand rugby as the "Ali Shuffle" was in boxing) can open any defence. In addition, he possesses an exceptional ability to read the game, a jarring tackle and pace in abundance.

One of Schuster's greatest admirers is his former Wellington teammate and subsequent rugby league convert Emosi Koloto. Recently, the big Tongan stated: "John's got size, he's got speed and he's got excellent timing. He'd make an excellent rugby league player." Koloto is not alone in regarding Schuster as a potential rugby league star and several prominent Sydney clubs have attempted to entice him to follow brother Fred into the professional ranks.

But, there is absolutely no prospect of this Schuster switching codes — at least for a couple of years. He has his sights firmly set upon rugby union's next World Cup.

Barring accidents, the insurance consultant will be a key figure for the All Blacks when they defend their crown in 1991. Hopefully, his name will be added to the list of Western Samoa's world champion sportsmen. □

'Exquisitely balanced . . . even in full flight . . . his sidestep can open any defence'

BOOKS

AGRICULTURE IN VANUATU: A Historical review By Barry Weightman. 320pp, published by the British Friends of Vanuatu, c/- 67 Beresford Rd, Cheam, Surrey, UK. Price in Pacific region outside Vanuatu: UK20.25 pounds, order from British Friends of Vanuatu.

Reviewed by Nicholas Rothwell

Yasur, that's my coffee

ENCYCLOPAEDIC in scope, engaging in tone, this first survey of agriculture in Vanuatu, formerly the Franco-British condominium of the New Hebrides, is inevitably a social history of the islands during the colonial era and the post independence period of the past decade.

Interspersed among its detailed assessments of crops and livestock, and the catalogues of the dismaying range of diseases to which they fall prey, are bizarre episodes of Vanuatu history. In this island country, the development of agriculture is equivalent to the development of the entire economy.

Poignant tales abound as Weightman weaves together history and commerce. One delightful example is the story of the first bananas to arrive in the New Hebrides. These fruits were the descendants of a plant observed growing in the British stately home, Chatsworth, by an observant priest, the Rev John Williams, who obtained several sample suckers from the Duke of Devonshire before setting out on a voyage to Samoa in 1838. The banana boxes remained unopened in Samoa until Williams' death on Erronmango. When they were finally inspected, only one sucker was found to have survived; but it produced a 50 kilo bunch of fruit, and was in due course spread throughout the islands of Vanuatu. Virtually every page of Weightman's compendium is salted with such vignettes, which lighten the passages of technical information, lending the text as a whole a certain compulsive quality.

The book itself is the most significant ventures yet undertaken by a small organisation of great energy, the British Friends of Vanuatu, now in its third year of activity. The BFV obtained the support of the Overseas Development Administration of the British Government, which supported the publication of *Agriculture in Vanuatu*.

The author was employed in agricultural and advisory posts in Vanuatu between 1968 and 1986, and has written a



The Wightman review: Poignant tales abound.

work that will be an essential aid for students and agricultural managers throughout the country — indeed, a supply of copies has been sent to Vila for distribution by various government agencies, and a further 100 copies will be on sale to the general public in the capital.

But *Agriculture in Vanuatu* reaches far beyond its immediate aim, and the author's quick eye illustrates the quirks of plantation era and condominium history. Weightman casts his net wide, including extensively discussions of the political and economic context of the nation upon independence, and delving into the narratives of the missionary period in order to establish the social importance of agriculture.

On topics such as the best means of ensuring the full growth of pig's double tusks, or the precise place of ceremonial feasting in the grade system, he is constantly illuminating, drawing together a wealth of source material into a succinct synthesis. Weightman provides a turbulent overview of the rogues of the first plantation days, such as Ross Lewin, "a violent man and notorious kidnapper", or James Proctor, "a wild and colourful character who had lost a leg fighting for the confederates in the Civil War".

The development of the two giant companies that shed their influence over the colonial era — Societe Francaise des Nouvelles Hebrides and Burns Philp — is followed up to the coming of independence. Today, all alienated land has reverted to customary owners, but in almost all cases, plantations that are being worked by foreign operators are

now leased from the ni-Vanuatu owners.

Coffee was a crop of choice for many of the early plantation figures, such as Lewin, who obtained a 100 acre plot on Tanna for some 25 pounds, during the 1860s, on the fairly reasonable condition that he leave the villages and kava-houses intact and assist "his" tribe in any quarrels. (This amble area was clearly not enough for Lewin, who soon afterwards was shot while encroaching on land.)

Late 19th century coffee planters could benefit from the extensive report presented to the Australian Royal Geographical Society by one J.W. Lindt, who thoughtfully included sections on such basic tropics as "How to get to the New Hebrides" and "How to choose land". Filtered through the fortunes of the coffee planting endeavour, which was, predictably, ravaged by cross-diseases, the history of a strand of New Hebridean life emerges into an intriguing new light.

Weightman is not above marking the old helpful suggestion for the marketing of Vanuatu crops; for Tanna coffee, which he hope will soon "satisfy the most discriminating drinkers in the cafes and homes of Vila, and we hope, win a name for quality in the world outside," he proposes this catchy slogan: "Yasur, that's my coffee."

He also includes a section on "non-traditional" export crops, in which pride of place goes to kava, Vanuatu's most unusual plant." As a drink, kava is valued for the sense it brings of quiet contemplation, relaxation and mild euphoria, though with over-indulgence the effects of sleep inducement and impaired locomotion predominate." Although suppressed as a "heathen" practice by the early missionaries, kava-drinking has now emerged as one of the integral social pastimes of Vila, and is growing in popularity through the archipelago. Weightman concludes that it is the one crop "which Vanuatu has an immediate prospect of developing and holding a controlling interest in the world market — it therefore deserves to be given high priority for research, development and promotion in the fields of production and marketing over the coming years".

Weightman modestly announces in his introduction that his work is not definitive, yet for the present, it serves as a magisterial guide to the history and the potential of agriculture in Vanuatu: lent additional charm by its revelatory illustrations of the life of the islands.

Both a labour of love and a storehouse of memories, *Agriculture in Vanuatu* is certain to play an important role in setting the priorities for the future development of the nation. □

PACIFIC PEOPLE

Woman of Politics

HILDA KARI: Member of Parliament, Solomon Islands

Hilda Kari was elected into Parliament in the Solomon Islands on May 24 and becomes her country's only woman MP. She is 40 years old and represents the North-east Guadalcanal Constituency. She is from the village of Bouna. Her election came after the seat was vacated by Waeta Ben who took up the appointment of Speaker of the House. Kari is married and has four children. She went through primary school education in the Solomons and did secondary education in Sydney. She joined the public service as an executive officer in 1970 and started a career in government that saw her promotion in 1986 to Senior Administrative Officer. She was working with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services when she resigned at the time of her election. Kari is the President of the Solomon Islands National Council of Women and a board member of the YWCA. She is strongly opposed to large-scale logging in the Solomon Islands.

Q: Why are you so strongly opposed to large-scale logging works?

Solomon Islands as a whole is only a very small country, and a very small productive land mass for a growing population. Because this is an island nation, once all the logs on the bigger islands are extracted, that's it. Not only wasteland is destroyed, but good productive agricultural land. Also, logging came in at a very wrong time, a time when we the true Solomon Islanders are not really aware yet to true and real beneficial developments. The children who will be adults of tomorrow will suffer from the results of logging. But most of all I oppose logging because it is nothing but a destructive entity.

Q: Who is involved in logging operations in your constituency?

The Korean Company called Hyundai Logging Company.

Q: How do you propose to run the logging industry in the area after you've removed the big operators?

I would prefer my people to go into small chainsaw operations, with timber milling by walkabout saws. I would like to see a group of chainsaw operators run a timber yard, as a business entity. The Government, that is the Ministry of Natural Resources, can assist them in how to bring about good export timber. But even locally cheap timber is needed to help boost good standard housing in our villages.

Q: Do you think your views should be adopted on a national scale?

Yes, for the purpose of involving our own people in the cash economy I think the Government should adopt my views. Nothing is too small or too big or even impossible if we put our minds to it.

Q: How should the government legislate logging in the Solomon Islands?

I do not like that word logging, at all. I would prefer Solomon Islands Government to allow small scale chainsaw operations. To open up a venue whereby people can be assisted with the best kind of chainsaws and walkabout saws. The Government then to find market outlet



PACIFIC PEOPLE



Export logs in the Solomons: " . . . children who will be adults tomorrow will suffer from the results of logging."

through the introduction of a big milling local company. I do not know how viable that is, but that will really allow cash flow right to the rural Solomon Islands people. Before it is too late Government should straight away stop all operations by all logging companies in Solomon Islands.

Q: Have you discussed your views with Cabinet?

No, but I have had discussions with our Minister of Natural Resources, who has asked me to prepare a caucus paper.

Q: You were disappointed with the poor turnout of women during the by-election. Why did they stay out in large numbers when women make up more than half the population?

Yes, there was great disappointment, as I was expecting the support from my women colleagues. But at the same time, many people also feel that it is too early yet to have women politicians in the Solomon Islands. Of course I do not agree to this so I had a go at campaigning. Although educationally, women still take minority places, as bad as one percent at university level. Politically I do not believe women have nothing to contribute. One cannot know what is on the other side of the mountain until you get there. It's the same as politics. Women

cannot discover what it is all about until they get into it. The biggest reason why not many women voted was that they did what their menfolk said. Culturally only the people who live in Honiara and other urbanised centres that see real changes, both in living standards and habits. In many villages men are still the rulers, sometimes so much so that women are nothing more than slaves. Besides that, I am happy to say that my constituency has paved the way. Both men and women saw the need for women to go into the political level.

Q: How can you and your government help women in the Solomon Islands?

The best way from now is through education. Girls and boys must be seen as equal beneficiaries to our nation. Government can help by aiding them financially in their many tireless activities. Rural Communities can be helped by women running projects such as sewing, poultry-farming, vegetable or supsup gardening etc., etc.

Q: What role can women play in the development of your country?

The most important role of women is to be a good wife, and mother, and that should be foremost. Also important to any nation is to become economical by using God given talents outside of the

home. Women now are liabilities in many ways, but through no fault of theirs. Many of the Solomon Islands will need to start to change their thinking attitudes towards women, so that she becomes a helpmate, rather than a dependency. Therefore through the education system women should be utilised at all levels and in all areas doing jobs that they never do before.

Q: On a regional scale, should women of the Pacific become more active in politics?

Yes, certainly. Why not? This had been stressed, too, during the last women's regional conference in Suva.

Q: What are the major problems facing women and family life in the Solomons.

The most incoming problem is finding ways and means to assist families within communities to develop their land in such a way that it can generate income. The other, which relates to this, is moving into the urban centres in search of jobs to earn money to meet needs of the family. The other problem that women face is finding baby sitters when a mother is a fulltime employee. Of course the other is having alcoholic-related problems.

Q: How can the standard of living in your country be improved?

PACIFIC PEOPLE



Smiling faces: Hilda with the family. Back: Goldie (left), Daisy, Ishmael. Front: Solomon Jnr, Solomon Snr.

First, and foremost, is for the people — through the government — to develop their land and other resources. This will help families, communities and Government economy. Through these developments, Government need to plan how to meet basic needs like water and food. Many people in my own constituency still drink and bathe in unhealthy water. The other most important area is to plan, develop and introduce sanitation facilities throughout the nation, and to introduce related laws. We must stop importing too many unnecessary high-powered machines and concentrate on people and what they really need.

Q: What is your country's most urgent needs in terms of development, health care and education?

I base these on people:

- Education — at all levels.
- Agriculture.
- Industries, manufacturing.
- Businesses by Solomon Islanders, both in Honiara and in the villages.
- Health.

Q: What type of business enterprise can the government develop for the people?

Running retail/wholesale shops, vegetable rootcrop shops, fruit manufacturing

factories, cultural shops for artifacts and carvings. These types that can be handled now with our kind of skilled people. Other more complicated ones can be developed depending on the outcome of our education system.

Q: What is your country's biggest problem?

To me it is the lack of seriousness by leaders. Also, this country needs to critically look at the way its public service works. That word 'public servant' has lost its meaning. Most public servants deal with millions of pieces of paper but what those pieces of paper say does not reach the grassroots. For example, if agricultural extension work really worked then the Solomon Islands should be thriving agriculturally. I recommend that Heads of Ministries — Permanent Secretaries — should tour villages and rural communities more often before they start to implement what politicians want.

Q: What is your country's greatest asset?

Our greatest assets are still our natural resources, on land, and sea. If we allow our natural resources to be extracted by other nations now, we are ruined. If we lose our natural resources then our children will depend more on industrialised, imported goods. □

The island Press

*Reports from the papers.
Compiled by John Carter*

JACKEY Edwin Tamasese probably came to near breaking a world record when he jockeyed seven horses to win in the Apia Turf Club races at Apia Park. The only race he did not win was the plantation sprint. Racing official Gene Paul, however, said this feat might have been repeated before.

— From *The Samoa Times*, Apia

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Miss Lino Tagalao Talafasi, daughter of Pinepolo and Opili Talafasi, received \$20,000 from her earpiercing ceremony last weekend.

Mr Talafasi said his daughter issued 130 invitations. While invitees have their share of the feast, the family expressed their appreciation to those who turned up to the occasion.

Talafasi said he is expecting more donations from families in New Zealand.

From *Tohi Tala Niue*, Niue Island

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It is somewhat alarming to hear the rumbles of anger that are coming from members of the public against our local drug pedlars. It is also disturbing to hear some of the names that are being associated with this evil pastime, especially when it is alleged that drugs are being offered to school children.

From *The Norfolk Islander*

A LONE Engan walked up to a parked car outside Wabag on Sunday evening and with a single blow of his axe chopped another man's head in half as he was leaning outside the window of the car.

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

FIJI is among the top 10 countries in the world with a high percentage of women smokers, according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) report. The reports says 44 per cent of women in Fiji smoke.

Following this disclosure, the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) has urged all women's groups to mount programmes to combat this problem and liberate women "from this economic and health exploitation".

The report indicated that the highest smoking rates among women were in the Third World.

From *The Fiji Times*, Suva

OUT TO THE PAST

Taming of the islands

THE early missionaries of the London Missionary Society are remembered in the Pacific for their role in the taming of the islands. Little, however, has been told of the Pacific Islanders, who having been converted themselves, wished to convert others. Here is their story, from the pages of Pacific Islands Monthly, July 1958.

WITHOUT the pioneering work of such men as James Chalmers, C.W. Abel, James Gil-mour, John Kemp-Welch, W.G. Lawes and others equally well known, the difficulties of pacifying the Papuan natives would have been far more difficult than it was.

Through these pioneers of Christian religion and education, magistrates, patrol officers, miners, traders and others were able to take advantage of the spade work already done. Following these stalwarts were the Revs B.T. Butcher, E. Pryce-Jones, Cabel Beharrel (who later went to Niue), W.N. Lawrence, C.F. Rich and E. Baxter Riley. However, none, or few, of their achievements could have been realised without the help of the Pacific Islanders, who having been converted themselves, wished to convert others.

The first missionaries had reached Tahiti in the year 1797, so that by 1870, some of the converts were willing to help in civilising the untouched Papuans.

When the suggestion was made known to the Niue natives they greeted the news with great joy and the volunteers were far in excess of the numbers required.

As however, the natives of the Loyalty Islands (of the New Caledonian group) had been asked first, it was from Lifu that the first eight native missionaries went to New Guinea. When the first meeting was called on that island practically very able bodied man and woman volunteered. The eight chosen left for their new work, and as soon as the news reached the native preachers of such places as Samoa, Rarotonga and Niue, they all offered their services. The Niueans were so anxious to be in the forefront of this movement that they had a ketch built, called it the *Niue* and presented it to the Society. This boat was still doing good service in Papua in 1914.

The great difficulty of doing a job of mission work in New Guinea was the lack of suitable land on to which to establish stations. The mainland was unhealthy, and the natives wild and hostile to all aliens, irrespective of colour.

The Lifueans sailed from their home on April 30, 1871, in charge of two veteran European Missionaries, the Rev S. MacFarlane and the Rev. Murray.

Their vessel was the *Surprise*, and after a most strenuous voyage, she reached Darnley Island in the Torres Strait on July 1. Darnley Island is almost due south of Goaribari Island, Papua, and distant hardly more than 100 sea miles, but although the progress of the missionary work was good beyond all expectations, Goaribari Island was still heathen, 30 years later, in 1901.

It was decided to make Darnley Island the first settlement and eight teachers with their wives and children were landed on the beach to start their task. The workers radiated from the new headquarters and worked on the nearby islands of Dauan and Baibai, all arrangements being concluded in a most satisfactory manner. But they were still not established on any island or part of New Guinea, and both McFarlane and Murray were anxious to extend their sphere of operations. The services of evangelists from Samoa, Rarotonga and Niue were enlisted and the success attained by these Polynesians was really outstanding.

These Polynesians were left entirely on their own, but practically civilised the whole of the coast of Papua from the Dutch boundary to East Cape. They suffered many casualties, their actual losses in the early stages of their pioneering work being 122. Some died of malaria, some from dysentery; others were drowned, poisoned by the arrows of unfriendly tribes; killed by the same natives with stone clubs. Others die from natural causes, but nothing held them back.

By 1894, 23 years after the first landing, there were still only seven European LMS missionaries in the Papuan field, whilst there were 106 native ordained missionaries, 35 native preachers, 1150 church members, 27 Sunday schools, 105 day schools, with 6860 scholars. The acceptance of Christianity by the Samoans and other Pacific Islands peoples, enabled the Mission to extend its pacifying influence in a most successful manner without the necessity of calling on too many Europeans.

James Chalmers' became a legendary figure in Papua. His attitude towards all natives was one of exceeding kindness and understanding. The success which attended all his efforts was remarkable, but he was over-venturesome, and this in the end proved his undoing. He refused

to believe that he could not go on to the island of Goaribari without meeting anything but kindness from the natives, but he and his companion, a new-chum named Tomkins, were clubbed to death at Dopima.

Robin, the native skipper of the *Niue*, had pleaded with Chalmers to wait a few days before venturing on to the Island, because the Goaribarians were making very "big feast" and would not tolerate any stranger in their midst at that time.

Chalmers took no heed but as soon as he and Tomkins were cleared of the *Niue*, Robin took what was left of his crew and heaved up the anchor, so that, if Tamate sensed danger and turned back, with the sails ready, they could sail out to sea without delay.

With the anchor almost on deck, Robin watched the progress of the two men, and saw that, as soon as Tomkins landed, he was clubbed and that Tamate being so close behind him, was unable to retreat and suffered the same fate. This put much fear into the skipper, and not having anything with which to beat off any marauders, he had the sails unfurled and with a good South-east wind, he managed to get well away before the dug-out canoes could get anywhere near him. He sailed into Daru and made his report to the Government Official who was there at the time.

There was much violent discussion about this awful crime, and then officers of the Territorial Government, raw and not understanding the native psychology made a mess of their efforts to bring the culprits to Moresby; or to bring about a proper understanding of the crime by the natives of the island.

Other outstanding early missionaries included the Rev C.F. Rich, of Fife Bay, who with Mrs Rich, did splendid work in the area from Samarai to the west of his station; and the Rev C.W. Abel of Kwato, where the men were taught boat-building, carpentry work and all trades which fitted them for the average job to be done in NG.

Most of the other white missionaries were to a certain extent successful, but could not be called outstanding. Some of them were quite satisfied to carry on where their former incumbent had left off; whilst others just did the routine job and called it a day. □

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