

Vol. 59, No. 21 (Oct. 1, 1989)

Date : 7/17/26, 4:35 AM

<https://nla.gov.au:443/tarkine/nla.obj-340371539>

Copyright varies by issue and article

Reason for copyright status: Serials have an open range of dates.

Copyright status was determined using the following information:

Material type: Literary, dramatic or musical work

Copyright status may not be correct if data in the record is incomplete or inaccurate. For more information regarding Copyright in Library Collections visit <http://copyright.org.au> and <https://www.library.gov.au/services/copyright-library-collections>

The National Library of Australia supports creativity, innovation and knowledge-exchange but does not endorse any inappropriate or derogatory use. Please respect indigenous cultural and ethical concerns.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

American Samoa.....	US\$2.50
Australia.....	A\$2.50
Cook Islands.....	NZ\$3.00
Fiji.....	F\$1.75
FS. of Micronesia.....	US\$3.00
Guam.....	US\$3.00
Hawaii.....	US\$3.00
Kiribati.....	A\$2.50
Nauru.....	A\$2.50
New Caledonia.....	CFP250
New Zealand..... (incl GST)	NZ\$3.45
Niue.....	NZ\$3.00
Norfolk Island.....	A\$3.00
Nth Marianas.....	US\$3.00
Papua New Guinea.....	K\$3.00
Rep. of Marshall.....	US\$3.00
Solomon Islands.....	A\$3.00
Tahiti.....	CFP\$300
Tonga.....	P\$3.00
USA.....	US\$3.00
Vanuatu.....	VT200-
Western Samoa.....	T2.75

*Recommended retail price only
OCTOBER 1989

Mara stays



Will he
get the
support?

**Inside: 8-Page
business section**



Honda maintains control when things begin to slip.

Our ALB Anti-Lock Braking system automatically pumps the brakes to help keep your grip on the road.

A sudden change in road conditions can challenge the skills of even the most professional driver. The situation often requires a split-second decision on how to apply the brakes.

Honda is always concerned about driver and rider alike. So we created an ALB Anti-Lock Braking system that pumps the brakes for you. Guided by computer, ALB helps prevent wheel lock-ups, especially when braking in wet weather.

ALB is just one of the many technologies we've developed to help you maintain control when it's needed most. Because when you can feel confident, then so can we.



Honda engines also powered the Honda Marlboro McLaren team to win the 1988 Formula One Constructors' Championship. This follows consecutive victories of the Williams Honda team in 1986 and 1987.



AUSTRALIA: Honda Australia Pty., Ltd. Lot 95 Sharps Road, Tullamarine, Victoria 3043/**NEW ZEALAND:** Honda New Zealand Ltd. P.O. Box 97-340, South Auckland/**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Toba Pty. Ltd. P.O. Box 03, Port Moresby/**TAHITI:** Honda Distribution S.A. R.L. B.P. 1665, Papeete/**KIRIBATI:** Atoll Motor & Marine Services P.O. Box 49, Bairiki Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati/**U.S. TRUST TERRITORY:** United Micronesia Development Association P.O. Box 235, CHRB Saipan CM 96950/**COOK ISLANDS:** Cook Islands Motor Centre Ltd. P.O. Box 74, Rarotonga/**GUAM:** Mark's Motor Co., Inc. P.O. Box DV, Agaña/**WESTERN SAMOA:** Motor Distributors (Samoa) Ltd. P.O. Box 576, Apia/**SOLOMON ISLANDS:** Lee Kwok Kuen & Co., Ltd. P.O. Box 537, Honiara/**NAURU:** Nauru Cooperation Republic of Nauru/**FIJI:** Coral Island Motors Ltd. P.O. Box 2052, Suva/**AMERICAN SAMOA:** Holiday Motors, Parts and Service P.O. Box 968, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799; Heleck's Service Center Ltd. P.O. Box 1138, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799/**TONGA:** Tonga Industrial Traders P.O. Box 1035, Nukualofa, Tonga/**NORFOLK ISLAND:** Duncombe Bay Garage P.O. Box 220, Norfolk Island South Pacific 2800/**VANUATU:** Honda Farm Ltd. P.O. Box 1031, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The fastest way there



is here.



Canada and Europe by Canadian. The fastest and most direct way out of Fiji. Canadian Airlines has been here in Fiji looking after passengers for 40 years. And there's no doubt that we'll be here for many more years to come.

Canadian
Canadian Airlines International



WILSON-ADDISON 81.854

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 59 No. 21

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

October 1989

COVER



THE two-year term of Fiji's interim government ends on December 5. In a not-so-surprising turn of events, post-coup PM Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara decides to stay on after striking a deal with military strongman Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka. Starts Page 10.

Cover photo: Mara, by Pradeep Maharaj, Ministry of Information, Suva.

THE REGION

Defence

A look at the frigate venture by New Zealand and Australia and its impact in the region. Page 16

Palau

An auditor's report shows how Palau is doing everything wrong and heading into heavy debt. Page 18

Nauru

The fall of Hammer DeRoburt, for the third time, does not seem to have shaken the people of this rich nation so much now. Page 20

French Polynesia

The visit of French Prime Minister Michel Rocard shows how closer is French Polynesia from the Cook Islands. Page 21

Cook Islands

Finally Geoffrey Henry is getting the Australian patrol boat — only after making sure he can afford it. Page 24

Hawaii

Legal loopholes are stopping indigenous Hawaiians from getting land. Page 15

Papua New Guinea

It was not the happiest anniversary that Rabbie Namaliu helped to celebrate as his country ended 14 years of independence. Page 23

Editor

Jale Moala

Editorial Adviser

John Carter

Contributors

Al Prince, Belinda Meares, Carrie Loranger, David North, David Robie, Diana McManus, Dykes Angiki, Ed Rampell, Frank Senge, Jope Balawanilotu, Karen Mangnall, Nicholas Rothwell, Paul Moon, Richard Dinnen.

Business Report

Robin Bromby

Publisher

Geoffrey Hussey

Advertising Manager

Lionel Heffernan

Business Manager

Charlotte Thomas

(subscriptions/enquiries)

Advertising Sales

- Fiji: Peter Prasad, Tel (679) 314111
- Sydney & Melbourne: Fergus MacLagan, Tel (02) 4123918
- Brisbane: Robert Walker, Tel (07) 3710533
- Adelaide: Hastwell Williamson Representations, Tel (08) 799522

Our editorial office is now located at 20 Gordon Street, Suva, Fiji. (PO Box 1167 Suva). All editorial material and correspondence should be sent there and not to our old Sydney address.



Cover prices are recommended retail only. Registered by Australia Post, publication No. NBP 1210. Copyright: Fiji Times Limited, Suva, Fiji.

A Fiji Times Limited Production. Founded 1930 (USPS 952480). 20 Gordon Street, Suva, Fiji. Telex FJ2124, Tel (679) 314111, Fax (679) 302011.

Pacific Islands Monthly (APPS No. NBP 1210) is published monthly by Fiji Times Limited, a division of Nationwide News, 2 Holt St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010. Second class postage paid to Honolulu, Hawaii, POSTMASTER.

Send address changes to: Pacific Islands Monthly, PO Box 2250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. Typeset and Printed by Fiji Times Limited, 20 Gordon Street, Suva, Fiji.

BUSINESS

A special mining survey shows that while Bougainville continues to worry big investors, there are good signs in other prospecting work in the region.

DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS	6	BOOKS	47
STAMPS	8	PACIFIC PEOPLE	51
OPINION	9	ISLANDS PRESS	54

TROPICALITIES

LETTERS

Japan and Fiji

WE Japanese find it very important that we should be more internationalised. The Japanese government is campaigning that more than 10 million Japanese should travel overseas for the purpose of internationalisation. What is "internationalisation" for the Japanese? When I look at most of the Japanese coming to Fiji, internationalisation seems to be spending money overseas or investing money overseas.

Since Air Pacific began its Tokyo service, the tourism industry in Fiji has employed coordinators specialised in dealing with Japanese tourists. Japanese tourists take it for granted that they should be served in the Japanese language and in the Japanese way. It means that the Japanese tourist does not want to be adjusted to the country where they travel to and that they expect the people of that country to be adjusted to them because they have the money. In this sense, internationalisation could be defined as Japanising the country by economic power. In Fiji, a huge Japanese multi-million dollar resort project has been causing trouble to the residents of the area.

I've been living in Fiji for nearly two years, and I have a lot of lovely friends. I love the people and the nature of Fiji. That's why I don't want to see this beautiful country and the life of the people destroyed by the economic power of the Japanese. I know how much the environment of Japan had been destroyed and so many innocent people killed by the heavy pollution caused by the process of rapid economic growth in the 1960s. I don't want to see the same tragedy in Fiji. I want the people of Fiji to study not only the success story of Japan but also the failure story.

Fiji is neither for tourists nor foreign investors. Fiji is for the people of Fiji who have created their own unique culture, language and custom. I have to admit that in this world, to improve the standard of people's life, economic growth is essential. However, if Fiji makes a wrong choice and emphasises economic growth and neglects the preservation of the environment and traditional lifestyle, than Fiji will be ruined, and controlled by foreigners in the future.

Fiji is for the people of Fiji; Fight to protect this beautiful country.

SHIGETOSHI TAKAGI
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers,
Town and Country Planning, Suva

Pearls

"PEARLS in Peril" (PIM June 1989) challenged the honesty of Mr Toma, the MP for Manihiki by reporting that he "maintains that the Island Council has a 30 per cent share in the Company, but a search of the company records in Rarotonga indicates that Yves Tchen Pan holds 95 per cent of the company." The register of shareholders is kept at the Registered Office of the Company in Rarotonga, and this shows a transfer of one third of the capital of the Company by Yves Tchen Pan to the Manihiki Island Council in September 1988. On the \$1.5 million invested by Yves Tchen Pan "from which locals derived ancillary benefits", those ancillary benefits totalled in excess of \$600,000 spent in Manihiki in eight months, which is quite substantial for a total population of 600 men, women and children.

The most interesting omission is the article fails to mention the Marine Resources programme was linked to a joint venture with an Australian entrepreneur, who the Island Council did not want operating in Manihiki for very good reasons. The offensive part of the article are the racial undertones in the portrayal of the Manihiki Island Council as just a bunch of natives, who don't know what they are doing.

The black pearl industry in Manihiki is one of the few success stories in the Pacific.

R W TYLOR
Company Secretary
Cook Islands Pearls Ltd
Rarotonga

Robie

I'M not quite certain when I began reading Pacific Islands Monthly. It must be more than 15 years ago. Those who chronicle the lives of peoples and countries in your vast area, become reliable, informative friends. One comes to watch for the bylines with anticipation.

Of these friends your pages offer readers, I can think of none finer than David Robie. Because I long ago served my time as a newspaperman and as a foreign correspondent to a weekly Mexican newsmagazine, perhaps I may be allowed to pronounce Robie a journalist's journalist. He is balanced, thorough and courageous, and he writes extraordinarily well.

GALAL KERNAHAN
Newport Beach
California

Paradise

My wife and children lived with me —
O, this was many years ago —
Beside a sunny tropic sea
In scenes my boys will never know.

Between the reefs along the shore
We swam, or waded through a gap.
The ocean was our only store —
Our island home, Elugelap.
A ship came to our land one day.
A white man in a navy cap
Persuaded us to go away —
And so we left Elugelap.
And now there is no trace of land,
Nor coral reef beyond the foam.
There are no palms, no hills of sand:
The seas have covered up our home.
Now, sharks and flying-fish abound
Where once we set our lobster trap,
And there remains no fishing ground
Where once there was Elugelap.
No-one can calculate our loss.
You will not find it on the map.
There is a hole, a mile across
Where once there was Elugelap.

RALPH A LEWIN
California,
USA

Penpal

I READ with great interest the request from a young man in Papua New Guinea for a pen pal in your October 1988 issue. I, too, would like to issue a similar request to the readers of your fine magazine. Incidentally, I had read your magazine when I was a high school student in Hawaii back in the 1960s, and only recently rediscovered it through a pen pal in Australia who was kind enough to send me copies of it.

I am a 41-year-old housewife, mother of four, still interested in corresponding with people all over the world, especially in the Pacific Islands. I have numerous hobbies and am particularly interested in writing to other women near my age, but will answer all the letters I receive from people of any age. Can your readers help me?

Thank you for maintaining the excellent level of quality of your magazine through the years and I look forward to hearing from some of your readers.

(Mrs) VIRGINIA C MCGAFFEY
11107 Rhode Island Avenue South,
Bloomington,
Minnesota 55438,
USA.

TROPICALITIES

LETTERS

Tanna and cargo cult

THE article *Waiting for the skies to open* (PIM March 1989) failed to discuss the possible causes and roots for the rise of the John Frum cargo cult on the island Tanna in Vanuatu. Frumism was and still is a result of several forces at work.

• **Traditional mythology and cosmic vision**

The island of Tanna has an active volcano. The volcano became part of the fear centred around ancestral gods and the creation of myths. These secular values and beliefs controlled and ritualised yearly events. The arrival of the Europeans was seen by the local people as a disaster which needed an explanation. But while attempts were made to explain the arrival of the "white people" during the war, the locals were never able to understand their presence.

• **Racist colonial attitudes**

The oppression and suppression of the people was challenged during the war. They saw for the first time there were a lot of different races. The American troops were friendlier than the early colonial rulers. While ideas to challenge the former rulers was creeping into the minds of the people, the return of the former rulers after the war was not accepted in certain areas of the country.

For instance, in New Guinea, the people of the Rai Coast saw the Japanese as liberators from the one time exploitative Germans and the Australians, who fled when the Japanese arrived. The people were left there to die. Why then should those who fled be allowed to come back after the war? The result of this was in many cases the rise of the so called cargo cults. I do not adhere to this word any more, as it is out of date.

Colonialism and the destruction of the traditional practices in Melanesia is the result of the work of the missionaries in converting the people to a new religion. The missionaries were the agents of the colonial rulers. They were the first to "pacify the people". They, however, did not realise that they were venturing into areas that already had their own religion and beliefs.

For many of the islanders the new religion was very similar in a lot of respect. Holy Communion, for instance, was the same as a ritualised "cannibal rite" of the past for traditional gods; the second coming of Christ was the same as waiting for the ancestors to return. (I am not implying this to be the exact meaning, but I am trying to translate the message of these Christian religious rituals into native language and make a comparison

to traditional religious ritual). The Ten Commandments were the same as "social sanctions" provided within the traditional order. In the case of Melanesians, if one breaks the rules he/she dies or revenge was taken. Thus, to avoid it one had to adhere to the social sanctions.

Then questions had to be asked: why was the Christian god giving the white-men a lot of goods and cargo? Why was the missionary preaching about living together in harmony with the people while they lived in better houses away from the village? Why were the foreigners fighting each other when they told Melanesians not to fight each other? Why were the traditional gods not giving the people what the Europeans had? With such questions, a lot of the people joined Christianity in order to have European wealth and learn the European religious secrets.

But Christianity did not answer some of the questions, resulting in a return to ancestral gods and in some cases a mix of the old and new beliefs.

The final question is what were the alternatives for the people of Tanna? To simply see it as people waiting for Frum to come back is a myth. Scholars should by now have given both the positive and the negative sides of these movements.

John Frum is traditionally (Kastom) inspired and political. Followers will make amendments and adjust to suit the changing situations in Vanuatu. These changes will be for the betterment of the people. Waiting for the skies to open is never the aim of the movement.

SAM T. KAIMA

University of Hawaii, Manoa

New Caledonia

YOUR article *On not going bananas in the Pacific* (PIM February 1989) brought memories of olden days when I visited New Caledonia. Journalists who reported the news on New Caledonia are not French nationals. They are strangers. They do not know about this country by gathering information from people who are not up-to-date with the situation in the territory.

It is unfair to compare the fate of the French ex-colonies, notably in Africa, with other former colonies like New Zealand, Canada, Australia and United States. You imply that France had left behind only hatred and humiliation while referring to Africa. I disagree with you if you compare the present situation of francophone Africa. French record is still the best.

In New Caledonia, I would agree that for a long time France is still looking inward. The real chance has taken place after the two elections, and the territory will expand its relations with all Pacific

nations.

The French government is trying to remedy this situation by implementing an elaborate plan of political, economic and social development. The majority of the ethnic population still prefer France to run the country to allow the population in 10 or 20 years to decide their own future.

Your article says that the French are lousy colonisers. I disagree completely. I think that other nations will soon realise how important are the French in the South Pacific.

The death of Messrs Tjibaou and Yeiwene left New Caledonia in good terms politically. Several thousand people converged and paid their respects.

ANNICK KIKIMIMI

Tomo Village,
New Caledonia.

Sources

UNDER *Vanuatu pioneer sought* (PIM March 1989) you published an appeal for information regarding Captain Ronald (or Donald?) McLeod. I have written to Mr Jenkins personally, suggesting sources of information, but his letters had reminded me that many people researching their Pacific Island connections may not know of the *Cumulative Index to Pacific Islands Monthly . . . 1935-1945* (Sydney: Pacific Publications, 1968), its successor, *The Cumulative Index to Pacific Islands Monthly . . . 1945-1955* (Canberra: Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, 1984) or the "Index to obituaries in the *Pacific Islands Monthly . . . 1945-1955* in *The PMB Book of Pacific Indexes* (Canberra: Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, 1988).

American Whalers and Traders in the Pacific (Canberra: Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, 1978), *The Catholic Church in the Western Pacific: a guide to record on microfilm* (Canberra: Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, 1986) and *An Index to the Quarterly Jottings from the New Hebrides* (Canberra: Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, 1988) while particularly useful for American or missionary connections, also deals with a surprisingly wide range of both notable and ordinary people.

The Bureau's publications and microfilms are accessible in the Bureau's Member Libraries or may be purchased by non-member libraries and individuals direct from the Bureau. Enquiries are welcome.

BESS FLORES

Executive Officer
Pacific Manuscripts Bureau,
Room 22-1 Block
Research School of Pacific Studies
Australian National University
GPO Box 4, Canberra, ACT 2601.

TROPICALITIES



STAMPS

Regional effort

A RECENT regional philatelic marketing workshop at the Forum Secretariat in Suva outlined policies regarding sales. One of the Pacific's prolific issuers, Tuvalu, reported on its bad track record of over-issuing and assured delegates that it was restricting future issues after being led astray by a contracted consortium for the past four years. The Pacific's other offender in over-issuing, the Cook Islands, did not attend. Others who attended were Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Fiji. Each bureau was aware of the need for a responsible issuing policy to uphold reputation. Even the Solomon Islands, licking its wounds from the America's Cup fiasco, was outspoken on this area. The workshop discussed matters relating to promotion, new markets, stamp designs, printing and exhibitions.

There was concern over:

- inefficient communication between issuing bureaux and customers
- lack of control over marketing due to policies of agents in the United Kingdom and the United States
- recent moves by Australia Post to cut back on its sales outlets, combined with a general lack of promotion of Forum Island Countries' stamps in Australia by this organisation
- costs to Forum Island Countries' bureaux of current agency arrangements
- recent official fraud investigations into activities of some philatelic bodies in the United Kingdom which could adversely affect Pacific marketing arrangements worldwide.

The workshop resolved to co-operate and consult jointly on all aspects of philatelic stamp production, marketing and publicity, and establish an annual Pacific stamp to be limited to two stamps per country and to be launched, where possible, at the World Stamp Exhibition, New Zealand on August 24, 1990, under the following principles:

- two values per participating country
- a common theme relevant to the Pacific

- common logo on stamps to be copyrighted for use only by approved countries
- themes to be planned up to five years in advance
- The 1990 Pacific Theme to be *Mail Service in the Pacific*

- design of first-day covers to be co-ordinated, and special postmarks to be designed
- Pacific stamps to be designed and produced in the region
- Pacific issues to be jointly marketed by participating countries.

It was also decided to work towards jointly producing a quarterly Pacific stamp bulletin to be co-ordinated and produced out of Sydney with printing and production to be subject to competitive tender, and to meet on an annual basis in conjunction with an appropriate exhibition, to discuss initiatives, strategies and on-going policy.

Unfortunately the delegates at the workshop were not decision-makers from their bureaux and could only make recommendations.

ONE hundred and seven Postal Administrations will be represented at *Stamp World London 90*, the international stamp exhibition at Alexandra Palace, London from May 3 to May 17. Countries from the Pacific region that will be represented are Australia, Fiji, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

New issues

Penrhyn

July 24 — First landing on the moon: 55c, 75c, 95c, \$1.25, \$1.75. Featuring scenes of the moon landing.



Norfolk Island

When Norfolk Island was closed as a penal settlement and the convicts were taken away in 1856, it became the home of the entire population of Pitcairn Island, who were removed to Norfolk Island in the vessel *Morayshire*, arriving on June 8, 1856. Subsequently a few returned to re-settle Pitcairn Island.

While Pitcairn remained a dependency of Great Britain, Norfolk Island became a territory under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. Recognition of need for change in the form of administration of Norfolk Island led in 1975 to a Royal Commission to enquire into the island's future status and the most appropriate form of administration if its constitutional position were changed. This in turn led to the Norfolk Island Act 1979, which established a Legislative Assembly to replace the Advisory Council System that had served for so long. On August 10, 1979 the first Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly held its inaugural meeting.

To commemorate the successful completion of 10 years progress in internal self-government, four postage stamps were issued on September 1. They feature the Norfolk Island flag (41c); a ballot box that has seen nearly a century of use (55c); the Norfolk Island Act 1979 (\$1.00), and the Armorial Ensigns for Norfolk Island (\$1.10).

September 1 — Aerogramme issue no 6 Parts 1 and 2: 41c and 60c. Mutiny on the Bounty.

September 25 — 75 Years of Red Cross in Norfolk Island: \$1 Red Cross at work.

Aitutaki

July 28 — 20th anniversary of the moon landing: 75c, \$1.15 scenes featuring the moon landing, \$1.80, \$6.40 miniature sheet.

Niue

July 20 — 20th anniversary of the moon landing: \$1.50 x 3 featuring scenes of the landing, \$1.15 souvenir sheet.

Samoa

July 31 — birds definitive part 3: \$10 Common Fairy Tern, \$20 Shy Albatross.

Tuvalu

July 31 — living reef part 3: 40c Pen-nart Corallfish, 50c Aremone Fish, 60c Batfish, 90c Threadfin Corallfish. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

OPINION

Who's our man?

IT'S that time of the year again when the phone rings and people ask: who will be the Pacific Man of the Year? Mara? Ona? Lange? It's still anyone's race. The field, however, is getting smaller. In the end it won't be easy. It's hard to pick a winner in a field of favourites.

How do you pick a Pacific Man of the Year? There are no set rules. What wins most credit is news impact. A few names come to mind:

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, interim prime minister of post-coup Fiji, has led his country back from the brink of economic disaster into an envious position in the Pacific Islands. Such a remarkable achievement puts him high up on the list of those still in the race.

Francis Ona will never win a medal in Papua New Guinea. But his rebellion in the jungles of Bougainville has focussed world attention on his country. He might be a fugitive but he has certainly been news most of this year.

Philip Muller, director of the Forum Fisheries Agency, has succeeded in bringing world attention to the use of driftnets in the South Pacific tuna fisheries.

Rabbie Namaliu, as Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, probably has the most difficult job in the region. A rebellion, two assassinations, and a shaky economy have brought out the best in him. He is tough.

Not many leaders voluntarily give up power to bring unity to his party. David Lange did as Prime Minister of New Zealand. And in doing so he's won more friends.

Does it need to be a man? No. We can have a Pacific Woman of the Year. But who? □

FIJI: Distribution, subscriptions and advertising: Fiji Times Limited, GPO Box 1167, Suva, Fiji. Phone 31-4111, telex FJ2124

FRENCH POLYNESIA: Distribution: Hachette Pacifique 10 Ave Bruat, Papeete. Phone 25-610

HAWAII: UNITED STATES: Distribution: PIM Hawaii, PO Box 22250, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822. Advertising: Brian C Asgill, Apt 1308, 1676 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii, 96815. Phone (808) 955-9718

JAPAN: Advertising and subscriptions: Universal Media Corporation, GPO Box 46, Tokyo. Phone 666-3036, cable UNIMEDIA Tokyo, telex 2524665

MALAYSIA: Advertising and subscriptions: Worldwide Media Services, 57 B Komplek Damai, Jin Dato Haji Eusoff, Kuala Lumpur. Phone 63-9340, cables WORLDMEDIA Kuala Lumpur, telex 31533

VANUATU: Distribution: The Vanuatu Stationery and Book Centre, PO Box 557 Port Vila. Advertising: Norman Bros Bookshop, Port Vila. Phone 2232

NEW CALEDONIA: Distribution: Depot Centre de Presse Michel Pentecost CBP2, Noumea. Phone 27-2434, 27-4729

NEW ZEALAND: Distribution: Gordon & Gotch, PO Box 584, 2 Carr Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland 4. Advertising: McKay International Media Reps Ltd, C/- Albany, PO Box 8, Auckland 10, New Zealand. Phone 419-0561, Fax 419-2243

WELLINGTON: Ross Quaid Media, 1 Scholes Lane, Petone. (04) 68-7593. PO Box 38699, Petone

PAPUA NEW GUINEA: Distribution: Gordon & Gotch, PO Box 3395, Port Moresby. Phone 25-4551, 25-4855. Advertising: Robert Walker, PO Box 600, Indooroopilly, Qld Australia 4068. Phone (07) 371-0533

SOLOMON ISLANDS: Distribution and Advertising: The Bookshop, (Norman Bros.) PO Box 503, Honiara

PHILIPPINES: Advertising: The GF Group, 12 San Ignacio St., Uroaneta Village, Makati, Metro Manila. Phone 817-7299, telex 45950 and 4233

UNITED KINGDOM: F A Smyth and Associates, 23A Aylmer Parade, London N20 0PO, England. Phone (01) 340 5088, fax (01) 341 9602

UNITED STATES MAINLAND: Advertising: Joshua B. Powers Jr., Powers International Inc., Suite 708, 271 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. Phone 867-9580. Subscriptions: PIM, Hawaii, PO Box 22250, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822

SUBSCRIPTIONS

American Samoa	US\$45
Australia	AUS\$30
Canada	US\$45
Cook Islands	AUS\$46
Fiji	F\$24
French Polynesia	US\$45
Guam	US\$45
Hawaii	US\$45
Japan	US\$38
Kiribati	AUS\$46
Micronesia	US\$35
Nauru	AUS\$42
New Caledonia	US\$32
New Zealand	AUS\$42
Solomon Islands	AUS\$46
Tonga	AUS\$46
Tuvalu	AUS\$46
United Kingdom	Stg £28
US (Mainland)	US\$45
Vanuatu	US\$42
Western Samoa	AUS\$60
Elsewhere	US\$63

Payments to Pacific Islands Monthly: Subscriptions Dept, GPO Box 1167, Suva, Fiji.
Subscriptions rates includes the cost of airspeeding to all destinations set out above. Direct airmail rates on application.

COVER



Taking a rest: Mara and his wife, Adi Lady Lala, board a government ship in Suva for a break in the village.

Who's on Mara's side

Fiji continues to rebuild from the military coups of 1987. The economy is growing. The only major worry is the new constitution. With Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara staying as leader, there seems to be hope.

By Jale Moala

RATU Sir Kamisese Mara's decision to stay on as Fiji's interim Prime Minister was just as soothing to Fiji's million-dollar investors as it was to many Indians. Both communities, fearing the radicalism of the military strongmen, see the 69-year-old Mara as the stabilising force in a country still uncertain about its political future. The fear that coup leader Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka would march back into control was always in danger of causing the economy to overheat. For the Indians, the army was always a threat and the publication of a report late last month in which the army called for radical changes favouring the indigenous Fijians seemed to justify their suspicion of the military.

Mara's decision was announced by *Australian Associated Press* after Mara,

Rabuka and the President, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, met in Suva on September 28. A statement from Government House that evening said the President "had prevailed" over Mara to continue as head of government after his two-year term expires on December 5. Mara told AAP he accepted with conditions based on the trimming of Rabuka's power both as a military leader and as a Cabinet minister. It was an about-turn for Mara who announced last May his desire to retire from politics and go home to his people in the Lau Group of islands. Even when *Pacific Islands Monthly* asked him on September 18 if there was anything that could change his mind, Mara said: "I have no wish to continue ... Nothing can change my mind. I've had enough."

After falling to the precipice of disaster in 1987, Fiji's economy picked up growth during Mara's term of office.

The Asian Development Bank predicts a growth of at least two to three per cent this year and next year. The growth rate in 1987, the year of Rabuka's two military coups, had dropped to a negative eight per cent. But a significant turnaround in 1988, when Mara was back in office, saw the economy growing by two per cent.

Mara must be basking in the comforting thought that the economic security he seems to provide will bring him the friends he needs for an extended term in office. Obviously the business community have been overjoyed, particularly that Mara made his announcement three days after the publication of the army report which said some multinationals like Burns Philp was having it "too good for too long at our expenses". That army report, presented by Rabuka to Mara and Ganilau in May, was a billboard of anxiety for the Indian community. Poli-

cians and diplomats were alarmed by the report which called for the expulsion of the Indian ambassador and the Australian defence attache and a shift in defence agreement to Asian countries.

It was clearly evident that given the choice on who to choose, most people would pick Mara, even if many would not agree with his politics. An example was the Indian businessman who met his board of directors on September 25 to discuss an expansion programme in Suva. During the meeting, they received a faxed copy of the army report which was published by the *Australian Financial Review* that day. The businessman said the arrival of the report immediately changed their attitude towards investing a large sum of money in Fiji. Suspecting that the army would be back in power in December, the group retired from their meeting without making any firm decision. Mara's announcement three days later relieved the pressure.

While Mara is undoubtedly winning friends because of his economic policies, he will continue to be wary of his political foes. The National Federation Party/Labour Coalition has refused to accept his role, calling instead for direct participation in the formulation of the new constitution. President Dr Balwant Singh Rakka, speaking in the absence of Dr Timoci Bavadra, rejected Mara's continued leadership and said it was Mara's endorsement of a racially-biased draft constitution. Rakka's praises were directed at deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra who during the time of writing was being treated in Auckland for cancer of the spine which one source said was probably malignant. Mara, too, has big health problems. He said he had three heart attacks in the past two years and his doctor advised him to rest regularly.

When Mara took office on December 5, 1987, he did so with caution. He knew the coup had made him unpopular among Indians, and to some extent among Fijians. He therefore did not make too many changes to the 20-member Cabinet he inherited from Rabuka's military government. Notable was his dismissal of Fijian Nationalist Party leader Sakeasi Butadroka and Taukei Movement strongman Ratu Meli Vesikula whom he said "were openly hostile" to him. This December he is expected to cut the size of Cabinet. Who will go is a guessing game. But men like Deputy Prime Minister Josevata Kamikamica, Trade Minister Berenado Vunibobo, Tourism Minister David Pickering, Works and Communications Minister Apisai Tora and Education Minister Filipe Bole will form the core of the new government. They will be the men Mara will rely on as he continually takes those holidays prescribed by his doctor. □

Fijians get the numbers

THE report on Fiji's proposed new constitution has suggested a bicameral legislature, numerical superiority for the Indigenous Fijians and more power to the chiefs. "It is certainly not going to please everyone," said *The Fiji Times* the day after the report was released, "but the committee, working within its term of reference, has presented a compromise package that it hopes will be acceptable to all the different communities."

The proposal is for a 69-member communally-elected House of Representatives comprising of 37 Fijians, 27 Indians, four General Electors (or others) and one Rotuman. Thirty of the Fijian members are to be elected from the provinces and seven from the urban centres. Elections are to be held every four years instead of the five-year life of Parliament practised before the military coup of 1987.

The report, by the Constitutional Inquiry and Advisory Committee (CIAC), elevates Fijian chiefs to a position of power by making the Upper House the Senate of Chiefs. It is to have 34 members, 24 of whom will be Fijian chiefs appointed by the President on the advice of the Great Council of Chiefs. The 10 other members will be appointed by the President, one of whom will be a Rotuman appointed on the advice of the Rotuma Island Council. The other nine members will be appointed by the President from the other racial communities with the President making the appointments according to his "own deliberate judgment".

In submissions received by the Constitutional Inquiry and Advisory Committee, Fijians repeatedly expressed the fear that their already disadvantaged social and economic position and prospects would deteriorate further "unless constitutional changes were made and affirmative actions were taken to redress the situation in their favour".

"Indians were generally united in their view that the fear expressed by the Fijians that they would be dominated by them in the future was groundless," said the constitutional report. They argued that the present social and economic problems of the Fijians resulted from the development policies implemented by the Alliance Party which ruled Fiji from independence to 1987. Most Indian submissions argued against increasing Fijian membership in parliament as being the solution to Fijian problems. They say the

remedy could be found in raising the Fijian level of motivation, individual attitude and dedication "to the improvement in their education, commercial entrepreneurship, and in engaging themselves in productive activities".

Overall, Indians called for equality through the "urgent need to reach consensus on a new constitution based on democratic ideals of liberty, personal freedom and equality". The Indian view was supported by the National Federation Party-Labour Coalition which urged the return to pre-coup constitution. This was totally rejected by the Fijian Nationalist Party whose leader Sakeasi Butadroka had in the past called for the expulsion of Indians from Fiji. The party submitted an eight-point proposal that it wanted to be part of the new constitution. These include giving the indigenous Fijians 75 per cent control of Parliament.

The report is a watered down version of the draft constitution released by Cabinet early this year. Changes include the proposal for a bicameral system instead of a single chamber parliament proposed by the draft. The report also spoke against the Commander of the Fiji Military Forces being an automatic Member of Parliament and becoming Minister responsible for security. The committee believes "that for proper accountability between legislative and executive arms of government, the ministerial and executive responsibilities of government should not be fused in one person."

Many saw the draft constitution as giving too much power to the army, and encouraging religious bias. The September report notes that many were uncomfortable with reference to Christianity in the preamble and section one of the draft. It proposes then that Fiji should be a sovereign democratic republic, omitting the word "Christianity". Says the report: "Recognition should be given to the historical role of Christianity but religious freedom and worship should be guaranteed to people of all faiths." Also of comfort to many was the rejection of any power given the Minister for Immigration to cancel the citizenship of a person, it is suggested instead that citizenship should only be revoked by a two-thirds vote in parliament.

Generally, the report won the support of the Fijians and failed to have that of the Indians. *The Fiji Times* sums it up by saying the Fijians, "will accept nothing short of paramountcy in any political system. The leaders of the Indian community should take a hard, serious look at the committee's proposals before rejecting them outright." In Fiji, the question is: Are the Indians willing to do that? □

What do the Fijians want?

*IN announcing his intention to continue as Fiji's interim Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara will now be judged by indigenous Fijians on how best he is able to safeguard their interests. But the Fijians have a problem, as Mara told **Jojo Balawanilotu** last month:*

• **Mara on the indigenous Fijians and what they want:**

I'm quite happy with what has been done. To say that I have caused the degradation of the Fijians is really trying to avoid the real issue. The Fijians themselves have got to pick themselves up from the bootstraps that they now wear.

I don't think anyone can help the Fijian people as a whole, entirely. They are crying about the achievements of the Indians. Why can't they achieve the achievements of the Indians? It is very difficult to explain to them that you've got to change what you hold dear to you — your customs and traditions — in order to be like the Indians. I think what can be done is for Fijians to strive as *Yavusa* (communal divisions) or provinces, if possible, to get ahead. And there ought to be a friendly rivalry.

I have been accused by (Fijian Nationalist Party leader Sakeasi) Butad-roka and the nationalists that I've let the Fijians down. It's not as if the Fijians were puppets and I just pull the strings and they work. No one can do that. The Fijians themselves have got to realise and find out what they can do.

I was one of the first five (Fijians) to own cars when I first came back (from overseas studies) in 1950. Look at the number of Fijians who own cars today. Look at the phone books from the 1950s onwards. You'll find a few Fijians who had telephone at the time compared to the large number of today. Yet people are still complaining that we have not progressed, that we have gone downhill.

• **On the draft constitution:**

The draft constitution may not be the ideal constitution but what would be the ideal constitution? There are over 150 nations in the United Nations (and) they all pronounce to the world that they are democratic governments and we all know that they are not the same. We have now a draft. From my own perusal of the draft, I have no quarrels over it at all. I must say they've done a very, very good job. The very fact that they came out unanimous in their report is an achievement. There are actually six Indians, supposed to have been seven Fijians but one, Rakoto, left half way through to become the Consul General in Sydney, one Chinese and three other general



On the job: Mara (and son Ratu Finau, left) with Japanese businessman.

electors (in the Constitutional Inquiry and Advisory Committee).

I found from the report that they had reasons for the decisions they've made and I learned afterwards that they're prepared to stand up in any meeting to explain the reasons why they've made them. I commend each and everyone of the those members of the committee, especially the leader because it must be his leadership that kept the group together and came out as one in the end.

As I've said I have no quarrels with their recommendations.

I really think that in the previous Constitution, if the Fijians were united there wouldn't be any trouble. There was division then, and if there is going to be division even with a majority there will be a problem.

With the assumption that the draft constitution is approved as amended by the committee, it will take a year for an election to take place. And my wish and hope is that we agree to that and have a 10-year period in which we practise the constitution and we have another review

at the end of 10 years and that perhaps every 10 years we should have a review.

No constitution in itself is perfect. If it is the will of the people to live together and work out a constitution for the benefit of all, that will be beneficial to the people.

• **Mara on the constitutional summit:**

These people have already spent eight months receiving individual's oral and written submissions. They've gone around and looked at groups. Haven't they combed Fiji? What else can we get out of a summit? I thought they've done their work so well to eliminate the need of a summit and all it has to do is from Cabinet to the President to the Council of Chiefs, and promulgate it.

• **Mara on his involvement in post-coup governments:**

When I lost the election in '87 I stated that I supported the process of democracy then. I vacated my office and I moved in to the Opposition and I had thought that my period in the Opposition is a period of preparation to actually retire from politics. I think I've had a good innings.

The coup took place and I was alleged to be the mastermind. I didn't know anything about it. I came because what I had built up over the 17 years was at risk of being destroyed. I wanted to come and keep it together.

After, there was a long period of great uncertainty — the period in which the (Governor-General) took over as leader and we were advisors, but we didn't quite know where we stood at the time. My advice was not taken up as I would have expected. It was a disappointing period.

And when Rabuka took over (again) it was quite a relief. At least someone knew what he was going to do because we were all uncertain. We thought we were going to be in the Commonwealth and I took a trip to the UK to find out whether it was still possible or not and I found out it wasn't. So I said to myself: thank God for that, someone is going to map out the future of Fiji, good luck to them.

I then, quite frankly, didn't quite know where I stood at the time. I still had security around the house I was given. No one told me that I was completely out. I didn't know whether I was actually restricted, so to speak, to my residence and for two months I didn't quite know where I stood. Then after two months the period of the military government came to an end, suddenly, and the President took over. The President asked me to lead a government. I was in Lau when the announcement was made. I then took it up as a challenge.

I had a number of Cabinet Ministers who were there and I didn't want to

COVER

create animosity right from the very beginning. I thought I could make do with all who were there accept some who were openly hostile to me — (Sakeasi) Butadroka for one and (Ratu Meli) Vesikula for the other. They said openly during their short period how incapable I was and I was to be blamed for all that has caused the dissatisfaction of the Fijians. But I took on the Cabinet that I (have) now and decided at the time that unless we have a clear objective we wouldn't get anywhere.

The greatest priority as I saw then was the recovery of the economy — not only for the sake of the people who had lost their jobs and the people who aspire to get jobs, but one of the greatest causes of dissatisfaction that caused the coup was the fact the Fijians didn't think that they have a fair share of the cake. And now the thing to do is to increase that cake, even though the period is very short. And the other, of course, is get a constitution — a draft constitution. Under the circumstances it looked very difficult and looked almost impossible.

During those two years I actually had three heart attacks. Fortunately I had treatment in Australia and I found as the tension began to resolve I was able to survive. The doctor told me, and I believe that it was the tension that caused the heart attack. And I was told at the time if you want to work you work for two months you take 10 days, two months take 10 days. I was very happy with that sort of timetable, but it was impossible. You can't control events for up to two months and then you let go. So that was how the heart attacks came on.

But because of the sense of emergency that was instilled into the Cabinet, they did do their job. Everyone must be commended for what they've done. Some of them also had health problems in endeavouring to carry out their duties, but I think we've all been very satisfied now that the economy has shown to be not only recovered but even better than it was in 1986, and there is a draft constitution.

• **Mara on the Fiji Military Forces:**

I would like to see them go back to barracks, modify their system of training in order to develop national youth training so that instead of our people going to the army to go to Lebanon or to be in the barracks, they have a system where people can serve for a year or two years then back to their villages. At least you can instil discipline into them, some form of training and then they can go back for the benefit of their people.

They can't train every Fijian to get into the army because at the end of it they will just look for pension and they're not going to be productive units in the economy of Fiji. But with a little



Teeing off: Mara, the sportsman, playing golf.

army discipline in the early parts of your lives you can be a very useful unit.

I wish that they concentrate on developing a national youth training scheme. They have the facilities, they have the manpower and people like to be in uniform.

I know that practically all the African countries — with the exception of Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi and, of course, the smaller ones Botswana and Swaziland — have been led by the military. What the military did was to try and destroy the custom and tradition — that structure which doesn't allow them to be the leaders. The influence of the military out there was to go against customs and traditions because they want the loyalty and support of the people, and their chiefs are not usually the ones who support them.

I'm surprised at the great difference here in Fiji. The military said they support the chiefly system. Yet there are two divisive things which they've supported. One is the secession in the Methodist Church and the other is the fourth confederacy. If they want the unity of the people of Fiji those two issues could be left over till we've returned to

normalcy, then tackle them. To tackle them now when we are not united, it makes fun of the 37-27 (Fijian-Indian ratio in a new parliament). You're actually dividing 37 by two on the Methodist issue, you're dividing 37 by four over the fourth confederacy.

On what influence can make me change my mind and carry on leadership: those two issues will never, never attract me to the leadership.

I pity the man who is going to take over because the army who brought all these about is now supporting those divisive issues.

• **If there is no return to barracks?**

God help Fiji.

• **Mara on whether Cabinet was worried about Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka's role in the Methodist Church crisis:**

It has always been a questioning of his role after he has done something. No discussion before he did anything.

• **Mara on the Fourth Confederacy and talk of secession:**

They seem to think that they have the upper hand by holding us to ransom: if you don't do this we'll get away. Well, every part of Fiji can do that. So it's an empty threat really.

• **Mara on an offer from the East-West Centre in Honolulu:**

There was an offer to spend a sabbatical year at the centre where you can do your own research. My objective of spending a year is to gather all my papers and books and try and sort them out for future use, if I can put them into a book. I'm sure I can find people there who could help me to do it, that my experience could be translated into paper for the benefit of the world. I don't know if the offer is still in extent.

Meantime my hopes have been buoyed by the fact that I've been invited in my next trip to Europe to visit my college, Wadham, in Oxford, because there's also an opportunity there for a similar thing.

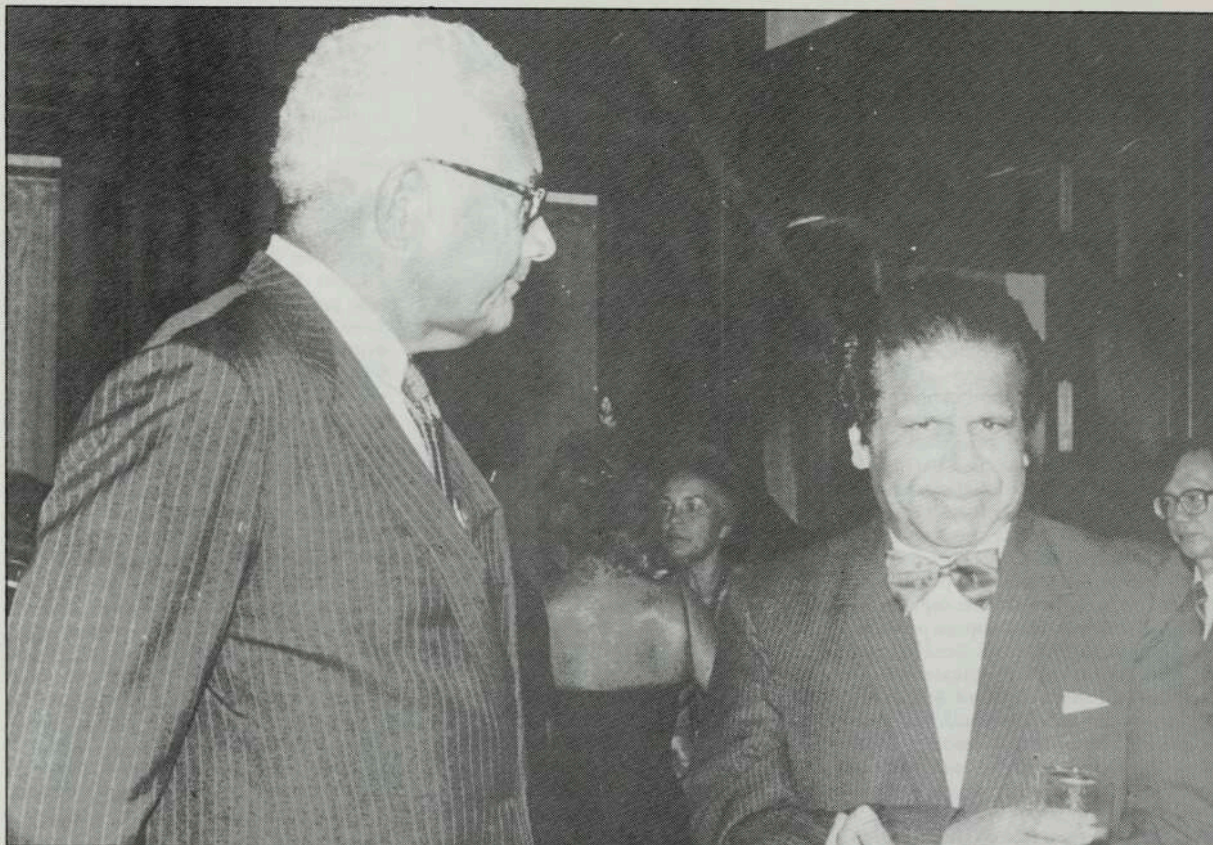
I prefer the Hawaiian one because it is nearer home, the climate is better and there are, already, people there who have done research in the Pacific who will be of great help.

• **Mara on Fiji's move to set up an oil company and buy oil from Indonesia:**

What we thought could be done through the friendly attitude of Indonesia, was to get us the oil from Indonesia — like Mobil, Shell and others. We refine it either in Australia or Whangarei, in Auckland, or in Hawaii and then we bring it here and sell it to them. The margin they make here, they say, is six cents a litre and the Australians and New Zealanders will be very, very happy to make three cents a litre.

If we can get a bit of that margin, we thought a Fijian shareholder could come from that margin, if half of that margin could be freed.

COVER



Party time: Mara with Indian leader Siddiq Koya.

We have more control over the price of oil. The oil companies are fighting very hard, they've got the money, they can put out disinformation about this and about that.

They've got Dr Fesharaki who we have been trying to get to make a statement about how he has been encouraging us all along, but now he is saying that it is no good. Well, he must have got some good reason to change his mind suddenly like that.

But all we ask is the oil companies should give us a tender and how much could they buy the oil for if we bring it to Vuda. None of them has been able to do that. We know the price. We know what they ought to pay.

I had one man from the university who was investigating for me but unfortunately he is an Indian from Malaysia, I think, and he took off at the coup. He told me there was money in it and he was sent over here by Dr Fesharaki and I'm surprised that Dr Fesharaki has now publicly changed his mind, whether he has said so himself or it's some manipulation of his statement because it was his number two or number three who came here and talked about it.

What we want is a steady price of oil.

An ode to Fiji

*Bless Fiji, our Lord, we pray,
For understanding, harmony, each day,
Bless our land, air and sea,
And in peace, we love and glorify Thee.*

*We're proud of race, ethnicity,
But you love us all as a family.
Banish hate and jealousy,
To live in peace and unity.*

*Our faith, our hope, our charity,
Give us guide and recipe,
For peace, understanding and harmony,
Dear Lord, our God, we pray to Thee.*

— Ratu Sir KKT Mara

They're now blaming government for putting tax on it. Well, that tax could come down. But development now is on wheel — particularly for the Fijians in the more remote area — outboard motors, trucks. And their margin can go

up and down and repayments to the bank or wherever they got their trucks from can be snuffed out very quickly unless they know what the price is going to be for the next six months or year. But when it goes up and down like that they are the ones we want to help.

• Mara on why Mobil, Shell and British Petroleum will not decentralise their operations by building storage facilities in the outlying islands:

They say their business here is not big enough to warrant such a big capital outlay and that we are lucky to get their services. Then why is it that they're trying to oppose our endeavours to try and buy our own oil? Because they are making good money. Gas — Coral Gas comes from Melbourne and we're paying the price as if we are importing it from Singapore. Similarly with oil. Most of our oil comes from Australia and we're paying the transport cost from Singapore. And they're making good money because we're paying transport money from Singapore. They're not transporting it from Singapore. That's the sort of money that we know they're making. All we want is to control from source to Vuda. Let them take it from Vuda to the consumer. □

THE REGION

HAWAII

An oversight

By Ed Rampell

HAWAII Senator Daniel Inouye calls August's United States Congressional meetings regarding the Hawaiian Home Lands the state's "most important hearings since statehood". These are the first such oversight hearings since Congress established the 192,000-acre Native Hawaiian Land Trust in 1920.

The Congressional panel looked into problems besetting the Hawaiian Home Lands, set aside for residential and agricultural use. In order to use the land, homesteaders must prove they are of at least 50 percent Hawaiian blood. Only about 60,000 of the State's estimated 200,000 Hawaiians currently qualify. Recent efforts to establish a single definition Hawaiian with one beneficiary class has generated intense controversy.

Much of the earmarked property does not have any infrastructure, including water, power, and roads. There is an overall lack of funding for home build-

ing and other basic needs. The waiting list for Hawaiian Home Lands has about 18,000 names on it. Generally, each name represents a family, not an individual.

Some Hawaiians claim some potential homesteaders have been on the waiting list for over 30 years, and that some natives have died while waiting to receive their land. There frequently seems to be a Catch-22 situation, where the land exists but is often unavailable to eligible islanders.

The US Senators and Representatives will consider these problems, along with dissident demands to transfer control of the Hawaiian Home Lands from a State department to a sovereign Hawaiian organisation. Although not scheduled on the agenda, native activists used the hearings as a platform for their Hawaiian self determination movement. Groups such as Ka Lahui Hawaii, the Sovereign Hawaiian Nation, seek the same tribal and reservation rights American Indians have in the continental United States.

Senator Inouye, a Democrat, chairs the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, which held the hearings, along with its counterpart in the US House of Representatives (Congress' lower cham-

ber). Most of the participants represent states such as Alaska and Arizona, where many native Americans live. The meetings were held throughout August at Oahu, Kauai, Moloka'i, and the Big Island, where homesteaders and potential land users aired their concerns.

The panel examined Hawaiian history, and how the overthrow of the Polynesian monarchy and American annexation of the Islands affected the Native people, who are now largely landless. The hearing will also deal with how Washington can improve the Home Lands situation, as well as the trust relationship between the Federal trustee and the Hawaiian beneficiaries.

In a related development, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, (OHA) launched "Operation Ohana", in an effort to register all living Hawaiians on and off-island. OHA, a State agency dedicated to bettering conditions for Hawaiians, is seeking enrolment of the estimated 270,000 Hawaiians living worldwide in order to upgrade their benefits and entitlement programmes. August marked Hawaii's 30th anniversary of statehood, but some of the fiftieth state's indigenous inhabitants still waiting for the return of their lands were not be celebrating. □



Suddenly, New Zealand is a whole lot closer.

And so too is a potential market of 3.2 million cosmopolitan New Zealanders.

As a Forum Island nation, exploration and development of new markets can be a difficult and frustrating exercise.

Now, through the establishment in New Zealand of the South Pacific Trade Office, you have direct access to a variety of

services that are specifically geared to assist you in the export and promotion of South Pacific products into New Zealand.

Services include market research, marketing plans, identification of potential customers, office facilities, product displays, participation in trade fairs, and secondments. For further details contact...

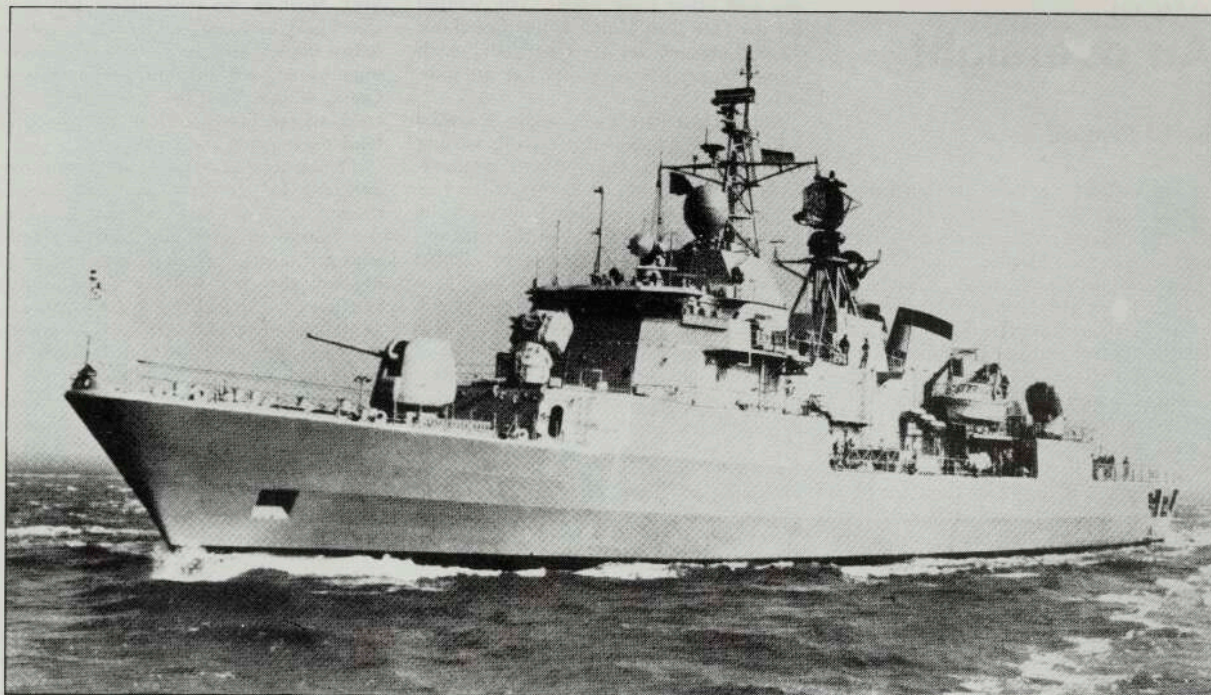


SOUTH PACIFIC TRADE OFFICE

Jetset Centre, 44 Emily Place,
P.O. Box 774, Auckland 1, New Zealand.
Phone (09) 302-0465, Fax (09) 776-642,
Telex SPTO NZ63328

Madison 3589

THE REGION



Expensive venture? Or realistic deterrent.

DEFENCE

Questions over frigate deal

NEW Zealand has decided to buy at least two ships under the proposed joint frigate venture with Australia. The concession from Wellington to its trans-Tasman ally in Canberra is more the result of political pressure from Canberra than the needs of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

What has become clear is the frigates are suited to operating as part of a larger naval force, reflecting Australia's preoccupation with the possibility of fighting a war against an Asian power, rather than as single vessels meeting the contingencies that could arise in the South Pacific. New Zealand's government really had little option: such was the pressure from Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke that a refusal to join the project would have led to a serious rift between the two powers.

The underlying problem — apart from money to the cash-strapped New Zealanders — is that the two countries have different foreign policy objectives. New Zealand sees its future in the South Pacific, but Australia, notwithstanding the interest now being shown by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in the South Seas, has Asia at the top of its agenda.

What should be of concern to the states of the South Pacific is that the decision to buy the frigates greatly diminishes the New Zealand navy's ability to carry out a variety of roles in the region. The Australians, who designed the ships, have as their defence priority fending off an attack from Indonesia or another Asian power rather than fisheries patrol in the vast expanse of the Pacific or coming to the aid of cyclone victims on some coral atoll.

Just how inadequate New Zealand's ability is to fulfil its defence obligations in the region was shown by an exercise early this year. The New Zealand army has no method by which it can transport its men or helicopters by sea. In January, when a major exercise was being held in the South Island, the government was forced to charter a Dutch freighter in order to move troops and helicopters across Cook Strait. But even a freighter is not adequate to take all the men and equipment which would be needed in the case of a military emergency.

The Royal New Zealand Air Force was similarly stretched during the exercise: it had to borrow four helicopters from Australia after its own machines were grounded because of their age. The RNZAF, at the beginning of 1989, maintained eight bases but had only 33 pilots flying in a military role. Tanks and artillery are antiquated and practically useless.

The critics of the frigate plan for New

Zealand have argued the better idea would be to buy small ships (from an Asian shipbuilder, which would be considerably cheaper than using Australian yards) for fishery patrol duties in tandem with the Orion maritime surveillance aircraft, and to buy or build an all-purpose merchant ship, which could be used not only to transport troops and equipment but meet most South Pacific contingencies.

The head of the Peace Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra, Andrew Mack, argues that such a ship would be a cost-effective, and in some ways superior, alternative to the frigates. "It would have speed and range comparable to the Anzac frigates and better sea-keeping ability. It would be configured to operate at least two heavy-lift helicopters, which would be of far greater use in South Pacific operations than the frigates' medium Seahawk helicopter," he wrote recently.

A converted merchantman would have a large carrying capacity and could evacuate large numbers of people in the event of a natural disaster or political uprising, and could include a hospital section. Mack has also argued the frigates have been shown, especially in the Falklands War, to be very vulnerable to missile attack even within a large naval force, let alone by themselves without any air support.

Those who favour the frigates argue New Zealand does have a need for such

THE REGION

ships. In a joint article published recently, a former Australian Secretary of Defence, Denis McLean, and Australian strategic expert Desmond Ball, pointed out that all the maritime and air links from the east coast of Australia and from New Zealand to northeast Asia go through or over the Solomon Islands and eastern Papua New Guinea — 70 per cent of New Zealand's trade went by that route or across the Pacific to the Panama Canal, while 60 per cent of Australian trade went by all Pacific routes.

The authors pointed out that New Zealand had defence obligations to the Cook Islands and Tokelau, and important strategic interests in other Pacific states.

The article said there are two principal zones known as "choke points": the sea route passing by way of the Coral Sea and the Solomon Islands, and the narrow channel across the north of Australia through the Torres Strait and Timor Sea. "Basic interests in both countries would be at risk should a hostile power become established in these areas with the capacity to interrupt trade and communications," the article added.

Another point is the division within the New Zealand defence establishment of the frigate question. While sea-going officers want the new vessels (it was feared many might leave the navy if smaller ships without a full wartime capability were bought), it is known that the opinion at the top of the Defence Department was that frigates could not be considered the nation's top priority — there was no point having a trained army if it could not be moved over water. They also argued the frigates had no transport role; the ships carry only one small helicopter while the army needs helicopters which can transport sizable numbers of troops and a ship to carry equipment.

What is clear is that Australian pressure has pushed New Zealand into a major military decision unsuited to its role as a power in the South Pacific.

The NZ\$1000 million deal threatened to split the New Zealand Labour Party only weeks after new Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer's rejuvenated cabinet had dramatically recovered in opinion polls. It also provoked bitter opposition from critics who accused the government of betraying the country's sovereignty and undermining the nuclear-free stance.

A caucus vote confirming the decision came on September 7, just two days after allegations surfaced that a prominent Australian trade unionist who had been regularly visiting New Zealand to lobby in favour of the deal was actually working on behalf of the contractor. Labour

Four years late and \$40m more

THE first Anzac frigate will not be delivered to New Zealand until March 1998 — four years later than originally planned and meaning NZ\$40 million extra in refits to extend the life of the Navy's present four veteran frigates. The ageing *Waikato* and the *Southland* are the first of New Zealand's ships destined for the scrapyard.

But while the "unit" ship cost is about NZ\$300 million, it has been revealed that the overall Anzac project cost — including training, maintenance and spares — has boosted the price of each ship to \$471 million. The "real" price with full armaments and a helicopter is estimated at more than \$500 million each. If New Zealand finally does take up its option and buy four frigates it could save \$80 million.

Meanwhile, in Australia, Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary John Halfpenny, has denied allegations of improper or dishonest actions over the frigate deal linked to the Transfield group, a major partner of the Melbourne-based Amecon consortium which won the contract. Transfield also issued a statement denying the accusations.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke told Parliament that a report of allegations by Halfpenny's estranged wife, Margaret, over the unionist's lobbying activities in New Zealand in favour of the deal had been passed on to federal police for investigation.

Aired under parliamentary privilege, Margaret Halfpenny's statement to the National Crime Authority said her husband had travelled to New Zealand at least 10 times in the past two years to lobby for Amecon. "John argues that he is assisting the workers by giving the contract to the Williamstown [Melbourne] dock area," she said, "but I'm sure that John didn't tell any one of the workers that he was representing Transfield." □

Party foreign policy officials arguing against the deal claimed in a report condemning the government that ministers justified the frigate purchase on the grounds that Australia and the United States might no longer consult New Zealand about events in the Pacific.

Palmer admitted an overhaul of foreign policy was needed with fresh initiatives in the Pacific showing some "vision" — including economic and social policy, not just defence. The Prime Minister said New Zealand had not caught up with the increasing turmoil in the region! "Look at Fiji, what happened

there, look at Bougainville, look at the difficulties in Vanuatu."

However, opponents calling for a genuine independent foreign policy in the Pacific were bitter in their criticisms. Kevin Hackwell, spokesman for the Just Defence coalition which waged a high-profile campaign with a team of skilled researchers to an abortive bid to block the frigates deal, said the people of New Zealand had been betrayed: "It is a sad day for New Zealand when our foreign policy is being dictated by Canberra."

Disappointed Labour Party president Ruth Dyson, another strong opponent, said she hoped the frigate purchase would become a springboard for other initiatives in the Pacific, such as aid and development assistance. But, ignoring the growing popularity of the rival "reborn" New Labour Party which opposes the frigates, she claimed the deal would not lead to critics withdrawing support for the government because of their anti-nuclear beliefs. (According to opinion polls, more than seven out of 10 New Zealanders support the nuclear-free policy).

Dyson warned that if the opposition National Party regained power it would mean the return of nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed warships in New Zealand ports. "This will never happen under a Labour government," she added.

A leak of a document by Labour Party's influential foreign affairs and security policy committee embarrassed the government by citing a claim from Foreign Affairs Minister Russell Marshall that New Zealand's foreign policy was being made on "an ad hoc and piecemeal basis". Accusing the New Zealand armed forces of an "outright political role", the document also said the frigate policy appeared to be "based on a historical need to associate with more powerful Western allies in order to preserve political patronage".

Popular opposition MP Winstor Peters upstaged his party leader Jim Bolger's muted criticism by launching a blistering attack in a snap parliamentary debate. Peters branded the decision "economic and social lunacy", saying that while Labour had created a growing number of poor people in the country, it had decided to spend \$1000 million on frigates. He also criticised the hypocrisy of the Palmer government which was taking the first step back to a nuclear policy with the deal while claiming it was nuclear-free.

However, former Prime Minister David Lange denied the purchase meant "any deviation at all" in New Zealand foreign policy. Bolger described the frigates as the world's most expensive fisheries patrol craft. □

THE REGION

PALAU

How to do it wrong

By David North

ALTHOUGH the words are muted, the latest United States Government report on Palau shows an island government marred by extensive corruption, conflict-of-interest and fiscal irresponsibility, as well as lax laws and law-enforcement procedures. Or, to put a more cheerful face on it, it shows how crafty island leaders can secure tangible benefits for their constituents while manipulating a series of supposedly sophisticated Mainland governments and businessmen.

The two-volume report, filled with specific, damning evidence of island misbehaviour and lack of United States Government monitoring, was prepared by the United States General Accounting Office, (GAO) an investigatory arm of the US Congress. The GAO is known for its ultra-careful work, and its deadly dull prose. Its writers would rather not make a mistake than say anything interesting, so one must comb the 186 pages of these reports to find its gems.

The report, *US Trust Territory: Issues Associated With Palau's Transition to Self-Government*, comes at a time when the Congress is working out an even larger allocation of money to the well-funded islands in hopes that the Compact of Free Association will finally be ratified, but more on that later.

The GAO report does not deal with the nuclear presence issues that have stymied the Compact, instead it focusses on the matters more amenable to the analysis of accountants and lawyers: government contracts, corruption and law enforcement.

Two small items unearthed by GAO are symptomatic of the condition of the island's government — the lack of customs inspectors at the airport, and the government's expenditures on the house of the late President Lazarus Salii.

Drugs are a growing problem on Palau (see box), and job slots had been created for customs inspectors to open luggage at the airport, but somehow money never could be found to fill the jobs, so luggage was rarely inspected. This despite the outpouring, GAO says, of \$156,031,000 in US funds to Palau in the period 1981 through 1988. (By examining GAO data one can see that the government of Palau gets four to five times as much money per capita in aid than Mainland jurisdictions). How will the lack of customs inspectors be solved? Uncle Sam has been convinced to come

up with another US\$400,000 earmarked for customs officers on Palau. (Similarly, Palau is looking to the Congress to fund the office of an inspector-general to search out fraud, corruption and abuse).

As for the late President's house, GAO explored two interesting questions: who owned it (it was either Salii or his landlord), and should the island government have paid \$90,000 for expanding and remodelling it? What is clear from the records is that the island government paid an unnamed landlord \$750 a month rent on the place, but it is not at all clear who owned the house at the time. If Salii owned it, then the "landlord" was receiving funds under false pretences. (Here and elsewhere the island paper trail disappears — GAO's dutiful accountants could not find land sales records on this case.)

Of greater moment were the contractual manipulations which came in all sizes and shapes.

There was the big bond issue, for US\$398 million, that was to be issued through Matthews and Wright, the since indicted Mainland underwriters. GAO notes that the Palau National Development Banking Corporation board members had scant notice of this blockbuster, and signed the papers under pressure from Salii's associates. The bond issue, later aborted but not because of Palau's intervention, "appears to have exceeded

Palau's needs and would have been difficult to repay," GAO says gently. In fact, the debt would have been equal to more than US\$28,000 for every man, woman and child in the islands.

Then there was the airport. By Pacific standards, Palau's current landing field is well above average, but the island's leaders wanted a bigger and better airport — and did not want to pay for it. So, without going through competitive bidding, and without informing the legislature (the OEK) Palau gave a Japanese firm, Howa Co. Ltd., and an American one CIC International Ltd., the right to build the airport, at their expense, in return for future revenues from the airport and the right to control tourism development rights (such as hotels) in the area. Palau's Attorney General eventually cancelled the contract; earlier he had received the message that he "would be history" if he sought to block the deal.

If airports could be built without funds, maybe roads could be, too. A major Japanese firm, Kawasho Corporation, agreed to build a 2.5-mile road and water distribution system for the State of Melekeok; (Palau's 14,000 or so citizens have 16 state governments). The road was built, at a cost of about US\$5 million but Melekeok had little money to pay for it. The builders then sought to get Palau

GUAM

Drug ring under wrap

WITH a shoestring grant of \$US63,000 Guam and federal police opened a 'front' store on Guam in June of 1988 with the intention of breaking a stolen property ring that had been plaguing the island. At 'Zane's U.S. Surplus' they videotaped ring members who sold them the stolen stereos and appliances and within six months had enough evidence to wrap up the operation.

But then something unexpected happened. Operation SCORPION began to expand its territory as those who were caught began to cooperate and talk about the heroin habits they stole to feed, who was selling them the illegal narcotic, where it was coming from and how it was smuggled into Guam and on to the mainland United States.

SCORPION gave birth to FRUITBAT which, by the time the operation was over, had led to the arrest on 40 people, mostly residents of Guam and Palau, in

connection with a heroin and marijuana smuggling ring that had been doing a multi-million dollar business annually since 1984. Twenty of those arrested have already pleaded guilty and prosecution of the remaining half for continuing criminal enterprise and violation of US narcotic laws was expected to begin in September.

Many of those arrested on Guam allegedly fed their habits through burglaries, robberies and murder. The ring traded heroin and marijuana for guns and profits from marijuana sales were used to buy heroin from Thailand and the Philippines. The multi-kilo shipments were smuggled into Palau and Guam and shipped on to the United States, according to federal indictments. The heroin was 90 per cent pure, worth about \$US1 million a kilo, and was brought in from 1984 to 1989.

The Guam sting operation and arrests also led to the arrest in Palau of 11 individuals, some of whom are alleged to be the leaders of the ring. They were apprehended by a team of federal and Guam drug enforcement agents who flew to Palau unannounced, made the arrests with the help of Palau police and brought those arrested to Guam where

THE REGION

to keep the late President Remeliik's promises on the matter, to pay for it out of the Compact-connected capital improvement funds (of about US\$46 millions — but these have not yet arrived. Kawasho has been paid only \$222,000 for its efforts.

GAO is worried that this, and similar road-building projects, none of which are included in the National Development Plan, will obligate the \$46 million which is needed, GAO feels, for higher priority projects.

To what extent are Palau's politicians profiting by these questionable expenditures? GAO is interested in the question, but does not offer many specifics. It does state that an unnamed member of the House of Delegates had invested \$20,000 in Gorones International Construction Corporation, which secured, without competitive bidding, the half-million-dollar-a-year contract to manage the island's controversial power plant. That contract was two years old when the legislator reported that he had, to date, secured a \$12,000 return on his investment. GAO adds that such dealings, which would be contrary to most Mainland laws, are not barred by Palau's statutes.

Similarly, Palau law apparently does not prevent an appointed official from advising the government to sign a con-

tract with a firm he owns. An unnamed consultant to President Salii served as president of Pacific Ventures Inc. at the time that Palau signed two contracts with that firm — one to build a new capital building and lease it back to Palau, (yet another instance of creative financing) and the other to issue a series of commemorative coins. The Assistant Attorney General who passed on the contract was also an incorporator of the firm.

GAO's reaction to all of this was to say that the US Department of the Interior should pay more attention to what is happening in Palau. It made no recommendations for any changes in the way Palau conducts its government.

Meanwhile the deadlock over Palau's relations with the Mainland continues. As previously reported there have been numerous referenda seeking to secure the needed 75 percent approval for the US to use nuclear materials in the islands, all of which secure 61 percent to 72 percent of the vote. Without that three-quarters approval, Washington will not let the Compact go into effect. Then, in 1987, there was a botched effort to amend the Palau Constitution in such a way that the 75 percent approval provision could be softened; that effort was thrown out by courts saying that there had not been enough votes in the legislature to bring it to the people.

The current situation is that the Mainland House of Representatives has passed a bill pressed by its Interior Committee which would give Palau another US\$9 million if it approved the Compact, but it is doubtful that the additional dollars would attract the needed additional votes. The bill was scheduled for a Senate hearing in September, but the hearing was postponed (as often happens in Washington).

Meanwhile a potential solution to the deadlock has emerged from the latest round of constitution litigation. There are two ways of getting a constitutional referendum on the ballot in Palau: one is to secure a three-quarters vote from each house of the EOK, but that appears unlikely given the mood of the legislature. The other way is to secure a petition signed by one quarter of the voters.

Were such a petition submitted the chances are good that the voters would again produce a substantial majority for the Compact (in this case voting for an amendment to the constitution making the nuclear approval subject only to a majority vote.) In the last constitutional referendum voters approved that proposed change by the needed margin (a majority of the voters in three-quarters of the states) and probably would do so again — but there appears to be no effort to submit such a petition. □

they were charged in US District Court under the federal statutes.

A US Magistrate was brought in from Nevada. The judge refused bail for defendants considered a community danger or flight risk and set bail for others for amounts ranging from \$US1 million to \$US20,000.

According to the charges, Palauan nationals Melwert Tmetuchel, Leslie Tewid and Angehenio Sabino — convicted three years ago of the 1985 murder of Palau President Haruo Remeliik — headed up the smuggling operation. Their convictions on the Remeliik assassination were later reversed after their US American Civil Liberties Union lawyers successfully argued the men's rights to a fair trial had been violated.

Also arrested on Palau were Hokkons Baules, a member of the Palau status commission and a former delegate, and Francisco Asanuma, once a delegate in the Palau National Congress. Baules pleaded guilty to limited participation in alleged ring, saying he only took part in early 1984 before he became a senator.

Melwert Tmetuchel is the son of Roman Tmetuchel, prominent Palau leader and businessman, who ran for President last year, losing by 31 votes to incumbent

president Ngiratkel Etpison. Melwert was the operation's 'kingpin', U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials charge. He faces counts of continuing criminal enterprise, conspiracy to import and distribute heroin and conspiracy to import marijuana.

A lawyer retained by Palauan defendants is seeking a US Supreme Court ruling, arguing his clients rights were violated by their arrest and transport to Guam from a trust territory. US officials said they took the men to Guam because it has the closest US District Court. Since Palau remains a trusteeship under US administration, arrests can be made there for violation of US narcotics laws, federal law enforcement officers argue, pointing out that secrecy and speed were needed because officials feared news of the coming arrests would have sent the suspects into hiding.

SCORPION, in which police posed as buyers of stolen property, and FRUIT-BAT, in which local and federal agents participated, set new standards for federal-Guam law enforcement cooperation. Both operations required close coordination of the Guam police, FBI, Naval Investigative Service, US Drug Enforcement Agency, US attorney's office,

the Guam Attorney General's office and other Guam bureaus and departments.

Guam leaders, who praised the new alliance, believe the indictments also will bring convictions for six unsolved murders on Guam and a host of burglaries. Guam Governor Joseph Ada praised the teamwork, pledging to continue Guam's cooperation with federal and Palau authorities until the drug traffickers are put behind bars. "We're gonna get you," Ada warned. "We're gonna put you behind bars."

Palauan leaders were ambivalent. President Etpison, through a spokesman said "not everyone agrees that the bust was good for Palau." Many question whether the crime fit the response, the spokesman said. At least 60 heroin addicts have been identified on Palau and numerous burglaries have been attributed to the need to get money for heroin habits.

United States Congressional leaders also have urged action to deal with the drug use problem in Palau. Etpison also expressed concern that the federal intervention might herald a new activist US policy on Palau and wondered whether other federal authorities would begin arresting and prosecuting Palauans for white collar crime as well. □

THE REGION

NAURU

The fall of DeRoburt

By Briar Rose

THE fall of Nauru President Hammer DeRoburt last August 17 was a big surprise. But the government is strongly denying it was a "well-kept secret" as announced by the foreign media nearly two weeks later. "All governments with which Nauru has diplomatic relations were advised" immediately of the change in government, said a Nauru government statement. "The new government has also received messages of greetings from the Governor-General and Prime Minister of Australia. They also received similar greetings from various other governments," the statement said.

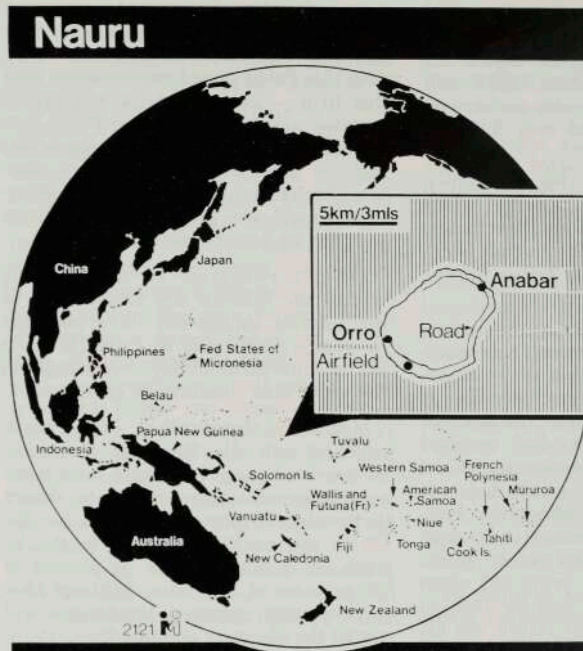
DeRoburt's government was defeated on a surprise vote-of-no-confidence motion by Opposition Leader Kennan Adeang. The motion was carried 10-5 with the five votes against coming from DeRoburt's Cabinet ministers.

Three people were nominated for the vacant post of President: Kenas Aroi, a former Finance Minister in the DeRoburt government before becoming Chairman of the Board for the Nauru Phosphate Corporation; Adeang, the Opposition Leader who was President for 12 days in 1987; and DeRoburt himself, who has been consistently President since independence from Australia in 1968, except on two occasions when his government was defeated at the general elections in 1976, and by a motion-of-no-confidence in 1987.

When the House resumed after a short recess to vote for a new president, the Opposition Leader withdrew, giving the 47-year-old Kenas Aroi a clear 9-6 victory, and the presidency.

The basis of the no confidence motion was a petition signed by 11 members to convene a special sitting of Parliament on Saturday, July 29, to seek extension of time for the Select Committee investigating Phil-Phos, a joint business venture between Nauru and the Philippines. The Committee had until July 31 to submit its report to Parliament. The DeRoburt government refused and instead called a sitting for August 17 claiming that it was the practice of Parliament that the Speaker called the sittings on the advice of the President, unless parliamentary sessions had been brought to an end.

At this sitting the DeRoburt government argued that if the Opposition's true priority was the Select Committee issue, then it had the option to set aside standing orders to enable it to seek extension of time of the Committee. The



opposing faction argued that that option would be "disorderly" after the Speaker's ruling that time had run out on the Select Committee.

President Aroi's new Cabinet: Vincent Detenamo, former DeRoburt supporter, Minister for Works and Community Services and Minister Assistant to the President; Vinci Clodumar, former Opposition, Minister for Justice; Kennan Adeang, former Opposition Leader and President for 12 days in 1987, Minister for Finance; Bernard Dowiyogo, former Cabinet member in the ousted government and once President for 18 months from 1976 to 1977, Minister for Health and Education. The President holds the ministries for Island Development and Industry and External Affairs.

There is not much difference in the two governments' policies except in style. The drastic cut in the Aroi government's proposed no-deficit Budget Estimates, as opposed to the former government's which was still under consideration at the time of the change-over, has resulted in the closing down of seven external offices in London, Tokyo, Honolulu, Hong Kong, Pago Pago, Apia and Rarotonga. One of the three Air Nauru B737 aircraft and a B727 that was on lease to Australian Airlines are to be sold and Air Nauru will cease to operate the Majuro, Kagoshima and Auckland/Niue/Nuku'alofa/Auckland routes.

Air Nauru's present status of operating non-commercially is top of the list of priorities facing the new government. In an endeavour to have the airline operating commercially again, the Aroi government has decided to go back to New

Zealand for airworthiness survey.

The government of New Zealand has yet to respond to the request. The President also informed the House that he had been advised that Air Nauru will operate commercially again in two months time. The former government's deadline had been set for mid October at the latest.

The Aroi government has proposed to continue with Nauru's rehabilitation claim against Australia filed before the International

Court of Justice last May 19. The claim seeks reparations for Nauru's ruined environment. Nauru resembles a moonscape after 70 years of mining phosphates to fertility farms in Australia, New Zealand and Britain. Both Australia and Nauru had agreed to accept the court's jurisdiction and ruling. While not a member of the United Nations, Nauru has been allowed to bring cases before the UN-sponsored court in the Hague. One report put the compensation figure at A\$72 million.

The government has denied reports that Nauru's compensation claim was the reason for Nauru asking Australia to withdraw the former Australian High Commission in Nauru, Beris Gwynne. "This is quite incorrect," said a statement.

Parliament will be dissolved late next month and the general elections for 18 members to serve a three-year term has been set for December 16.

Asked why there was a need for a change in government, President Aroi said: "I feel that the change has come a bit late. I refer to the course of direction that this country is heading because our resources are not unlimited." DeRoburt, Nauru's head chief, is unwilling to talk at present, perhaps because of what has been regarded as sensationalised and inaccurate reports of himself abroad. The Nauruans are also commemoratively quiet for the first time considering the other two occasions when DeRoburt was defeated. It is interesting, however, that DeRoburt lost the presidency with general elections only four months away. Will he make a comeback? □

THE REGION

FRENCH POLYNESIA

More than kissing cousins

By Al Prince

Editor Tahiti Sun Press

THE cover photo of the *Tahiti Sun Press* on September 2 showed Cook Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry standing right behind visiting French Prime Minister Michel Rocard. The photo was as much a symbol of the Cook Islands' new interest in going international as it was a reinforcement of France's desire to broaden its relations with South Pacific countries. For the Cook Islands, it perhaps marked a turning point in its long history as French Polynesia's poorer, less developed Polynesian kissing cousin.

Henry was invited to Tahiti for the Rocard visit by Territorial government President Alexandre Leontieff. From all indications, Henry's visit was a success on all counts — the Cook Islands', Tahiti's and France's. Not only did the Cook Islands Prime Minister have a private meeting with Rocard, but Henry was given a red carpet welcome by several French government and Territorial government institutions that he visited. And the icing on the cake was an invitation for Henry to meet in Paris with Rocard on October 17 to discuss setting up a joint system of patrolling the vast maritime zones of the Cook Islands and French Polynesia to control the amount of fish caught by foreign commercial fishermen.

While Rocard made daily headlines in the local French press during his historic three-day visit to French Polynesia, the Cook Islands Prime Minister quietly, but busily, went about inspecting the latest technology that France and French Polynesia have to offer. But Henry managed to get a fair amount of press coverage of his four-day visit to French Polynesia which occurred less than a month after President Leontieff and four of his cabinet ministers travelled to the nearby Cook Islands to join in the annual celebration of Constitution Day.

The Cook Islands Prime Minister takes credit for making the initial contact with French Polynesia's government in 1983. But he was defeated in the 1983 elections by Tom Davis, only to win back his post last January 19, taking office once again as Prime Minister on February 1. Henry described the renewed relationship between the Cooks and Tahiti as "a question of us discovering each other". And he noted that the two-hour flight that separates both island groups means "we're nearer to here (Papeete)



Symbolic? Rocard and Henry (right).

than the Marquesas".

But despite the proximity, the differences between the Cooks and Tahiti are many. The Cooks, for example, have been an internally self-governing state in free association with New Zealand since 1965. French Polynesia, however, has been a French Overseas Territory since 1957, with two recent statutes that have given it increasing internal autonomy, or self-government. New Zealand, however, still provides aid money to the Cook Islands. Although the amount of aid money has been going down each year, Henry said, it totalled NZ\$8.9 million for the Cooks' 1989-1990 fiscal year. That aid, he said, represents 15 per cent of the Cooks' current fiscal year budget of NZ\$56 million.

The obvious question, which Henry was asked during a press conference on the eve of his departure from Tahiti, is what does the New Zealand Government think about the Cooks turning to French Polynesia and France for technological assistance and cooperation? Henry said there was no problem: "It's not likely that we'll be doing something with Tahiti

that New Zealand will object to. They know what we're here for. Tahiti can offer things that New Zealand can't and not just Tahiti, but France as well."

The Cook Islands Government is not only a member of the South Pacific Forum, which has been strongly critical of French nuclear tests in Polynesia and France's handling of the independence movement in New Caledonia. The Cooks Government is also one of the 10 Forum states that have ratified the Forum's 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. At the Forum's recent annual meeting in Kiribati, where Henry was official spokesman during the meeting, the Forum states called on the major powers, particularly the United States, France and Britain, to ratify the treaty's two protocols, which the Soviet Union and China have done.

However, in French Polynesia, Henry described the French nuclear tests as "a non-issue". He even said it was "a non-issue at the last Forum meeting. It has been talked about so much". What concerns the Forum countries the most these days, Henry indicated, is the

THE REGION

Japanese practice of drift-net fishing in the South Pacific. Henry said during the Forum meeting: "The fisheries issue has drawn us all together against Japan and Taiwan — the two countries have got us against them now. The issue of fisheries has certainly been a powerful force in drawing the Forum countries together."

And although Tahiti does not qualify to be a Forum member because of its non-independent status, the fisheries issue has drawn it, along with France, closer to the Cook Islands and Kiribati. The Cooks' 15 islands are scattered over

more than two million square kilometres of ocean. By comparison, French Polynesia's more plentiful islands are part of an economic zone that totals four million square kilometres of ocean.

When the economic maritime zones of French Polynesia, the Cooks and Kiribati are put together, the result is some nine million square kilometres of ocean, a huge area to patrol.

The Cooks are getting their first patrol boat on October 2, Kiribati is looking at getting its first patrol boat also, Henry said. French Polynesia's Territorial gov-

ernment does not have any patrol boats, but the French Navy has several ships permanently based in Tahiti and New Caledonia, another of France's Pacific overseas territory. Henry showed a very practical approach to the problem. The three island governments are working on a joint fishing operation venture, he said. "We are looking at the time when the Cook's and Tahiti's fishermen fish together rather than buy back their own fish in cans." French Polynesia has 18 fishing vessels for the venture and the Cooks are hoping to have six vessels it can use, Henry said.

The Cook Islands' fishing problem is simple, he said. Rarotonga, the biggest of the Cooks with a population of 9000, has 21 restaurants, all of which are short of fresh fish, he said. Henry said his meeting with French Prime Minister Rocard on August 24 dealt with direct cooperation from France and indirect cooperation through French Polynesia. Henry said the Cook Islands are looking for cooperation from France "in every way possible — economically, socially, technologically and educationally".

Speaking of French Polynesia, the Cooks Prime Minister said, "This country leads the Pacific in solar energy, telecommunications and hydroelectricity," which were among the installations that he visited.

Television broadcasting is scheduled to begin in the Cooks shortly before Christmas, he said. Besides locally-produced programmes, there will be programmes sent from New Zealand and daily world news broadcasts transmitted from New Zealand by satellite. However, the Cooks are also interested in French assistance to set up a satellite system that will permit the transmission of French and Tahitian language television programmes to the Cooks and the eventual transmission of programmes from the Cooks to Tahiti.

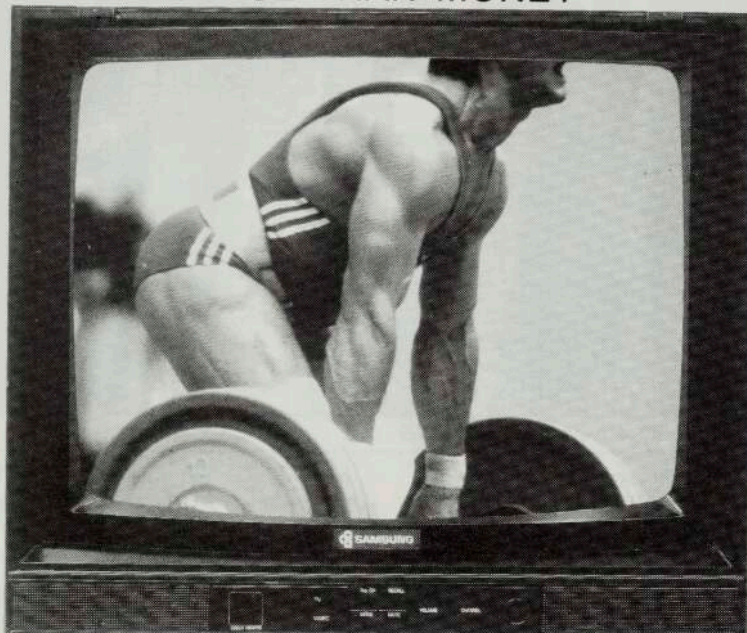
During the Cook Islands Prime Minister's visit to French Polynesia members of his government met with the Caisse Centrale de Cooperation Economique to negotiate an agreement for a 15-year loan of 660 million French Pacific francs (about \$5.7 million) for a thermoelectricity plant on Rarotonga. This would be the Caisse Centrale's first loan to the Cooks. If the loan is approved next month by the Caisse Centrale in Paris, interest rate will be 7 per cent.

But Henry emphasised that the Cooks are not just turning to France for aid. The Australian Government recently announced A\$1 million in economic aid for the Cooks, he said. And the Cooks should know sometime this month how much economic assistance it will be receiving from the United States over the next three years. Henry expects the amount to be "significant". □



SAMSUNG

PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE WITH MORE SENSE THAN MONEY



To own a Samsung TV Screen, Samsung Video Deck and Samsung Remote Control Unit!

That's Great!



That makes the Samsung Combination the most inexpensive of its kind. Go for the best view. Samsung quality is good enough for the 1988 Olympic Games. Should be ideal for your home!

Available at selected Duty Free Dealers and Burns Philp Home Centres throughout Fiji.



SAMSUNG



SOLE DISTRIBUTORS:-

CORRIE & COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE
G.P.O. BOX 45, SUVA
TLX: FJ2166
CABLES: "CORRICO" SUVA
TELEPHONE: 386777
BANKERS: WESTPAC, SUVA
FAX: (679) 300610

BRANCH OFFICE:
161 VITOGO PARADE
G.P.O. BOX 83, LAUTOKA
CABLES: "CORRICO" LAUTOKA
TELEPHONE: 60137

THE REGION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A not so happy 14th birthday

By Liz Thompson

PAPUA New Guinea was fourteen years old as a sovereign nation on September 16. The opening of the 15th anniversary is looked on with both fear and enthusiasm by most. In the face of continuing unrest and no solution to the Bougainville crisis, Namaliu warned the nation in his independence day address that the country must set aside its differences. Indeed, as the Bougainville copper mine remained closed, the financial figures for next year are continually bleaker. With the mine providing 17 per cent of the national and 40 per cent of export revenue, 1990 finances are going to be hard hit. The continuing drop in world copra and coffee prices, two of Papua New Guinea's other major exports, half the copra being previously produced in Bougainville, does not improve the economic outlook.

Negotiations took another tragic turn

on Sunday, September 10 when John Bika, the Minister for Commerce who headed a commission responsible for negotiating with the landowners, was shot dead at home in front of his family. Bika was on his way to Port Moresby to see the signing of an agreement he had been instrumental in engineering between the National government and the landowners. The agreement was reached after exhaustive talks between both parties. Offers by the national government included half the government's equity in the mine on very reasonable terms, greatly improved compensation and community developments valued at about K200 million. In addition to this Bougainville Copper Limited has come forward with a package worth K40 million to cover a seven-year period. Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu called the agreement "a very generous package by anyone's standards". The signing was seen as a landmark. But due to the shooting of Bika, it was indefinitely postponed.

Justice Minister Bernard Narakobi confirmed the growing opinion that the militants were increasingly alienating themselves from the rest of the community. In the killing of Bika the people of Bougainville had lost a good leader

and the people of PNG had lost a man of reconciliation. He had appealed to the North Solomons people not to be "fooled anymore by the militants with their propaganda and trickery".

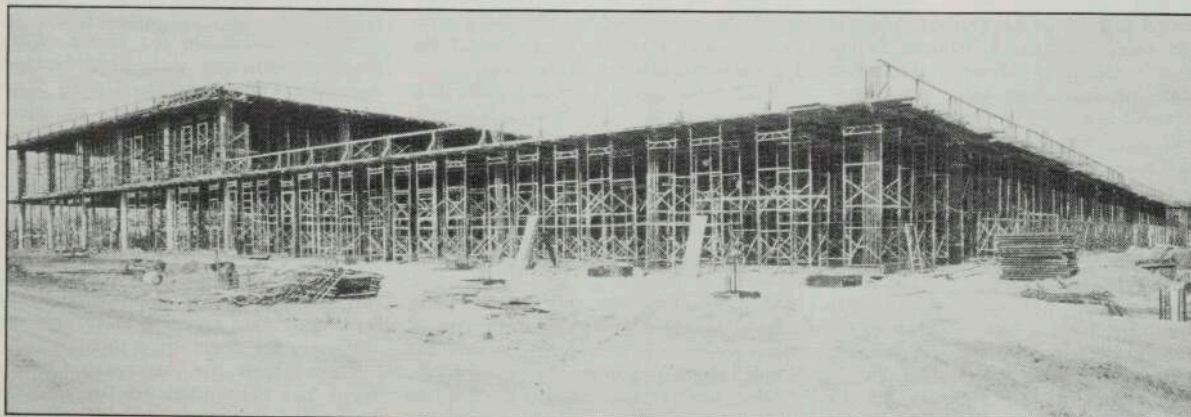
The unusually large degree of organisation amongst the militants and their supply of arms point to the possibility someone was helping from outside. Namaliu agreed that could be the case: "It is not possible for a group to purport these kind of activities or this kind of violence for the past 10 months without them having advisers or people trained in military tactics," he said. He added that the government knew the militants were getting weapons from within the province and from other parts of Papua New Guinea, again pointing to the existence of a far broader network. Namaliu said government had a good idea who were helping the militants but he didn't say if they were locals or foreigners.

The government continues to promote policies that can diversify the economy. Agriculture is being encouraged more than anything else to help rural development and put the brakes on urban drift.

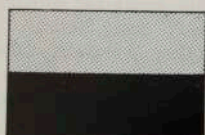
The Bougainville rebellion continues to haunt the government. □

WORLD LEADERS IN . . .

FORMWORK, SCAFFOLDING and SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR HIRE and SALE



'U' Form ● Steel Flex Forms ● Major Slim Soldiers ● Form Hardware ● Special Forms ● Acrowskaf
Tubes & Fittings ● Shore Brace ● Metric Frames ● Acrow Props



ACROW CONSTRUCTION

Wailada Industrial Estate,
Lami, Suva.
Phone: 361 322
Fax: 302 929

Lot 14-16, Section 36
Bouwalu Street,
Namoli Industrial Estate, Lautoka
Phone: 61944

THE REGION



Full speed: the Australian-made patrol boat of the kind being given to Pacific Islands countries.

COOK ISLANDS

Finally, a patrol boat

THE decision by the Cook Islands Government in March this year to defer acceptance of its Australian donated patrol boat has proved to be the right one, says Cook Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry. After five months of discussions with the Australian Government, the Cook Islands has finally agreed to accept the patrol boat and the vessel is expected in Rarotonga this month.

Te Kukupa (The Dove), is one of 14 patrol boats to be donated to South Pacific Forum countries under Australia's Pacific Patrol Boat Project. So far, seven boats have been handed over — four to Papua New Guinea and one each to the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. The Pacific Patrol Boat Project stems from the 1983 South Pacific Forum meeting in Canberra when Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke offered to provide Forum Island governments with patrol boats for surveillance within their Exclusive Economic Zones. The Cook Islands agreed to participate in the project in early 1985 and prior to this year's general election, handover of the boat was expected in March.

After the January election, Henry

announced the project was to be postponed until a comprehensive study of all aspects of the proposal had been carried out. Henry and his new government were primarily concerned with the running and maintenance costs of the boat which were estimated at about NZ\$600,000 for the first year. Government also questioned the minimum certification and training requirements for the principal officers of the boat.

Under the initial proposal, valued at \$A6 million, the Australian Government agreed to provide the patrol boat, two years supply of spare parts, a three-man advisory team, and an extensive training programme for crew members. They also agreed to meet the fuel, oil and maintenance costs for 800 hours of operations, which was under half the planned patrol time for the vessel. Henry said at the time "that the sheer cost of the exercise was very much against the Cook Islands accepting the patrol boat". Government simply could not afford to participate in the project the way it was. Additional assistance was sought from Australia.

"The tide turned in favour of our accepting the boat for three reasons," explained Henry. "Australia kindly showed a better understanding of our economic situation, so (they) increased their assistance in three areas: operating costs increased to 1250 hours — that is three-

quarters of the recommended total patrol time; they agreed to accept responsibility for the training of the master and engineer of the boat which would allow the Marine Board to issue them with a certificate; and finally, assist in the development of a Cook Islands naval base at Penrhyn, 760 miles north of Rarotonga.

"The final straw in deciding to accept the boat, was that following Forum discussions in Kiribati, I was more convinced that the notion of an Integrated South Pacific Surveillance Scheme, would in due course, become a reality."

The establishment of a base at Penrhyn provides a springboard for the multi-lateral surveillance programme that Henry is keen to see developed. It will also provide the Cook Islands with a more effective base for monitoring its two million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone. Minimum facilities already exist on Penrhyn, but these need to be upgraded in order to develop Penrhyn into an adequate base, capable of meeting the requirements of a patrol boat. Australian assistance in this area includes the construction of fuel storage, fresh water facilities, power, sewerage and a workshop area.

Said Henry: "I insisted on Penrhyn, strategically the Penrhyn base is more important in the surveillance exercise than Rarotonga. From an administrative, operations and supply side, Rarotonga is best but Penrhyn is ideal because for nine months out of the year, most foreign fishing vessels are working out of this area. It is also the ideal position for boats from Kiribati and French Polynesia to co-ordinate efforts against illegal fishing."

"If the nations in the centre of the Pacific co-operate with New Zealand, Australia, France and the United States of America, we can between ourselves, put together a very effective surveillance scheme utilising patrol boats from outside, as well as from within the region. If we organise ourselves, this huge expanse of central Pacific becomes very manageable. This is why I am so keen to see a multi-lateral arrangement. Let's share our boundaries, our responsibilities and let's share our facilities to protect our resources for generations to come."

Henry feels the Australian Government has responded positively to the budgetary restraints and difficulties of the Cook Islands. Australia has agreed to review additional assistance towards the patrol boat's operations annually, taking into account the economic situation of the Cook Islands. Says Henry: "I am most pleased that Australia came to understand our economic position better. I think it's important to learn to talk to people." □

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS

Millions down the drain

Reports highlight misuse of funds

By Robin Bromby

TWO recent reports have pinpointed areas of financial management problems in the region. The Audit Department in Western Samoa has identified what it terms irregularities in government department accounts, while in Papua New Guinea it is claimed more than K80 million has been wasted on rural development programmes during the past 10 years.

Western Samoa's Acting Controller and Chief Auditor, Fataleava Leni Warren, has warned against public complacency towards the list of irregularities in government finances contained in the Audit Department's latest report. Warren said that audit and departmental controls had not been intensive enough to bring "the inevitable thefts, defalcations and rackets to light". The biggest losses were due to motor accidents which cost WS\$68,633 in the six months to June 1989. Then followed misappropriated cash (\$33,242) and loss of stores through theft and burglary (\$19,745).

The report said the Audit Department had difficulty determining the extent of telephone charges caused by private calls, that there was a five-year backlog with the English Hansard and the Parliamentary bar accounts were confused, it not being clear whether some members' accounts had been paid. The Attorney-General's office had not submitted an annual report to the Prime Minister and financial reports were not always completed on time.

Warren reported the Broadcasting Department had not supplied any financial accounts since 1980. An audit showed debtors owing \$30,722 but this was not accurate as ledgers were posted only to November 1987 and journals to August 1987, and no action had been taken to recover money in arrears. The Audit Department blames the shortage of experienced staff and an inadequate internal

control system.

While the Customs Department had made improvements, the same could not be said for the Education Department in Western Samoa. Accounts had been delayed and the department had not complied with regulations governing handling of cash and maintenance of accounts. Some personal files could not be found; where they could be, cases of both overpayment and underpayment of salaries were discovered. Leave records and attendance books were not properly kept, the report said. It could not verify that overseas calls were private or official. It was found that in stationery stock records some figures had been altered.

The Health Department was also criticised for inadequate financial controls.

In Port Moresby, the Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research has just published a report on the country's five Integrated Rural Development Programmes, which were designed to improve living standards in the lesser developed provinces. It concludes that much of the K82 million spent, which was largely provided by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, was misused — project planning was poor, rushed and unrelated to political, social, administrative or cultural realities.

The five projects were established in the East Sepik, Southern Highlands, Enga, West Sepik and Chimbu provinces.

The Southern Highlands Rural Development Project (SHRDP) cost more than K23 million — and failed in its main objective, which was to establish cash cropping.

The institute's report said the Southern Highlands project was the largest of the five in Papua New Guinea and was regarded as a show piece and model for the other provinces. But there were problems from the outset: the impetus had come from local politicians, but when the SHRDP was taken over by the

Department of Finance the local leaders rejected it — "it was no longer theirs and they no longer wanted it", the report said.

The Poroma-Koroba Highway was completed a year ahead of schedule, but there were many delays in recruiting expatriate staff. But the greatest problem was that the management structure for cash cropping was so complex that those recruited to run it did not have adequate skills.

The project involved the planting of coffee, tea and other crops, electrification, the highway, roads into the plantations, schools and health facilities. Poor programme management meant loan spending was too slow and the World Bank extended the deadline for completion. When it came to completion, both the provincial secretary and the Southern Highlands provincial government refused to accept responsibility for the project. Eventually a handover was completed.

The report summed up the problems as:

- The whole project was complex and unwieldy, there were management conflicts and provincial leaders felt they were locked into a situation over which they had no control.
 - Recruitment was impossibly slow; halfway through the project's life, only eight of 18 expatriate positions and 16 of the 45 local jobs were filled.
 - There was little time for training and integration between staff was often non-existent.
 - There was no clear statement of objectives, so that there were different views of the aims.
 - Monitoring was largely viewed as a nuisance — and it was this which led to the failure of the project's main income generator, cash cropping.
 - Key members left without handing over reports on what they had done.
 - There was little supervision by the national government.
-

BUSINESS

States agree on energy

PACIFIC states have agreed to establish a multi-state energy authority along the lines of the Forum Fisheries Agency. This followed a meeting in Honolulu at the East-West Centre which brought together energy ministers and officials from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa. Several companies also participated in the meeting, including British Petroleum, Hawaiian Electric, Mobil Oil, Pacific Resources Inc and Shell Oil.

The proposal for a regional energy agency was raised by a joint mission from the Pacific Forum Secretariat and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Mission leader Fereidun Fesharaki from the East-West Centre said the argument against a proliferation of new agencies was understood. "In the case of energy we do not suggest new programmes but rather the consolidation of existing activities into a more permanent and effective form," Fesharaki said.

It has been recommended the new body be called the Pacific Forum Energy Agency under the Forum umbrella but without the day-to-day Forum Secretariat control of activities or budget.

Fesharaki told *Pacific Islands Monthly* it was inevitable the new agency would be located in Fiji "although not everyone was happy about that". The prime task would be for the new agency to plan funding of energy programmes, and to negotiate new grants after current UNDP aid expires in 1991. But, long term, it was important that officials involved in energy policies were well trained and knowledgeable when it came to negotiating contracts. Fesharaki said Fiji was able to negotiate petroleum supplies at a price cheaper than available in either Los Angeles or Hawaii.

"They have learned the knack of it,"

he said. "There is a need in all the countries to get good information. The oil companies are happier when they feel that, in negotiations, the other side knows what it is doing."

The agency would also concentrate on looking for the most efficient ways of using oil and electricity. Demand for electricity would increase with growing urbanisation in the Pacific island states, Fesharaki said. It is proposed that an annual regional energy meeting should review progress of the new agency, as well as decide policy, approve work plans and look at programmes for training. The mission which reported to the recent conference in Hawaii identified priorities as exploration of new and renewable energy technologies, energy management techniques, advice on environmental issues and working more closely with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other potential donors.

This was the second meeting of energy ministers, the 1988 conference having been the first time the leaders and their officials had met to discuss regional and international energy issues. This year, as well as companies mentioned above, the ministers were joined by observers from the Asian Development Bank, United States Department of Energy, Australian Department of Primary Industries and Energy and several Hawaiian and Pacific regional organisations.

In his opening speech, Hawaii's Lieutenant Governor, Benjamin Cayetano, said the state was ready to share its expertise in alternative energy with other Pacific Islanders. He told delegates Hawaii was proud of its achievements in ocean thermal, solar and wind generation.

Meanwhile, a former director of energy for the Fiji Government has called on Australia to provide more assistance for the Pacific states to develop technology so they could harness local energy resources. Suliana Siwatibau told an aid conference in Sydney it was essential that the island states reduce their dependence on expensive imported fuel. □

New hope for cocoa

COCOA yields could leap as much 30 per cent with the release in Papua New Guinea of a new chemical which will combat two major crop diseases — canker and blackpod. The chemical, named Fos-ject 600, was developed at the Papua New Guinea Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute in collaboration with an Australian company, UIM Agrochemicals (Australia) Ltd.

The Fos-ject 600 fungicide, a type of neutralised phosphorous acid, is injected into the cocoa tree trunk through a syringe technique. The director of the Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute, Dr Mark Holderness, said the economic life of a cocoa tree could be prolonged significantly with the new fungicide; tests over three years showed canker was reduced by an average 90 per cent, blackpod by 50 per cent.

Blackpod is the greatest headache (apart from falling world prices) for Papua New Guinea's cocoa farmers and the country's growers will be the first to use the new fungicide. Other applications, including a gas-powered injector, are also being tested. Dr Holderness said an added bonus of the syringe injection method was its not being restricted by weather conditions. The research institute conducted trials over 70 hectares at various cocoa growing regions incorporating diverse climatic conditions and management practices.

It was also safe for users, and for the environment, he said. The tests had shown there was no need for chemical residues or flavour taint.

The New Guinea Islands Produce Company has welcomed the new product. A company spokesman said it would help boost production and that all smallholder growers should be immediately educated on how to apply the new method of controlling canker and blackpod. He also called on the Agriculture Bank or a government agency to help supply syringes and the chemical in bulk to growers. □

Tourism's going to school

A TOURISM school is to be established as part of Papua New Guinea's new push to become a major tourist destination. The school, to be located within the Lae Technical College, will train nationals in hotel, catering and tourism both within the public sector and in private ventures.

Prime Minister Rabble Namaliu and Tourism Minister Gerald Beona have announced a five-year plan which will allow investors such incentives as tax

holidays, reduced airfares and accommodation charges, lower interest rates on loans and the exemption from tariffs of capital equipment imported for hotels and motels. "The government wants to aim at 60,000 arrivals a year compared with the 37,000 people who visited Papua New Guinea in 1987. The Prime Minister said infrastructural facilities such as airports, roads, hotels, water supplies and sanitation, as well as electricity supplies and telephone services, would

be improved to attract tourists.

These improvements would also help open up rural areas, and the tourism benefits would need to go directly to the people and the country. "The implementation of the national tourism development plan will be controlled so that it generates both economic and socio-cultural benefits without serious disruption to traditional cultures and lifestyles of Papua New Guinea," Namaliu said.

He said the government, through the Department of Culture and Tourism, would encourage more national participation. □

BUSINESS

New owners for Hawaiian Air

FINANCIALLY-troubled Hawaiian Airlines is about to get a new owner, a group of investors including the highly-regarded Peter V. Ueberroth, formerly the czar of professional baseball in the United States. Ueberroth, his brother John, and, leading the group, California investor J. Thomas Talbott, have agreed to buy 51 percent of Hawaii Air, and to invest an unstated amount of additional capital in the business.

Hawaiian Airlines parent company, HAL Inc., had fallen on bad times, reporting a net loss of US \$19.1 million in the first six months of this year. At the time of the sale HAL had a negative net worth of US\$8.5 million. The line, however, has a fleet of 29 aircraft, and operates flights between a number of locations on the US West Coast and in the Pacific, including American Samoa, Western Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, Guam, Australia and New Zealand. The airline's hub, and its central office, are in Honolulu. It also does a global charter business, for the US military and other customers, and runs an inter-island service within the Hawaiian chain of islands.

One of its scheduled routes, on which it has a monopoly, is between Hawaii, Apia and Pago Pago. It carries the mail and medical supplies, and is used by United States Government and American Samoan officials as they move back and forth in their work.

Hawaiian Airlines operation on this route has been the subject of frequent and sharp criticism for repeated delays and unpredictable practices. The carrier uses DC8s and L-1011s on this route, and charges \$350 for a full-price one-way coach fare (though most tickets are sold at various discounts). A round-trip, discounted fare from Los Angeles to Pago Pago and back costs \$819.

American Samoa's congressman, Eni F.H. Faleomaveaga, a frequent flyer on airline, welcomed the new ownership. "I hope that this name means that American Samoa will get better service; I do feel that the Samoa route was given too low a priority in the past." The Congressman said that he planned to meet with the new owners in the near future.

Ueberroth is known as an ambitious and restless man. He rose to fame in the

United States when he successfully managed the extravaganza which were the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. He went on to the highly visible position of Baseball Commissioner and during his term in the post he was occasionally mentioned as a long-shot possibility for the White House. After leaving baseball to return to business, he tried to gain control of Eastern Airline, a major US Mainland air system, but failed. In the Hawaii Air venture he apparently has succeeded in another of his life goals, to control an airline.

Ueberroth's colleague, tipped to be the new board chairman of Hawaiian Airlines, is Talbott, the founder of JetAmerica, a West Coast airline.

The formal transfer of ownership, as is often the case with American corporations, will take a while. The Board of Directors of HAL Inc. has voted unanimously to recommend the sale to the stockholders, who will assemble, in Honolulu, in October 19 to vote on the matter. Then, if the vote is favourable, as expected, it will be necessary to secure the approval of various transportation and financial regulatory agencies in Washington before the new owners can take over. □

PNG relaxes aviation rules

ANY international airline which wishes to operate charter flights into Papua New Guinea will be free to do so under new civil aviation regulations, and Port Moresby, Nadzab and Wewak will be open to international air charter operators.

The radical new policy, which changes the entire groundrules for aviation policy in Papua New Guinea, was announced in Parliament by Civil Aviation Minister Bernard Vogae. The government wants to generate a more independent and economically viable aviation industry,

boost business and promote tourism. Until now, the country has had a highly controlled civil aviation industry with considerable powers residing with the minister of the day.

The new policy provides for greater domestic and international competition, removal of government control of air fares, direct access for international air charter companies to the above-mentioned three entry ports, encouraging localisation of the aviation industry, subsidies to rural operators and the conversion of the Civil Aviation Department into a commercial statutory body.

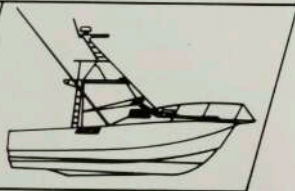
Initially, only half the trunk routes within Papua New Guinea are to be deregulated to allow airlines, including Air Niugini and Talair, to adjust gradually

to the changes, but all rural routes will be thrown open to competition.

Fares will be left to the market forces; the government wants to see fares drop and has indicated it will re-enter the industry to control fares if they go too high. Existing foreign-owned airlines must increase local ownership, and all new operators will be required to have a local shareholding. Meanwhile, the government will be moving to reduce the number of foreigners working in the airline industry in Papua New Guinea by seeking help in training from Singapore.

The most immediate change will be the ability of private companies, such as Talair and Douglas Airways, to compete with Air Niugini on routes where the national carrier has had a monopoly. □

**Fiji
Custom
Craft**



FIJI CUSTOM CRAFT LIMITED
ALUMINIUM BOAT BUILDERS

WAILADA, LAMI,
P.O. Box 1277, SUVA, FIJI.
PHONE 361977, 361786.
TLX. FJ 2315. FAX 302814

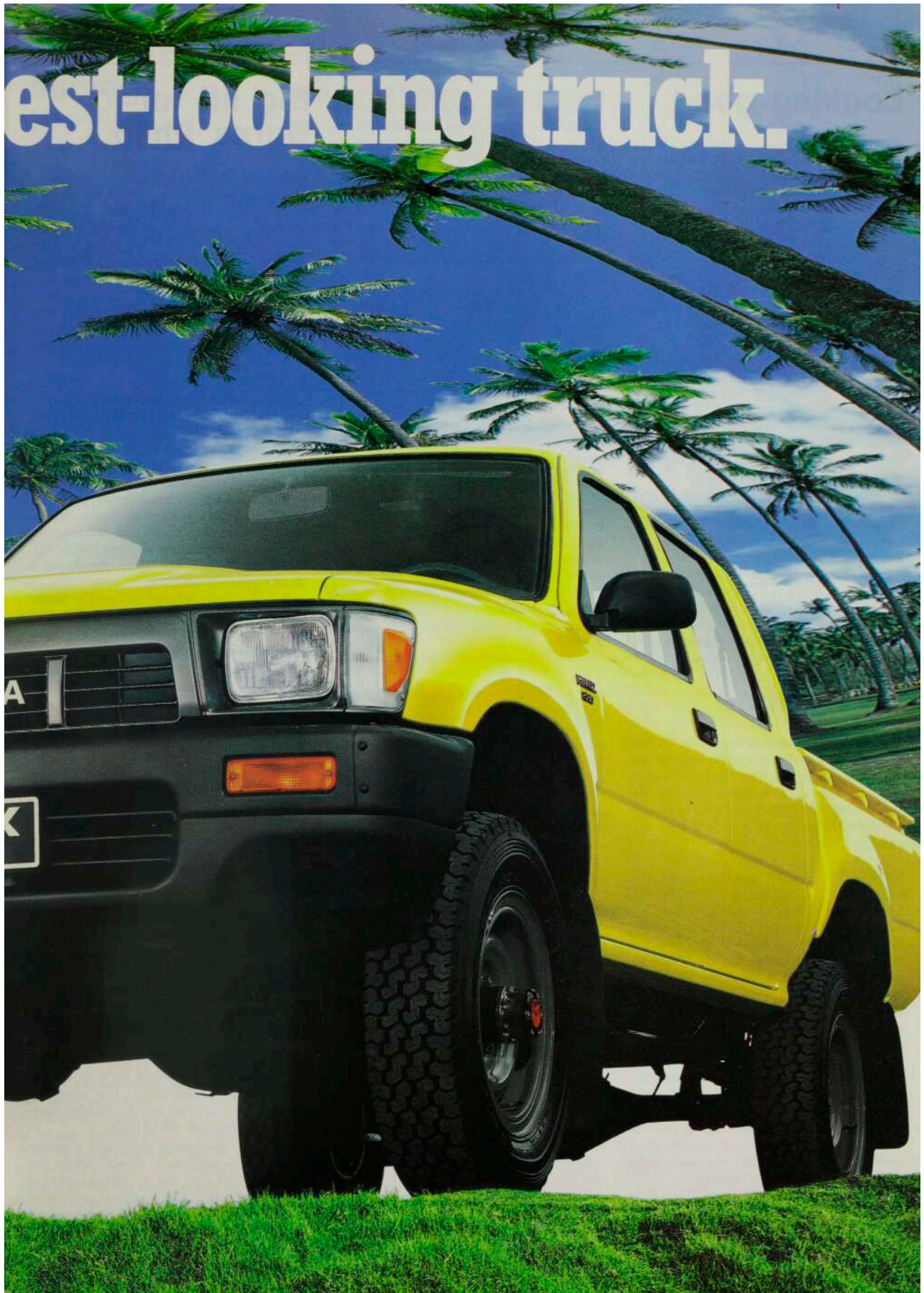
FISHING BOATS, HYDROCATS, WATER TAXIS, CORAL VIEWERS, BARGES, SPECIALISED VESSELS
CUSTOMISED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

A photograph of a yellow and black Toyota Hilux 4x4 pickup truck parked on a grassy field. The background is a tropical landscape with many palm trees under a clear blue sky. The truck's front end is visible, showing the headlight, grille with the Toyota logo, and a badge that reads 'HILUX 4x4'.

The best-selling, 1

The Toyota Hilux is the world's most popular pick-up. And the Hilux 4×4 is the best-selling Hilux of them all. Which stands to reason. People around the world respect Toyota's attention to style. Hilux's car-like comfort. Rugged reliability. And as you might expect from Toyota, power. This, of course, is the most important asset for a truck. And happily, the Hilux 4×4 offers a choice of four powerful engines: 2.8 and 2.4-litre diesel engines. Plus 2.2 and 1.8-litre petrol engines. When it comes to power and good looks, nobody can beat Toyota. Nobody.

TOYOTA



BUSINESS

Looking good

THE offshore finance industry in the Cook Islands took a major step forward recently when its largest registered trustee company, European Pacific Trust Company (Cook Islands) Limited, opened the doors to its new building — the European Pacific Centre — in downtown Avarua, Rarotonga. The European Pacific Centre houses the offices of the European Pacific Trust Company (Cook Islands) Limited and the European Pacific Banking Corporation.

The company began operating in 1982, as the Cook Islands Trust Corporation Limited, and was the first registered trustee company to be set up under the Cook Islands Offshore Finance Legislation. In November 1987, the company became a wholly owned subsidiary of the European Pacific Group and changed its name in 1988 to reflect this. It began in modest premises in Mercury House and as the business grew, expanded to other locations. In planning for the European Pacific Centre, Managing Director Trevor Clarke said that for efficiency, the group wanted all parts of the operation to be in one location. The group also desired prestigious premises and a comfortable,

pleasant working environment for staff.

Says Clarke: "It was important to have a building that reflected our high professional standards but one that was not inappropriate to the physical environment of Avarua." Designed and built by Fletchers New Zealand, the hexagonal building is an outstanding addition to the Avarua landscape. Although contemporary in design, the exterior of the building still manages to capture the feel of the Pacific.

Once inside the building, it is easy to see that the company has achieved its much desired Pacific theme. Artwork from all round the Pacific covers most available wall space. While prominence has of course been given to Cook Islands art, the company's collection includes work from Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, as well as Australian Aboriginal and New Zealand Maori pieces. "We are the largest offshore trust company in the South Pacific," says Clarke. "We played a leading role in the establishment of an offshore finance centre in the Cook Islands and its subsequent development. We have a staff of forty which includes nine professional accountants and five lawyers. We are terribly committed to the Cook Islands and this building is a reflection of that commitment."

Big lift for Burns Philp

IN a result which reflects a significant turnaround in the Fiji economy, Burns Philp (South Sea) Co Ltd has reported a record operating after-tax profit of F\$4.609 million, a lift of 188 per cent on the previous year's figure of F\$1.597 million. Directors have recommended a final dividend of 8.5 cents a share, plus a special dividend of 10 cents due to the group's high liquidity. That, with the interim dividend, brings the total payout to shareholders for the year to 25 cents.

Group sales revenue at F\$75.09 million was up 17 per cent on last year. The directors announced that "this result reflects the significant turnaround in the Fiji economy. Continuing stability under the interim government brought a strong upsurge in consumer spending, benefitting the automotive, home centres and shipping businesses. In conjunction with the outstanding Fiji sector result, branches outside Fiji again produced a steady performance".

Results in the second half of the financial year to June 30 were well ahead of the first six months.

The directors noted that Fiji's economy rebound was led by high sugar prices and increasing tourist numbers. The report said all Fiji divisions and subsidiaries of Burns Philp (South Sea) exceeded expectations, the higher consumer spending combining with earlier rationalisation of the Fiji businesses, Tonga, American Samoa, Western Samoa and Niue operations all produced steady results.

The one disappointment expressed by the directors was the Fiji's exchange control restrictions prevented surplus funds from the disposal of non-strategic assets being invested at higher interest rates offshore. But the funds were used to reduce borrowings and, hence, interest expense.

The recovery of Burns Philp (South Sea) after the military coups in Fiji has been remarkable. After the first coup, the company found that trading was running at about 38 per cent of normal volume. It then climbed back to 75 per cent only to be knocked back to 40 per cent by the second coup. The company also lost much of its Indian middle management through emigration.

A motor showroom in Ba and a timber yard in Lautoka were closed, while the company decided not to rebuild after a fire in Sigatoka. The company estimated the coups cost at about A\$11 million in book value, and staff levels fell from 842 to about 500.

Flying time

GUAM's aviation world is in the news with Air Micronesia expanding its fleet and services, a move by Taiwanese businessman into the area, and Continental's plans to use Guam increasingly as a hub for its services into Micronesia.

Air Micronesia is now using two F-27 turbo-prop aircraft for increased frequency to the islands of Rota and Saipan. Previously it operated just two flights a week with a 727, but the people on Rota have been lobbying for a better deal so they could expand their tourism businesses. Now the smaller aircraft will fly Guam-Rota-Saipan twice daily, and a third service Guam-Rota. Al Camacho, of Air Micronesia, told *Pacific Islands Monthly* the Japanese were the main customers, flying to Rota on day excursions; the island has a relatively new airport and terminal building, and tourism is second only to vegetables as a source of income. The main attractions are the beaches — clean and unspoiled; archaeological sites and the many signs of former Japanese occupation.

Apart from the 727, the services to Rota were formerly operated by small aircraft which tended to experience delays through technical problems. The

new service will add considerable freight capacity to the sector.

The United States government is subsidising the Air Micronesia run under the Essential Air Service (EAS) programme. Saipan, too, is delighted with the new service, and Senate President Benjamin T. Manglona said the island had suffered economically in recent years due to unreliable air transportation. Only one of the F-27s will be needed to operate the daily runs, but Air Micronesia has taken two machines from another Continental subsidiary, Britt Airways, of Cleveland, so that flights will not be disrupted by technical faults.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Formosa Airlines, Hsin Chi-hsui, has paid US\$9 million for a 45 per cent share of Guam Marianas Air. The plan for the airline includes leasing Short-360s for services between Guam and nearby islands, and Boeing 757 aircraft for services to Hawaii and Tokyo, with Taipei, Manila and Hong Kong also on the list of future destinations. Formosa Airlines is a Hong Kong-based carrier which operates into several southern Chinese cities.

Continental, too, is looking at more services out of Guam. The airline's vice-president for the Pacific-Asia area, Paul Casey, was quoted as saying flights between Guam and Bali, Darwin, Perth and Adelaide were being considered.

BUSINESS

Mining the Pacific

AT the end of the financial year, Australian mining companies have been reporting on their activities. But dominating news was the continuing saga of Bougainville Copper Ltd. The mine re-opened in early September, the company having come under considerable pressure from the Papua New Guinea government; but the worst happened when, within hours, dissidents struck at worker transport and two power pylons and the company suspended production once again.

Observers in the mining industry consider that the company made the worst possible move in re-opening the Panguna mine and then having to succumb to dissident actions so quickly. It is being seen as a major blow to the morale of workers, and the government in Port Moresby which had made such a point of claiming that the island of Bougainville was firmly under the control of the security forces.

One senior Australian government official said thoughts of Australian company investment in Papua New Guinea kept him awake at nights. There is considerable concern within Australia about the future stability of the nation across the Torres Strait, jitters which became more pronounced with the riots in Lae.

But the companies which are involved in exploration or extraction of oil and minerals in Papua New Guinea are — at least in public — maintaining their confidence of turning that nation into one of the major resource producers in the world.

Niugini Mining Ltd said its long and thorough testing programme at Lihir was now completed. The feasibility study concluded it was technically and economically possible to mine and extract gold at Lihir. This study will be submitted to the Papua New Guinea government on November 1 when negotiations for a special mining lease will begin. The company says the first stage of construction will take 14 months and gold production will start in the first half of 1992. On neighbouring Tabar Islands high to moderate grades have been indicated on Simberi Island, while high grade quartz has been established on Tatau Island. Work is also continuing on New Hanover Island. Niugini's share in these prospects varies between 8.4 per cent and 30 per cent.

Ok Tedi Mining Ltd reported a loss for the half year to June 30 of K8.1 million, largely the result of an accident with the ore handling system which left it out of

action for more than three months. Sales revenue for the period was K163 million. The company said that by June 30 all parts of the plant were again working and Ok Tedi expected to process the target of 70,000 tonnes per day of copper ore. Despite the poor production year, Ok Tedi Mining had paid nearly K10 million in royalties and taxes. In late August it was reported that production at Ok Tedi was again interrupted, this time by a landslide which buried a bulldozer and its operator.

The mine, located in mountainous country which experiences extremely high rainfall, has suffered many industrial accidents and labour disputes since work began there 10 years ago.

CRA Ltd, in its June quarterly report to the Australian Stock Exchange, said no further geological test work was carried out at the Hidden Valley gold prospect, and that "discussions continued on compensation issues with local landowner groups". News reports out of Port Moresby have been more detailed: they said that Wau landowners were demanding all the spin-off contracts for the Hidden Valley gold mine in lieu of their earlier request for K4 million compensation for damage done to the environment during the prospecting stages. These spin-offs include construction, engineering, building, trucking, catering, assaying and other work.

The landowners also want Hidden Valley Gold Ltd to grant them K1 million so they can form joint venture companies to compete for contracts. On top of that, the local people are asking for a K3 million loan from the mine company with a maximum 5 per cent interest rate

and a two year repayment holiday; a letter of credit or bank guarantee for up to K10 million to enable equipment purchases; spin-off projects offered on a first-refusal basis; landowners being given preference for mining jobs; the company to take on 30 apprentices from landowner villagers each year; 15 high school scholarships; 15 tertiary scholarships and any taxes due to be borne by the mine company. They also want equity in the mine project paid for by the national government on the same terms extended to landowners involved in the Porgera project.

CRA also reported that at Wafi, 65km north of Hidden Valley, exploration continued under a joint venture with Elders Resources NZFP Ltd.

At Mt Kara negotiations continued with landowner groups aimed at finalising an agreement to mine the colluvial goldfield. Silver, lead and zinc has also been found here by CRA.

Centamin Ltd, which was approached by landowners in the Gulf Province and has a 70 per cent interest in a joint venture with them, states that — notwithstanding the Bougainville situation — it will continue to actively pursue its interests in the Gulf, mainly due to the strong and continued expressions of support it has received from the landowners. The company said it will be seeking clarification on a number of issues relating to issuing of mining tenements for gold in Gulf Province from the national minister and the Department of Mines.

New Guinea Goldfields Ltd, a subsidiary of Renison Goldfields Consolidated Ltd, is to close its gold mine at Wau in Morobe Province after losses which have



BUSINESS

been described as amounting to "many millions". The problem is a combination of low gold price, increased mining costs and lower treatment rate caused by the harder rock where the remaining small amount of ore is located. It is planned the mine will close in early 1990.

Placer Pacific Ltd said heavy rain has disrupted mining operations at the Misima mine and a lack of suitable rock for rod surfacing has also been a problem. It is planned to spend K7.5 million by the end of this year on upgrading the ore delivery system. The production forecast for the second half of 1989 is 160,000 ounces of gold and 1.1 million ounces of silver. At Porgera, the company reports that recent work includes upgrading the Enga Highway, transporting heavy equipment from Lae and upgrading telephone systems. The Porgera mine is scheduled to produce 800,000 ounces of gold a year over the first six years, with the first gold being poured late next year.

Equatorial Gold NL is still seeking a farm-in partner to take part in further exploration of its prospect at Bulago in Southern Highlands Province. Its Kokoro prospect in Gulf Province is currently inactive but the company plans a programme of ground magnetic sur-

Solomon Islands

Regent Mining Ltd has a joint venture with **Newmont Australia Ltd** which covers special prospecting licence (SPL) 137. The company said work was now able to advance following the opening up of access negotiations, and it has now scheduled follow-up testing of drainage anomalies.

Details of recent work undertaken by **Solomon Pacific Resources NL** were included in last month's issue of *Pacific Islands Monthly*. □

veying, soil sampling and trenching later this year. No work was carried out at Cape Lambert in East Sepik Province.

An Australian construction company, **Curtain Brothers**, has entered a joint venture with the Enga Corporation for the excavation of the Porgera mine site, as well as building an airstrip, a town at the minesite, limestone pit and roads.

New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd reports that seismic work and evaluation continues at PPL68, PPL69 and PPL112 in which it has various interests. **Austin OIL NL**, which has a stake in PPL60 and PPL109 (both in the Papuan Fold Belt), said the licence commitment that an ex-

ploration well be spudded in by last July 1 was not achieved and negotiations continued. The company states that it was of priority that **Austin Oil** maintained its interests in this licence.

Command Petroleum NL (whose deal with **Kundu Petroleum Ltd** was reported last issue) undertook its first seismic work in Papua New Guinea during the June quarter with work on the PPL76 licence area.

Mobil Oil Corporation has returned to Papua New Guinea after a seven-year absence. The company has entered into an agreement with **Pacaro Niugini NL** whereby Mobil will earn a 50 per cent interest in PPL 93 by drilling two exploration wells, with an option to earn another 25 per cent by drilling two more wells. The prospect is adjacent to recent discoveries including that at Hides and in the same trend as the Iagifu and Hedinia fields which are 80km to the southeast. Although Mobil has not held any exploration interest in Papua New Guinea since 1982, it first began exploring there for hydrocarbons in 1938.

Meanwhile, more oil has been found in PPL100, in which **Chevron**, **BP**, **Ampol**, **BHP Petroleum** and **Oil Search Ltd** share. The companies now believe the field may contain as much oil as the Iagifu deposits 16km south-east.

Fiji

Gold exploration is under way in Fiji undertaken by **Beta Ltd**, a company owned by **Associated Gold Fields NL** (47 per cent) and the New Zealand firm **Gold Resources Ltd** (53 per cent). At Kadavu Island geological mapping, geochemical sampling and magnetic surveys were completed in the June quarter. These indicated that the Solodamu Reef extended 550 metres further than previously thought. A drilling programme is being planned. Field work is continuing on the Tunaloa project. The company said the Waimanu area needed further evaluation; at Mariko on Vanua Levu two quartz veins displaying epithermal characteristics (presence of gold) were located; work continues at Cebu Creek and Tai Koroviko, while the company is seeking a renewal of its licence at Rakiraki.

Pacific Islands Gold NL has attracted six joint venture partners to explore its tenement areas in Fiji. In its June quarterly report, the company said it undertook no field work on its Dakuni-ba, Nasasa-Vunisei, Koroisa on Nairai prospects. But the 1989 field programme was under way at Naduri-Dreketi, follow-up prospecting done at Lautoka and assessment is under way at Colo-i-Suva. Recent reports say that mining could begin on some of the areas next year. □



The Kooralbyn International School

The challenge and stability of a unique new Australian School is available to students who enrol as Overseas students in The Kooralbyn International School. Vacancies are now available for the 1990 school year.

The Kooralbyn International School is a non-denominational, co-educational, day and boarding school from Years 1-12. Established in 1985, and located in the beautiful Kooralbyn Valley it is one hour west of the Gold Coast and 1-1/4 hours south of Brisbane. The School offers the following features:

- : a broad-based liberal education with emphasis on academic excellence, a challenging outdoor education program and an environment which fosters tolerance and understanding of other viewpoints and cultures.
- : small class sizes.
- : stability of highly qualified teaching staff.
- : firm discipline.
- : ESL and Resource staff available for students requiring assistance in English.
- : A School of Achievement Program for students who show exceptional ability and promise in golf, tennis or equestrian.
- : Curricula and co-curricula offerings encompassing a wide range of creative and performing arts.

For further information and enrolment enquiries please contact:

**The Secretary to the Headmaster
The Kooralbyn International School
Ogilvie Place, Kooralbyn,
Queensland 4285
AUSTRALIA.**

**Telephone (075) 446.288
Fax No. (075) 446.108.**

TRADE WINDS

Saipan gets parcel service

UNITED Parcel Service has opened an office in Saipan, offering a door-to-door service for letters and parcels. The company initially offered a service only to the United States, but was planning to expand this to link Saipan with all the 175 countries in which UPS operates. The new set-up will have as its major competitor the courier firm DHL.

PNG fishing probe

ALLEGATIONS of transfer pricing are behind a recommendation that Papua New Guinea set up a commission of inquiry into the fishing and prawn industries. The parliamentary Public Accounts Committee claims international companies are using transfer pricing — which involves adjustment to prices between various arms of a company to avoid taxation or royalties — to take large sums of money out of the country. The committee has paid particular attention to the deal between the Gulf provincial government and its Japanese selling agent, Isapea Japan Corporation.

The Japanese company made a sale total of K4.3 million in 1987 but declared a profit of only K120,000, according to the secretary of the Public Accounts Committee. The Gulf government has said it had received no dividend from the fishing venture since 1980.

Solomons get feed mill

A NEW feed mill has been opened in West Honiara to supply Solomon Islands farmers with animal feed meals, including fish, soybean, grain, copra and premix meals. The Livestock Development Authority says the new mill will help the country raise better poultry and pigs. The mill will initially produce four tonnes of meal a day.

Fiji lending strengthens

FIJI'S surplus liquidity which followed the two military coups now seems to be diminishing as the rate of bank lending increases. Observers are getting the new trend as a sign that Fiji's economy is moving back to normal. Lending in July reached 73.3 per cent (of the loans/deposit ratio) compared with 59 per cent after the second army intervention. At the beginning of this year the commercial banks held F\$80 million in interest-free deposits with the Reserve Bank of Fiji; the Reserve had to enter the money market to soak up some of the excess liquidity. Trading bank lending is now increasing rapidly.

Making money

PAPUA New Guinea Banking Corporation has announced a 15.1 per cent increase in profit with a pre-tax result to December 31 of K5.48 million. The bank attributed this strong result to holding of operating costs, improved interest margins and sound lending growth.

The bank's chairman, Ubum Makarai, said continued growth in profitability stemmed from decisions made when initiating the five-year plan in 1987 and, with capital adequacy becoming an important measure of a bank's credibility in global markets, it was vital to stick to that strategy.

Bank income in the 1988 year reached K63.8 million and new loans totalling K110 million were approved.

At December 31, the PNG Banking Corporation had representation at 42 locations around the country, with agents at 152 other places. Ninety per cent of the 1296 staff members are Papua New Guineans.

The bank's major subsidiary, Nambawan Finance Ltd, reported a profit of K2.02 million after tax and extraordinary items. □

New quarantine move

ISLAND people taking fruit to New Zealand will soon need to have it inspected in their home country as well as at Auckland Airport. The New Zealand government is introducing new quarantine regulations to stop fruitfly infection being carried into the country from the South Pacific region. Island people will have any fruit inspected by quarantine officials a few days before departure for New Zealand; the fruit will then be sealed and inspected again at Auckland. An official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries said the measures were necessary because of the large amount of fruits sent to Pacific people in New Zealand.

Funds query

MONEY supplied to the Solomon Islands by the European Community had sometimes been misspent or not accounted for, according to the Solomon Islands Auditor-General. A report states that between 1983 and 1988 the Solomon Islands received SI\$465 million to help stabilise prices of export commodities. About \$13 million of that had been used to pay off Government debts in other areas and there had been lapses in accounting. Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni said the report was now being studied and he had not yet decided what action to take.

Samoans eye garments

WESTERN Samoan businessmen attended a workshop in August aimed at expanding the country's garment industry. Sponsored by the United Nations Development Program, the workshop looked at the industry in its entirety from inception to export. The government's Economic Department said it was hoped the workshop would help lift the quality of produce for export.

Fiji Travelodges change hands

THE Travelodge hotels in Suva and Nadi have been bought by the Australian company, Essington Ltd, owners of the Sheraton Fiji resort. Essington also has plans for a 200-room luxury hotel on Vomo Island, off Lautoka.

Solomons coconut mill

WORK has begun on the Solomon Islands' first coconut mill. It is being built at Yandina on Banika Island where there is already a deep-water wharf used by copra ships. Banika is one of the Russell Island group in Central Province which is heavily covered with coconut plantations. The mill is being constructed by a joint venture company, the partners being Lever Solomons Ltd (part of the plantation owning Lever group) and the national government. The new plant will produce 6000 tonnes of oil for export and 3500 tonnes of meal for animal use from next January. Meanwhile, Lever will continue its replanting and plantation expansion programme.

Call for Fiji oil change

MOBIL Oil and Shell have called for a deregulated oil market in Fiji following the government's announcement it will support a new local oil company with 75 per cent Fijian ownership, the company to use oil imported from Indonesia. Shell and Mobil are claiming that consumers would benefit from lower prices if a free market system was used, and that a price surveillance authority would be enough to ensure that prices did not become unreasonable.

PNG delays fish deal

PAPUA New Guinea's government has decided it needs more time to consider a fishing agreement with the Soviet Union. It had seemed in late August that the deal was finalised, and a signing ceremony in Port Moresby had been arranged — but then called off at the last moment. The agreement may now have to wait until a Papua New Guinea delegation visits Moscow in a few months' time.

BUSINESS

The sunny side of the Kirkpatrick's

THE sun naturally plays a very important part in all our lives, but to Andrew and Pam Kirkpatrick, their lives and livelihood revolve round it somewhat more than most. In addition to running the *Cook Islands Sun* tourist newspaper, in partnership with Carolyn Short in absentia, they have also recently taken over the management of Sunrise Beach Motel in Ngatangia, Rarotonga. The latter venture coincided with the publication in mid-July, of the latest edition of the *Sun* newspaper. This, the third issue of the *Cook Islands Sun*, was Andrew and Pam's inaugural edition as far as their own involvement is concerned.

Their primary future plans for the paper are to further increase overseas distribution, to feature the outer islands more, to promote their Air Rarotonga "Meitaki Award" (given to the local resident who has been most helpful to visi-

tors) and to include articles of cultural and historical significance in following editions. With regard to the Sunrise Beach Motel, after a clean up, repair and maintenance programme just completed, they are devoting their time to marketing and promotion.

The Sunrise Beach Motel's main attraction is privacy and seclusion in a lovely setting right on the sea. Andrew was quick to point out though that they may in the past have been a bit too private and secluded, as not many people, even in Rarotonga, seemed to have been aware of the motel's existence. Three different names in about three years have not really helped matters. The motel started off as the Moana Sunrise, then became Turangi Reef Lodge before becoming the Sunrise Beach Motel.

Andrew and Pam give the assurance that the sun does in fact rise out of the sea directly in line with the motel, so hopefully Sunrise Beach it will remain. Guests have been known to have a few sundowners at the pool, too, from time to time. It is a lovely setting at any time of the day.

Marshalls garbage warning

THE Marshall Islands have been urged by the environment group, Greenpeace, to reject the US\$140 million deal with Admiralty Pacific Inc to allow the United States company to dump 15.5 million tonnes of waste and garbage in the country. President Amata Kabua has already given preliminary approval to the scheme, both to earn money and to raise land levels on the low-lying islands. Greenpeace argues the rubbish will poison ground water and harm inshore marine life. The environmental body says Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Kiribati have all rejected similar proposals.

Rubber potential

PAPUA New Guinea's rubber production could increase if growers adopted new methods, said the Secretary-General of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC). Dr Abdul Madjid, on a recent visit to Port Moresby. He said the industry's main impediment to higher production was the high labour costs, and that Papua New Guinea needed to adopt diversification and plant other crops along with young rubber trees. This way people could be kept busy while waiting for the rubber trees to be ready for tapping. Dr Madjid suggested pineapples and cocoa as good supplementary crops.

Bancorp hits new high

BANCORP Hawaii Inc, the holding company for Bank of Hawaii and its other subsidiaries, has become Hawaii's first banking company to reach US\$7.1 billion in assets. Net profit for the first six months to June 30 reached a record US\$37.7 million, up 27.2 per cent on the same period last year. The interim report attributed the good first half to strong performances by the Hawaiian Trust Company Ltd and finance operations in Hawaii and Guam. Its mainland subsidiary, First National Bank of Arizona, was profitable for the first time.

The Bank of Hawaii operates in Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. It is affiliated with the Bank of Tonga, Banque de Nouvelle Calédonie, Banque de Tahiti and Pacific Commercial Bank in Western Samoa.

New Vanuatu hotel group

ARGUS International Hotels has taken over the Inter-Continental Hotel in Port Vila, renaming it the Radisson Royal Palms Resort. Argus is the Australian licensee for Radisson Hotels International. The company said the move into Vanuatu was in line with its long-term plans to operate more than 20 hotels in the Pacific rim area by the early 1990s. The hotel is five minutes' drive from Port Vila and is located on a lagoon front property.

Solomons turn to tourism

AUSTRALIAN and Japanese tourists are to be targeted in an effort by the Solomon Islands to boost their tourism income. A new 10-year visitor plan is being formulated in Honiara. The main aim will be to slash the country's US\$140 million foreign debt at a time when its major commodity exports — fish, palm oil, copra and timber — are in decline in terms of world prices.

The country attracted 18,000 visitors last year, mainly from Australia. The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, Daniel Ho'ota, said the Solomon Islands was looking to earn US\$80 million a year from tourism. And a Solomon Airlines spokesman said the company planned to replace its ageing domestic fleet as well as develop agreements with Qantas, Air Pacific, Air Niugini and Air Vanuatu.

Turtle protection plan

WESTERN Samoa is alarmed at the decline in turtle numbers and has launched a campaign to prevent their becoming an endangered species. The nation's Fisheries Division says the turtles are under heavy exploitation, and are also being killed after eating plastic bags which have been thrown into the sea. There are only two major nesting grounds left in Western Samoa.

Asian investment fears

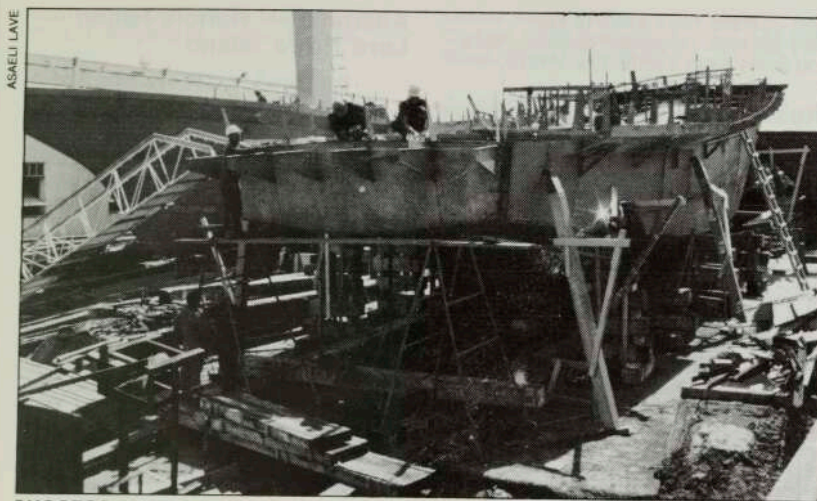
TONGA'S Chamber of Commerce is worried that Asian investors will come to dominate businesses in which local people are now involved, including retailing, handicraft, small-scale textile manufacturing and agriculture. The chamber has called on the government to exercise more care in approving Asian investment proposals, and that foreigners would be best suited to projects Tongans were not involved in, such as building large tourist hotels.

Tuna catch fall-off

Fiji's Ministry of Primary Industries has reported a drop in this year's catch of albacore tuna, the country's third largest export commodity. A ministry spokesman said the cause could be bad weather earlier this year or gill net fishing by Japanese and Taiwanese boats.

The Fiji concerns are being mirrored in the Philippines. The 10 major canneries in that country are operating at about 75 per cent capacity and one regional magazine recently headlined a fisheries story: "Where have all the tuna gone?"

SHIPPING



SUCCESS: work continues on two vessels at the government shipyard in Suva.

Line profit

THE Pacific Forum Line has announced an annual profit of US\$2.2 million, down \$700,000 on last year, but the fourth successful year the shipping company has operated at a surplus. The annual shareholders' meeting had approved the application by the Marshall Islands to join the line, and was told that business on the new service to Majuro was picking up. □

Finding success in Fiji shipyard

THE Fiji government shipyard and slipway along Suva's waterfront in Walu Bay is rapidly growing to be the marine centre of the Pacific island nations. The shipyard is building ships for Fiji and the region. It also has a slipway for dry docking vessels from throughout the region.

Said shipyard and slipway manager Apenisa Naigulevu: "Fiji is the best value for money for you to build your next vessel. Fiji is centrally located, the hub of the South Pacific. We have a reliable, inexpensive and skilled workforce supported by modern equipment, facilities and resources. But perhaps our greatest asset is our versatility. No job is too small or too large."

Naigulevu says the Fiji government shipyard is poised for international orders. Since he took over as shipyard manager in 1981, Naigulevu has transformed an operation which built a Fiji government landing barge in four years into an operation which will now do the job in eight months.

Naigulevu is in the process of asking the government to fund an expansion plan that will include the purchase of a floating dock built in West Germany and the takeover of the Carpenters Group subsidiary Industrial and Marine Engineering Ltd (IMEL) in Suva. The floating dock was built in 1960 and refurbished last year. Naigulevu said the expansion will enable the slipway to work on ships 6000 tonnes and bigger. Currently it handles vessels no bigger than 1000 tonnes.

His plans are enormous and they involve major transformations. The Fiji government shipyard has won seven ma-

jor contracts this year from international tenderers which will bring in no less than \$35 million. Additionally, it has won options which might bump it up to \$62 million.

Naigulevu says the shipyard is big enough to absorb more work during the period up to 1993. The shipyard is alive with two shifts a day working on two 28-metre fishing vessels for the Fiji government-owned Ika Corporation.

The total cost is \$3.4 million. They will be launched this month and delivered next month. At the same time the shipyard is building one 38-metre catamaran for the Australian company, Sea Management Corporation, worth \$2 million.

The third contract is a 73-metre cruise vessel, the biggest to be built out of the shipyard in 59 years, for another Australian company, Ship Design & Management Corporation. The job will cost \$8.5 million. The shipyard has an option to build two more of the same vessel for the same company, which has the fourth and fifth contracts with the Fiji government shipyard and slipway.

The fourth contract is a 52-metre cruise vessel for \$3 million. The fifth contract, for which there is an option for two additional boats, is for another 52-metre cruise vessel costing \$5 million. Fiji's Blue Lagoon Cruises has ordered two 48-metre cruise vessels for its tourism operations. It is understood that costs have not been finalised, but the local company may have to deposit \$10,000 for each boat to ensure they are included in the current work programme.

The other contract is for a 20-metre prawn trawler for Sonar Ship Brokelage

Ltd, a company from Cairns in north Queensland. The trawler will replace one of the 200 boats fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria, off the Northern Territory of Australia. While it costs only \$700,000 to build, the word is that the shipyard will be flooded with more orders if this first job is a success.

Naigulevu says the potential for the shipyard is limitless provided he gets the backup to get out and market it. And he is not sitting around waiting. He has launched an awareness campaign through advertising. His first regional advertisement in July has had two positive responses from Vanuatu companies which have enquired about the Fiji government shipyard and slipway capabilities. He says Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and the French territory New Caledonia will be major markets for the shipyard in the future as they develop their fisheries. Already Papua New Guinea has sounded him out on the possibility of opening a shipbuilding yard there.

The Fiji government shipyard is designing for two private companies in Vanuatu and another in the Tokelau Islands. The Marshall Islands wants to buy punts and the Cook Islands has mentioned its interest in using the Suva-based shipyard. Additionally Naigulevu is confident Tonga will utilise Fiji's most competitive capabilities to build two fishing vessels the Asia Development Bank has agreed to fund.

But the biggest push will come next year when Naigulevu looks to the European market. He says he wishes to advertise the shipyard and slipway in Europe. □

SHIPPING

Schedules

Australia — New Caledonia — Fiji — Hawaii — North America

Pace Line (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised service every 17 days from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. The vessels continue on to the North coast of America, calling at Hawaii at frequent intervals. Contact: 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 operated 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. Contact: 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 container service from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Apia and Vava'u with transhipment to Rarotonga. Contact: 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. Contact: 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 operated a RoRo/container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transhipment 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*. Contact: Sofrana-Unilines, Sydney (02) 2648944; Telex AA170090 Fax 2676547.

Australia — New Caledonia — Vanuatu

Campagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break-bulk cargo. Contact: Compagnie Generale Maritime 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (231 3700).

Australia — Nauru

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

**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**

**BALI
HAI**
SERVICE

AGENTS 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
and VILA: B.P 2456 SANTO: B.P 230 HONIARA: Sullivans (Solomon Islands) Ltd 21645 TARAWA: Shipping Corporation of Kiribati 26195
PHONE 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

monthly service. Contact: 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. Contact: 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 Lambion Quay, Wellington (72 2245).

Australia — NZ — Fiji — Vanuatu — New Caledonia — Solomons — New Guinea

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise programme from Sydney to include the better-known ports in the above countries plus a number of unspoilt, and largely unknown, island paradises. Contact: 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. Contact: 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, Alotau, Madang, Wewak, Rabaul, Kavieng-Kimbe, Kieta, Honiara, Vila, Santo. Contact: 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). Contact: 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). Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24066, Columbus Line, Lae (423466) Tlx: NE44171; or lines' local agents.

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

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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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 Line operates a monthly container service between Honolulu, Pago

SHIPPING

Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa and Avatiu (Rarotonga). Contact: Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc., PO Box 3264, Honolulu HI (9680)-32641 (808 531 4841) 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 Operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (31 2244); Fax (679) 301 572 Tlx FJ2199.

Japan — Micronesia

The NYK Shipping Line operates a monthly cargo service from Japan to Micronesia, calling at Yoko, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yoko, Nagoya and Kobe. Contact: 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). Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

PNG — UK/Continent

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint service from Port Moresby, Oro Bay, Kieta, Rabaul, Kimbe, Madang and Lae to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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 Lyttleton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then to New Zealand. Contact: 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. Contact: 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 Polynesienne, PO Box 36, Papeete, Tahiti.

New Zealand — Fiji

Pacific Line with one ship operates a three-weekly ro-ro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva. No passengers. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd, Tel. (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

YOUR DIRECT EUROPEAN CONNECTION



EUROPE-SOUTH PACIFIC JOINT SERVICE

The South Pacific Specialists offer facilities for shipment of:
Containers (FCL/LCL) and Break-bulk Cargo plus reefer space and deeptanks for carriage of vegetable oils and other liquid bulk cargo.

Carriers also accept heavy lifts, overlength and cumbersome parcels.



Ports of Service:

Loading: Papeete, Apia, Suva, Lautoka, Noumea, Port Vila, Santo, Honiara, Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta, Darwin.

For: Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Hull, Dunkirk, Le Havre.

Additional ports on enquiry.



Please contact our regional offices for further information:

The Bank Line (Australasia) Pty Ltd
Ground Floor Telex AA24063
53 Martin Place Telephone (02) 223 6255
Sydney NSW 2000 Facsimile (02) 223 6549

Columbus Line Reederei GmbH
P.O. Box 1667
Lae/Papua New Guinea
Phone: 42 3466/42 3287
A.H. 42 2481
Telex: Colline NE 44 171

THE BANK LINE LTD LONDON
COLUMBUS LINE REEDEREI GMBH HAMBURG

COL0024

THE MEDIA

TELEVISION

The Niue experience

By Belinda Meares

THIS month marks the first anniversary of Television New Zealand's experimental television service to Niue. On the strength of its Niuean venture, the corporation is confident of signing up other island states to the service. Also making or planning incursions into the region are Australian and American TV companies. TVNZ's Australian counterpart, the ABC, is probably its strongest competitor in this arena.

However, once the era of direct broadcast satellite television reaches the Pacific in the next few years, there will be little scope for conventional broadcasters to tie up rights to specific island markets. This factor lends a sense of urgency to negotiations, not just from the television suppliers' point of view. Island administrations, forewarned by the inroads of video viewing and alarmed at the prospect of DBS TV, are now inclined to embrace the concept of a national television service as a kind of lesser evil. Since television in one form or other is inevitable, its control is perceived as desirable to protect cultural values and to educate as well as entertain viewers.

TVNZ claims to offer the most comprehensive, culturally sensitive and affordable television option available to the islands. Although not confirmed by the corporation, it is understood that the Cook Islands, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands and Fiji have studied TVNZ services similar to Niue's. Other island states have also expressed interest.

The Cook Islands is signing a deal with TVNZ, with talk of the service being operational by Christmas. Fiji, on the other hand, has decided to go out to tender after having investigated propositions from over a dozen suppliers, including TVNZ. Fiji's service is to be substantially government-owned and will be subject to strict censorship.

The Fiji government is taking the television issue with caution, mainly because it would have "a profound and consequential effect on the views, social life and culture of our country," said a spokesman in Suva. "It is important for citizens to have a vested interest in programmes which reflect Fiji's culture. This will only happen if full control of input, programming, monitoring and censorship was vested in the government. The planned service would offer educational programmes to support rural de-

velopment.

Originally the Fiji government had a 12-year exclusive television contract with Publishing and Broadcasting Limited (PBL), first of the Australian Packer group and later sold to Bond media. That deal fell through when PBL withdrew after the military of 1987.

TVNZ was not the first foreign operator to captivate Niuean audiences, Cablevision, the American cable company, already had the island's homes cabled to receive CNN news clips and old movies. The Niuean government considered this fare inappropriate and bought out the service to make way for the Niue Broadcasting Corporation, which owns and operates the service supplied by TVNZ. In its trial phase TVNZ has largely supported the cost of service, though this arrangement is expected to change next year. As it is, Niuean viewers now pay a fee of \$5 a week to receive about 30 hours of programmes, which include news, current affairs, documentaries, sports, and general entertainment.

The working manager of Niuean television, ("I can't afford to sit behind a desk all day") is Hima Douglas, formerly broadcasting consultant to the South Pacific Commission. Douglas says that the pilot service has been successful and hopes that by the time it is put on a permanent footing, other islands will also have contracts with TVNZ so that costs can be shared. Rather than having to raise the local licence fee, he would like to see TVNZ extend its advertising into the Pacific to generate revenue to pay for the service.

A very small operation, Niuean television employs four programming staff and one trainee. TVNZ had personnel on the island only during the first weeks of the station's existence, to help set it up. Training has mostly been on the job, Douglas says, though people have been sent to New Zealand or Fiji for technical training.

About a third of the TVNZ programmes are time-sensitive (such as news), so are transmitted via satellite. The rest is sent on tape. A small amount of local material is also being screened. The programmes go to air between five and ten o'clock in the evenings, Monday to Saturday. This timing is designed to disrupt as little as possible the island way of life, Douglas says.

He remarks that Niuean households, which own a total of about 250 television sets, have not been altogether weaned from their diet of B-grade video movies just because "top-notch" TVNZ programmes have arrived as an alternative: "There are still people watching videos, particularly during the weekends. They hire not just one tape, but a stack of a dozen each weekend."

Douglas identifies the video "juggernaut"

Solomons send 7 to Auckland

THE Solomon Islands is the latest Pacific nation to consider setting up its own television service. A delegation of seven Solomons' politicians and broadcasters spent two days in Auckland recently, checking out the experiences of Television New Zealand domestically and in its ventures into Niue and the Cook Islands. TVNZ looks like having the inside running if the Solomons' government does decide to go ahead with a national TV service. Solomon Islands Broadcasting Commission chairman, Francis Bugotu, says he'll be recommending his government hire a TVNZ consultant to look at technical and programme requirements.

Bugotu praises TVNZ for understanding the caution Island nations feel when contemplating opening their airwaves to television. "They are willing to help us help ourselves and that must be our aim right now," he said. For its part, TVNZ is optimistic it will get more contracts in the Pacific. TVNZ's general manager for operations and development, Jon Blomfield, says the company's service to Niue and its "intensive consultations" with the

naut" that has swept the islands in the past three or four years as the prime justification for governments to jump onto the television bandwagon. At the time, he says, "there was an underestimation by all island governments of just how powerful this video revolution was going to be. Consequently, they've now woken up to the fact that it is a very powerful medium and what is worse, we are watching other people's television, instead of doing something locally."

Ironically, the issue of local television is subject to heated debate on TVNZ's home turf. But while the demand in New Zealand is for more locally produced drama and minority programmes, Kiwi viewers are at least treated to many hours of local news, current affairs and light entertainment shows. In Niue, by contrast, the challenge is to get just to square one and produce items that cover basic local news and events.

To complement the live feed of TVNZ's nightly Network News, Niue's television has two English news spots during the week and a bilingual news show on Saturdays. The language question is one Douglas is very aware of: "You have always got to remember that we are a bilingual station. Though we'll

THE MEDIA

Cook Islands has created a "domino effect" in the region. Blomfield says TVNZ expects to sign a TV deal with the Cooks government by the time this goes to print. It'll be an expanded version of what TVNZ provides now to Niue. Blomfield also says TVNZ is still talking to Fiji about its plans and says several other Island nations are lining up for negotiations.

The recently installed Solomons' government hasn't yet made it a policy decision to pursue a national television service, something Bugotu says he'll strongly recommend as a result of the Auckland visit. Television has already hit the islands in a big way through video rentals. "That's one of the reasons why we want to get into live television broadcasts, so that we can give an alternative that we can control," Bugotu says. "It's not easy to control video television." An essential part of such control would be ensuring television programmes didn't interfere with the culture of the Solomon islanders. Bugotu says this means the Solomons' broadcasting system will need restructuring so most of the programmes can be made locally rather than borrowed from abroad.

"Our primary aim is to get television to the people who are in the villages.

That's the hardest place to get television into so it will be a long term process of development," Bugotu says. Most of the Solomons' 300,000 inhabitants live in isolated villages on the six mountainous islands which make up most of the island chain. Ironically, costs mean it will be the 20,000 residents in the capital, Honiara, who'll probably get the first sight of any television service. Bugotu says the Solomons' government can afford start-up costs of \$300,000 for Honiara. After that any new transmission stations would be phased in alongside the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation's radio telecommunications network which is still being installed.

The telecom network is a joint venture between the Solomons' government and Cable and Wireless. The three regional stations (in Honiara, the western and the eastern ends of the chain) are to be joined by new stations on Malaita and Makira. Bugotu says any television service won't start for at least a year, until the new radio stations are on air. The Solomons' government also has to sort out details like how much it's willing to add to the national import bill to bring in television sets and how villagers in remote areas are going to buy and install them. □

prise, the corporation is expected by the New Zealand government to turn a profit.

While the Niuean venture has not been a money-spinner for TVNZ to date, Blomfield is optimistic, saying: "If we get to the position of having several customers, we'll have a service that is both economically viable for TVNZ and, at the same time an extremely cost-effective source of programming material for the Pacific nations."

It is no secret that the determination of TVNZ's Pacific push is influenced by a long-term goal. That is to break into the far more populous, and lucrative, Asian markets with English-language services distributed by direct broadcast satellite. The logic behind this move is attributed to the recent deregulation of New Zealand's broadcasting services which threatens to fragment TVNZ's local commercial revenues by introducing competition. According to its director general, Julian Mounter, TVNZ's foreign ventures are therefore designed to top up the corporation's dwindling coffers so that it can continue to fulfil its local production and public service objectives.

Against this background of intense regional and global competition for television audience share, a conference on the future of television in the Pacific is to be held in Suva in the end of November.

The meeting is organised by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union and the South Pacific Commission, with support from the Fiji Broadcasting Commission, the Japanese Hosono Bunka Foundation, UNESCO and the French government.

Expected to attend are heads of the region's broadcasting organisations and governmental broadcasting policy planners, who will debate such vital issues as government control versus privately owned television and whether to attempt nationwide coverage or limit transmissions to main population centres. They will discuss how to negotiate deals with foreign suppliers, how to produce local programmes and how to train personnel. The economic and social implications of the advent of television will also be on the agenda. This debate presupposes that the conference's key issue, *The main decision: should we introduce television?*, is answered affirmatively.

From the field, Himo Douglas responds in light of the Niuean experience: "We have set the ball rolling and I guess it's now a question of improving and consolidating the service and trying to produce more local input. We want to paint an island face on our television. We want to enjoy what the international programme suppliers are offering TVNZ but, at the same time, we want a fairly substantial hibiscus displayed on the screen as well." □

start off with English programmes, eventually we'll incorporate Niuean for every news and current affairs programme," he says.

TVNZ's executives say the corporation is very attentive to the needs of Niue and other potential Pacific clients. Jon Blomfield, general manager of TVNZ's operations development division, explains that the Niue service is a prototype that can be tailored to suit any particular situation. In the case of Niue, he says, TVNZ compiles draft programme schedules according to the client's requests and delivery of tapes and satellite feeds is timed to meet those schedules. "The Niue Broadcasting Corporation is then totally free to remix, reformat, choose or not choose any of that material it wishes," he says.

In this way, the station controls the content and timing of the programmes it airs. Local input into those programming decisions is encouraged. For example, Niue's broadcasters are advised by a committee of community representatives. TVNZ conducts its own viewing research on the island and that information goes back to Christchurch, from where the Pacific services programmes are packaged.

TVNZ also plays a consulting role, offering as much or as little hand-holding as the fledgling island broadcasters want, from advising on the legislative steps that might be needed to establish a television station, through to structure, organisation, staffing, skills development, revenue generation, equipment and technical services required to get a fully-fledged service on the air.

Keeping costs within the scope of limited budgets is an obligation that TVNZ feels it is able to meet, Blomfield says. Before the advent of cheap video technology, television was not really a viable prospect for the small and scattered Pacific island populations. "Indeed, it is still not easy," he admits, "but one of the advantages of modern technology is that it is now possible to produce near professional quality output with equipment that costs a fraction of what the professional organisations use. The formats we are suggesting for the Pacific Island nations enables them to do a lot of local production at very modest cost."

However it may appear at first glance, TVNZ's motivation for initiating its Pacific neighbours to the thrill of television is strategic rather than altruistic. As a commercially-oriented state-owned enter-



UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Regional Development Office/South Pacific

FISHERIES ADVISOR

The USAID regional office based in Suva, Fiji, is seeking candidates for a Personal Services Contractor Fisheries Advisor. Interested fisheries professionals who are citizens of the United States or of independent Pacific island nations, are requested to contact the USAID, ADO Office, P.O. Box 218, Suva, Fiji. Closing date for applications is October 30, 1989.

I. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

A. General

The incumbent will be responsible for providing expert advice and assistance in the marine resources sector to the work of USAID Regional Office in Suva. The contractor will work under the supervision of the Agricultural and Rural Development Officer.

B. Specific

The incumbent:

1. Will be responsible for providing advice on the development and implementation of USAID strategy in marine resources, with attention to the development of projects in the marine resources sector.
2. Will manage the new Pacific Islands Marine Resources project which will serve some of the fisheries development requirements of five Pacific island countries.
3. Will maintain effective USAID working relationships with island country and regional personnel throughout the South Pacific who are responsible for coordinating or managing marine resources activities. Will promote coordination and cooperation with other donors, including the Forum Fisheries Agency, the South Pacific Commission, the United Nations Development Program, and other regional agencies and organizations.
4. Will make site visits to the Island nations served by USAID to assess needs, meets with appropriate

public and private sectors personnel, and prepare trip reports and other marine resources program documentation and reports as required.

5. Will attend technical meetings, for fisheries development and will represent USAID at other national, regional, and international meetings and conferences, as appropriate.

II. PERIOD OF CONTRACT

USAID intends to hire a qualified individual under a personal services contract for a period of two years, with the possibility of extension of the contract.

III. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

USAID is seeking a highly motivated fisheries professional showing strong interest in marine resources planning and development.

A. Academic Qualifications

A university degree in a marine resources development related field.

B. Professional Experience

The candidate for the position should be able to demonstrate the following skills in his/her work experience:

- Marine Policy analysis
- Planning and management of international donor experience.
- Knowledge of Pacific island marine resource economics
- Familiarity with USAID project assistance.

IV. This is a request for expressions of interest for qualified candidates and not a hiring commitment by USAID. Interested persons should send a completed US Government form SF171 or resume and dates of availability to: USAID, ADO Office, PO Box 218, Suva, Fiji.

HEADLINES

Leaderless FLNKS worries Kanak

A SENIOR member of New Caledonia's Kanak independence movement has called for the quick convening of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) congress to strengthen the movement and keep alive the flames of peace.

Paul Neaoutyne, head of the northern province's committee on economic development, said the survival of the FLNKS was important to continued peace in New Caledonia, and the survival of the Maitignon Accord peace treaty. Under the terms of the accord, the people of New Caledonia will decide by referendum in 1998 whether to have independence from France or not.

"If some think they can eliminate the FLNKS and continue the plan for 10 years, they're wrong. The FLNKS has to meet and re-organise now," said Neaoutyne, who belongs to the moderate wing of the FLNKS's second-largest party, the Socialist Party for Kanak Liberation (PALIKA). He warned that further postponement of the FLNKS congress was unhealthy. He accused the FLNKS majority party, Union Caledonienne (UC), of holding up the congress.

Originally planned for May, the annual congress of the FLNKS's six-member group was cancelled following the assassination of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, (president of both the FLNKS and the UC) and of Yeiwene Yeiwene, the UC vice-president. The congress, which will decide the new leader, was put off until August, but it is not expected now until the end of the year.

"The decisions about the provinces are being made now," said Neaoutyne. "By January 1990 things will be up and running and grassroots members will be facing a *fait accompli*." Neaoutyne, an economist who headed Tjibaou's political staff, indicated that if the FLNKS no longer existed, PALIKA might not consider itself bound by the peace plan. □

Samoa delays liaison deal

THE Western Samoan government won't install immigration attaches in New Zealand to deal with overstayers until the end of the year. Earlier this year the New Zealand government took up the Samoans' offer of two immigration attaches to be located in Auckland and Wellington. But Consul-General Afamasaga Toleafoa says officials haven't yet worked out the duties and powers of these attaches. Toleafoa says the Samoan government doesn't want the attaches to have any enforcement powers under

VANUATU WEEKLY



Burnt out: the Bauerfield Airport control tower after the fire.

New tower for Bauerfield

CONSTRUCTION work on a new control tower at Bauerfield Airport outside Port Vila in Vanuatu is scheduled to begin in January and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Forum Secretariat in Suva is doing the architectural design. The new tower will cost approximately US\$1.4 million.

Although a new tower at Bauerfield was in the pipeline way back, a fire on September 11 has put more urgency on the work. The early morning fire destroyed the control tower, and equipment

and machinery in the building. While investigation was made into the cause of the fire, Australia and New Zealand jointly went into the rescue, provided equipment and put up a temporary tower at the airport.

Normally work on the new tower should take four to five months. The delay is expected to be caused by an anticipated late arrival of equipment.

The Forum Secretariat's plan for a new Bauerfield Airport tower is part of a project planned before the fire to upgrade facilities at five international airports in the Pacific Islands. Work on all the airports is expected to take 18 months and cost approximately US\$7 million. □

New Zealand law.

"We see them as liaising with the New Zealand enforcement authorities to advise them on adopting acceptable methods for dealing with certain overstayers," he said. Toleafoa says the attaches will be picked from qualified Samoans already in New Zealand. "Their work will mainly be to explain to our community and to potential overstayers their obligations and the legal implications of overstaying in New Zealand," he said.

The Samoan offer of immigration attaches was first made while Sir Robert Muldoon was Prime Minister. It was turned down. The Labour Government decided to accept the offer during the recent debate over Samoa's special immigration quota to New Zealand. The number of Samoans gaining permanent residency doubled last year to about 4000. Some Labour Ministers wanted to dump the quota of 1100 immigrants each year, blaming Samoan migrants for contributing to New Zealand's unem-

ployment problems. Under fire from the Samoan government and local Samoan groups, the Labour Government decided to target overstayers and reduce other categories of Samoan immigrants.

New Zealand has now resumed processing Samoan applications for permanent residency after a four-month halt. A replacement immigration officer has been sent to Apia after the incumbent returned to New Zealand for family reasons. Toleafoa says it's still too early to see how the authorities will apply the new immigration criteria and whether permanent residency applications from Samoans already in New Zealand will be given priority over those from Apia.

During a recent visit, Western Samoa's Prime Minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana, had hoped to meet his recently installed counterpart, Geoffrey Palmer, and new Immigration Minister Roger Douglas. Both Ministers were away so Tofilau spent a week discussing immigration and overstaying problems with Samoan community leaders in Auckland.

THE ARTS

Mysteries of Easter

BY Nicholas Rothwell

STARING out over the avenues of Frankfurt, the bronze portrait-bust of J.C. Senckenberg, green-tinged by the passing years, as the same solemn grandeur as the giant votive statues of far-away Easter Island — appropriately enough, for within the Natural History Museum here that bears Senckenberg's name, a pioneering exhibition of Easter Islands mysterious cultural heritage is being staged.

All through the northern summer, from April 5 to September 3, a section of the Senckenberg Museum, deep in this West German city's university quarter, has been hosting *1500 Years of Easter Island Culture — Statuary from the Land of Hotu Matua*. Despite the small scale of the exhibition, which naturally lacks any examples of the immovable monoliths of Easter Island, this is the most comprehensive presentation of cultural artefacts from the remote heart of Polynesia ever staged in Europe. Museums and collections from all around the world have lent their holdings, making possible a unified assessment of the state of western knowledge of Easter Islands art and history: Australian, New Zealand, French, German, British, America and Russian curators have supported the display — and the participation of the great Soviet ethnographic institutions is of special significance.

Almost all the 150 objects displayed are wood carvings. Many were collected



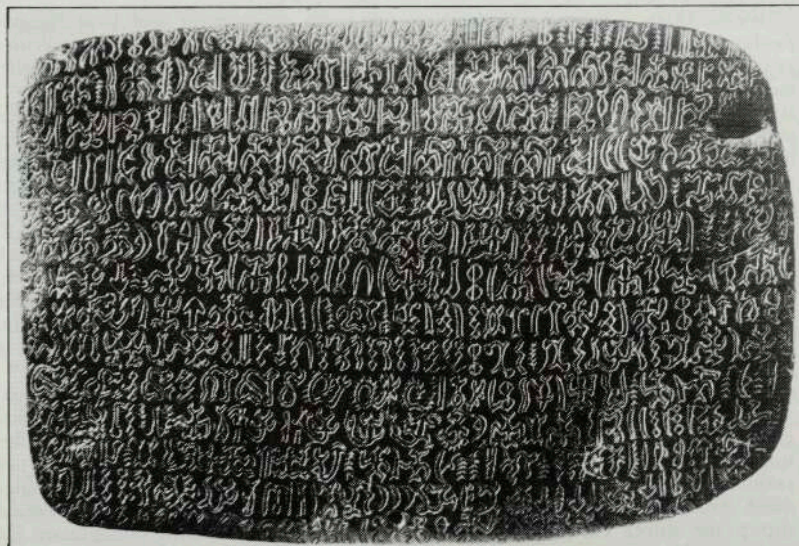
Mystery: giant statues stare out to sea.

by the earliest European visitors to Easter Island, such as Captain Cook, who encountered the mysteries that still attract the near-obsessive attention of scholars and romantics the world over: the vast statuary, the traces of vanished cultures, the elusive *rongorongo* script. This exhibition is the work of the Frankfurt-based German-Ibero-American Association. It testifies to the rich tradi-

tions of German ethnography, amply in evidence in the comprehensive exhibition catalogue. The catalogue includes detailed accounts of the discovery of Easter Island, summaries of the state of our knowledge of the giant statues and of contemporary cultural life on the island, which is now a possession of Chile.

But there is a further reason for the exhibition to be held in West Germany: dramatic progress has been recorded in recent years in the decipherment of the *rongorongo* script, which is chiefly known through examples inscribed on wooden paddles which are on view here. This advance is in large part due to the efforts of Professor Thomas Barthel, a specialist in Polynesian culture at the University of Tübingen, who expounds in the exhibition catalogue his theories on the meaning of the texts as repositories of folklore.

The display itself brings together the scattered examples of Easter Islands culture from the world's museums, and unifies them in distinct themes. The starkest wooden figurines are the *Moai kavakava*, with their skeletal rib-cages and inlaid eyes. Other groups of figures recall the impassive features of the Easter Islands monoliths, while a group of bird-man carvings, the *Moai Tangata*, remind the viewer of the central importance in the island's mythology of the bird motif. The serpentine *Moko* figures and the famous Easter Island pectorals, the *Reei Miro*,



Mystery: the Mamari Rongorongo tablet.

THE ARTS

here seem to have little in common with the art of other Polynesian islands.

More familiar ground is reached with the great ceremonial staffs, the *Ua*, often decorated with human features. The dividing line between these double-headed rods and the paddles, known as *Ao*, often seems vestigial — for some of the paddles also bear traces of anthropomorphic decoration. Various carved statuettes of diverse size and subject — twisted figures, craning birds, kneeling women with enlarged vulvas — point to the complex range of Easter Island religion, and the importance for the culture of the representation of spirits and symbols. There are also specimens of the island's petroglyphs — stone slabs marked with incised designs that echo the statuary.

But the twin peaks of this exhibition are the objects specific to Easter Island culture, the *rongorongo* tablets and the strange, squatting figures constructed out of tapa, pounded bark-parchment. Three of the most important *rongorongo* inscriptions were brought together in Frankfurt — each one is covered by tiny inscriptions, and each has been the object of years of study. There is the *Aroukou-Kurenga* tablet and the *Mamari* tablet, both held by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Rome,



Mystery: tapa-modelled figure.

and the "large Leningrad tablet", (see pic) — from the Mikluho-Maclay Museum in the Soviet Union. All three are carved with examples of *boustrophedon* writing, so named because the script

runs first left to right, then right to left, tracing the pattern of an ox ploughing a field.

The most striking of the tapa figures, both from America's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, are richly decorated male figures, painstakingly modelled, with individual fingers, toes and teeth. Their elaborate markings recall the tattoos and body tracers seen elsewhere in Polynesia: the technique of crafting a human shape from such plant material seems strangely reminiscent of the arts of certain Melanesian cultures — and also of the prehistoric kingdoms of South America. The entire group of tapa figures, frozen in their glassy display cases, grimacing and bulbous-eyed, still seems possessed of fearsome magic force.

Though Easter Island may be half a world away, and these statuettes and plaques come from a lost age, the Senckenberg Museum has briefly transformed itself into a stage alive with the haunting potency of Polynesian civilisation. In its half-darkened spaces, bisected by the obsidian eyes of ever-staring deities, the frenetic rhythms of modern Germany recede an instant, and the spirit of Rapa Nui seems to survive distance and time. □



THE FIJI FOREST INDUSTRIES GROUP OF COMPANIES

Fiji Forest Industries Ltd, The Pacific Lumber Company Ltd, Timbers (Fiji) Ltd, Wood Products (Fiji) Ltd.

**LARGEST EXPORTERS OF INDIGENOUS TIMBER
PRODUCERS OF PLYWOOD, BLOCKBOARD AND VENEER**

**SUPPLIERS ALSO OF A VARIETY OF TIMBER PRODUCTS
INCLUDING MOULDING, FINGER JOINTED AND LAMINATED
BOARDS**

**OUR PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE GREEN SAWN OR KILN
DRIED**

Box 608, Lautoka, Fiji. Telephone: 61255 Telex: FJ5280 Facsimile: 60323

WILSON-ADDISON 103.306

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — OCTOBER 1989 45

WILDLIFE



Endangered: Green Parrot chicks being bred in captivity.

NORFOLK

Hope for the Green Parrot

THE Norfolk Island green parrot has a lot in common with Rarotonga's *kakarori* (PIM March 1989). Both were widespread in the early 1800s in their respective islands, both have suffered from introduced fauna particularly the black rat and are now highly endangered and both have attracted recent conservation attention.

When Norfolk Island was settled in 1788, Green Parrots were sufficiently numerous to be a nuisance. Captain Hunter wrote in 1790 that the parrots had destroyed vast quantities of corn "although men were constantly employed in beating them off with long poles". By 1908, parrot numbers had dropped and the bird could only be legally destroyed if it was actually eating fruit or crops.

In some areas they were still reasonably common in the 1950s but, by 1983, the population had dwindled to less than 30. The Norfolk Island Government asked the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to undertake a conservation programme. Rather than put all the eggs in one basket, the programme developed along two lines: captive breeding and wild management. With the help of the local Lion's Club, an aviary was constructed to breed birds to supplement wild stocks. Initially only male parrots could be caught, partly because males are more easily captured and partly because there appears to be an imbalance in the sexes favouring males. Females were added to the aviary in 1985, a mother and a daughter from the only known nest of the parrot.

Most of the remaining native forest was protected in the 465-hectare Norfolk Island National Park declared jointly by the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island Governments in 1985 and 1986. Two

hundred years of settlement had removed much of Norfolk's sub-tropical rainforest and Green Parrots had not adapted to the cleared areas. Protection of its main habitat was crucial to its long-term survival. To overcome the shortage of suitable nest hollows caused by past logging, defective tree hollows in the National Park were rat-proofed, drained, strengthened or enlarged to make them more suitable. Nest boxes were also erected.

Intensive searching for wild nests commenced in 1986 with assistance from David Crouchley, of the New Zealand Department of Conservation. Once nests were located, protection measures involving the control of introduced birds, rats and cats could be concentrated around active nests.

Gradually nest searching paid dividends. David Crouchley and Australian National Parks and Wildlife officer Derek Greenwood found one new nest in 1986, two in 1987, seven in 1988 and six (to May) in 1989. Protection measures around active nests assisted seven chicks to fledge in 1987, 16 in 1988 and 11 so far in 1989. One of the nests successful in 1988 and 1989 had previously been predated by black rats before being rat-proofed. Another successful nest was in a previously unused tree hollow which had been modified to make it suitable.

The black rat is thought to have arrived on Norfolk Island in the 1940s and its impact on already stressed populations of three endemic land-bird species may have accelerated their decline. Along with the green parrot, populations of Norfolk's unique white-breasted, white-eye and guavabird have dramatically dropped over the last 30 years. Although rats are the number one villain at present, there are other problems. Green parrots spend quite a lot of time foraging on the ground and are vulnerable to feral cats. Cat hairs were found on the entrance to one low nest site. Once the entrance was made cat-proof, this nest was successful.

The introduced red parrots and starlings compete for the few available nest sites. Although green parrots can breed throughout the year, their peak season coincides with the off-season for these introduced species. Red Parrot numbers are controlled around Green Parrot nesting areas.

Back in the aviary, progress was slow. Wild-caught birds take time to settle to aviary conditions. Nevertheless, by early 1988, the two females had been captive for over two years and some sign of breeding activity was due. The younger female parrot showed a frustrating preference for males on the wild side of the fence. She first rejected her aviary mates and then her wild suitors when they

were captured and placed in her cage. Three wild males were tried before she finally got serious in June 1988 and laid an egg. This attempt and two subsequent ones aborted. However, in December 1988, she successfully hatched and reared two chicks, the first Norfolk Island green parrots bred in captivity. The older captive female showed no sign of breeding and was released with her mate late in 1988. She flew straight back to her old nest site and, after two infertile clutches, successfully reared 4 chicks.

To get more females for the aviary, the smallest chicks were taken from two wild nests with large clutches. In the wild these chicks would probably not have survived as their larger siblings would have monopolised the available food. By hand-rearing the smallest chicks, the productivity of the nests could be increased whilst providing new stock for the aviary better suited to captivity than wild-caught birds.

Another variation of foster rearing was tried. Surplus chicks from large clutches were transferred to wild nests with fewer chicks. In one case, chicks from a rat-prone nest were moved to a more rat-proof nest. So far these manipulations have been successful; the parents readily adopted the new chicks.

The conservation programme is something of a soft-shoe shuffle. Two steps forward in one area, then a step back in another. For example successful hand-rearing of six chicks in 1988 was offset by the later death of three juveniles in the aviary; successful rat-proofing of one nest in 1988 was followed by rat-predation in another protected nest; and fledging of good numbers of chicks in the wild has been followed by apparently high mortality in their first year.

Nevertheless, the combined efforts of Australian National Parks and Wildlife Society staff and Norfolk volunteers, together with assistance from visiting biologists from Taronga Zoo and the New Zealand Department of Conservation, seem to be paying off. Recent censuses have indicated more than 28 green parrots in the wild as well as 10 in the aviary. Uninhabited Phillip Island, seven kilometres south of Norfolk Island, may prove the parrots' salvation. Grazing goats, pigs and rabbits transformed this once lush island into a bizarre eroded landscape but it escaped the introduced rats and cats which trouble green parrots on Norfolk Island. Suitable habitat for the parrot is now regenerating on Phillip Island after a successful Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service programme in the early 1980s eradicated the last of the grazers — the rabbits. Provided Phillip Island can be kept predator-free, it could be an ideal place to release aviary-bred parrots. □

BOOKS

Ruling the islands

DEFINING STATUS: A comprehensive analysis of the United States Territorial Relations. By Arnold Leibowitz. 752 pages. Kluwer Academic Publishers, PO Box 358, Accord Station, Hingham, Mass 02018, United States. \$US189.

Reviewed by David North

THIS is a blockbuster of a book on America's rule of its island territories — encyclopedic, insightful, outspoken and often angry.

It is a treasurehouse of information on important but rarely-researched island issues. And, as the title claims, it is comprehensive: 752 pages and thousands of footnotes long, well organised, and sprinkled with a light dusting of political and historical trivia. (For example, for many years after World War II United States citizens could not visit Guam without military approval; one such citizen encountering this obstacle was the formidable Mainland politician John Connally, later Governor of Texas. He complained to President Kennedy, and the ban was lifted.)

The author has one of those unusual legal specialties: he helps United States territories write their constitutions, and argues their cases in court, usually against the federal government. And he has been involved, in one way or another, with American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and the three former Trust Territories: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshalls and Palau. (He has been, for example, counsel to the President of Palau in some of the recent litigation before the Palau courts on various compact of Free Association issues.)

It is from this background that Leibowitz views the U.S. relations with its territories. His general position is that Washington rarely approaches the territories in a systematic, long-term manner; that the lack of island political power in the capital leads to frequent defeats for territorial interests; and that all three branches of the Mainland government, executive, legislative and judicial, seem to have a higher regard for their own positions and powers vis-a-vis the islands than they do of the islands' abilities to govern themselves. (As a lawyer he has a particularly grim view of the pattern he sees in the courts, always ruling for extensions of federal power and rarely supporting the territories when they object.)

Leibowitz spells this out by, first, outlining how the US Government, from even before the writing of the Constitu-

tion, handled its relations with territories. They were at first regarded as potential states, and most remained in a transitional (territorial) role for only a few years. When the US was very young, under the Confederation (1776-1789) it had a single house legislature, and territories (like Tennessee) were granted a single, non-voting delegate in the Congress. While that specific precedent still operates regarding American Samoa and Guam, the notion of territories (now distant and populated by non-whites) as potential states has dimmed.

After laying out the general patterns of Washington-island relations, including decades of rule by US Navy officers, the author moves to near-book-length chapters on the relations between each of the territories and Washington. (The two Caribbean territories, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, are covered as well.) In each of these chapters he mixes a little history and a little anthropology, with generous doses of policy analysis, politics and law.

While Leibowitz usually supports the position of island governments, he offers some sharp advice to the territories on various subjects, such as on ethnic-specific, land-tenure laws. He suggests that allowing only Samoans, for example, to own certain classes of land, is likely to be upset (on an equal rights basis) in federal courts, but that Samoa could reach the same general objective if land ownership were restricted to certain classes of residents of the territory, or if land could be alienated only for certain purposes.

Speaking of Samoa, I was a little dismayed that the islands' leading constitutional scholar did not discuss the interesting question of women and the Senate of American Samoa, although there is a thorough discussion of the evolution of the Samoan legislature. While the lower house in American Samoa is elected by universal suffrage, and a secret ballot, the upper house is

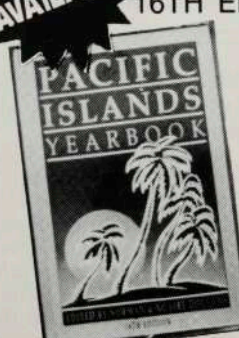
chosen by the traditional meetings of the matais, the traditional family leaders. The latter are 99 per cent male, and no woman has ever been elected to the Samoa Senate. What would happen to that practice if it came before a US district court on the Mainland? I am not a lawyer but I am sure that the matai election system would be dead in the water.

Returning to the broad thrust of his work, Leibowitz recommends:

- that US policy toward the islands become more stable and more thoughtful;
- that US establish real limits to federal power, giving the islands more power to run their own affairs;
- that Washington support the movement toward change in status of the territories;
- that, in the long-term, statehood be the objective for Guam (preferably joined with the Marianas) and that, if American Samoa can accept an end to ethnic land-tenure legislation and the control of its own immigration policy it too be encouraged to seek statehood; and
- that, in the short-term, the federal government should move toward equal treatment in social and trade programs, should enhance political representation of the islands, and restrain its appetite for land in the islands. (The military occupies a lot of land in Guam, and in some of the former Territories.)

Politicians, scholars, lawyers and journalists seeking to understand how the U.S. treats its islands need this volume. It is the definitive book on the subject, and provides a solid underpinning for policy making, scholarship and the text generation of law suits. It is particularly valuable because it deals with all the relationships of Washington with all of the islands, on a wide range of subjects.

A note on the price: this is a result of privatisation, or how the private sector copes with a specialised product for an unwieldy market. But it is worth it. □



NOW AVAILABLE

PACIFIC ISLANDS YEAR BOOK

16TH EDITION ONLY A\$45 A COPY

Buy your hard cover plastic jacketed copy today, by filling this coupon and enclosing your bank draft or money order to: PACIFIC ISLANDS YEAR BOOK, P.O. BOX 1167, SUVA.

Please send me . . . copy(ies) of the 16th Edition of the Pacific Islands Year Book. I enclose herewith my cheque made payable to PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY of A\$ or debit \$..... to my ☐ Bankcard ☐ visa ☐ Mastercard

(Card No.): Expiry Date:

MY NAME:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

CITY:

COUNTRY:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

SPORTS

Reflections on a mini event

EARLY reflections upon the 1989 South Pacific Mini Games brings to mind the old show-business adage of "Everything will be right on the night". For many months prior to its commencement, the Games appeared destined to be a fiasco. Controversy over the funding of facilities built specifically for the 10-day festival, a dearth of publicity material available to the media, reports of the facilities construction programme being alarmingly behind schedule and problems most invited teams had in raising funds for the trip all augured badly for Tonga's first attempt to host a major sporting event.

The death, just one day before the opening ceremony, of the wife of Brian Wightman — who had worked like a Trojan in his capacity as Games Organising Committee Secretary — not only cast a cloud over all eve of games functions, but was widely looked upon as yet another evil omen. Yet, from the joyous opening ceremony right through to King Taufa'ahau Tupou formally ending proceedings, the Games was; beyond all doubt, a huge success.

Although no world record was broken in Nuku'alofa, or even remotely threatened, an abundance of excellent performances which mirrored the overall improvement in standards throughout the region were witnessed by crowds of admirable size and enthusiasm.

As always, the athletics events demanded most notice.

When the first day of competition had been completed with New Caledonia making a clean sweep of medals in both the hammer throw and men's triple jump and the remarkable Alain Lazare blitzing the field to win the 10,000 metres, many feared that athletes from the French territory would monopolise the winners' dais.

It transpired that the New Caledonians did pick up more gold medals in athletics than any other team. But its haul of 13 (from the 40 awarded) hardly matched the total dominance expected and the widespread circulation of winners' laurels must be, with a view to South Pacific athletics' overall welfare, be regarded as a healthy outcome.

Lazare went on to claim further gold medals in the 3000 metres steeplechase and 5000 metres. His must be acknowledged as the outstanding performance of the Games and the heartwarming and spontaneous reception he received from the crowd; estimated as large as 8000 on some days, dispelled all apprehension over animosity towards the French — at least at spectator level.

Yet, as with all sporting events, it is



Joy: Nonif of the Solomons, clears 3.70metres in the decathlon's pole vault event.

the triumphs of the underdogs — the totally unexpected results — which will linger in the mind longest:

Never to be forgotten will be 15-year-old Gane Gardner of Norfolk Island's emergence as the South Pacific's own Nadia Comaneci, when displaying impish charm and exuberance while winning the women's high jump. Just as surprising as Gardner's success was the victory of Josef Manken, from Vanuatu, in the men's 400 metres. Manken had never previously entered any international

event.

For fans at the Teufaiva Stadium, the highlight must surely have been Ikani Taliai's gold medal winning effort in the men's long jump. Taliai jumped, literally, from fifth to first place with his last leap. His gold made amends for Tongan disappointment over Siulolo Ikavuka's inability to clinch wins in either the women's shot put or discus, even though initially favoured for both disciplines.

The blue ribband event, the marathon, produced another unlikely winner in the

SPORTS



Joy: Papua New Guinea's Iammo Launa wins another race. She won gold in the 100m, 200m and heptathlon.

form of 38-year-old Shiri Chand. He was one of four gold medallists from Fiji on the final day of competition — a day which salvaged Fiji pride, just when it appeared the meeting wouldn't yield a single gold for one of the South Pacific's traditional track and field powers.

Athletics may have gained more media attention, but it was the boxing tournament that captured the local people's imagination. At times, it seemed half of Nuku'alofa was crammed into the indoor stadium. When, prior to leaving Apia,

Western Samoa boxing manager George Meredith, stated that his charges would return with six gold medals, most thought him to be merely exhibiting the bluster the sport is renowned for. But, his boys fulfilled his prediction exactly — a feat which enabled Western Samoa to surge to the top of the final overall medals table.

Unfortunately, the Mini Games did not escape the controversy which now seems obligatory at every international amateur boxing tournament. Of the

numerous doubtful judges' decisions, the most crucial removed the very much in-form Tommy Bauro from the middleweight division and robbed the Solomon Islands (which had overcome immense financial and logistical problems in getting to Nuku'alofa) of its best gold medal prospect.

Western Samoa also gained a golden harvest from weightlifting, with Papua New Guinea being the most successful of those grabbing the crumbs left by the Samoans. However, it was the 19-year-old Nauruan Mark Stephens who produced the most impressive individual performance. While setting Games records for the snatch, jerk and combined in the 60kg class, Stephens gave warning that he is a contender for Commonwealth Games honours next year.

With Fiji not competing, the netball gold medals' destination looked to be a formality. Indeed, red hot favourites the Cook Islands did prevail but had to endure many anxious moments before disposing of a young and spirited Papua New Guinea combination 53-49 in the final.

What a shame it is that Australian aid to PNG does not extend to netball. If the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra was able to take the Kumuls under its wing for a few weeks each year they would surely develop into a major world netball power. But, left to its own devices, the team can probably anticipate nothing but stagnation — a fate which befalls a tragically large amount of Pacific islands young sporting talent.

French Polynesian expectations of capturing all five tennis titles were shattered when Daniel Laine (New Caledonia) and fourth seeded Wendy Huynh (Guam) took the men's and women's singles finals respectively. The doubles events were all won by Tahitian combinations though, so there remains little doubt where the greatest depth of talent lies in the region.

More gold medals came French Polynesia's way in women's golf; through the efforts of its team and the individual tournament winner, Itari Poetai. Honours in the men's section were shared. Western Samoa's Atapana Sanerive (19 with immense potential) won the individual's championship by a remarkable eight shot margin, only for Fiji's strength in depth to tell in the teams' contest.

Golf was just one of the sports in which host Tonga made disappointingly little impact. But the kingdom has inherited some truly superb facilities from the Games and it can be expected to make a far greater impression at future regional events.

The prediction can be made, with a fair degree of confidence, that time will prove the next generation of Tongan athletes to be the 1989 South Pacific Mini Games' biggest winners. □

SPORTS



Tears: Long jumper Ikani Taliai receives Tonga's only gold medal from Princess Pilolevu.



Tears: Albertin An, of French Polynesia, runs in the sprints. But she pulled out of the 100m with a muscle injury.

Too much to lose

ORGANISERS of next year's Auckland Commonwealth Games are reviewing planned events after being forced to reveal an estimated budget deficit of NZ\$25 million. The budget blow-out was made public on August 29 after Sports Minister Peter Tapscott ordered an emergency meeting with the hierarchy of the Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association and officials of the games company. The games association president, Sir David Beattie, says the potential deficit is "substantially attributable to reduced revenue expectations". The deficit would be slashed by fundraising and cuts to budgeted spending.

Sir David won't reveal which activities might have to be cut, saying officials are still working on it. But there's been speculation that the games company might target security as one area to save money. Assistant police commissioner Brian Davies says 1100 police would be involved in games security, including 500 brought in from outside Auckland. Davies says 40 per cent of Auckland's total police staff would be tied up with

games security and there won't be any capacity to take on extra games work.

Games company security executive Geoff Downey won't comment on possible security cuts but says there will be 700 volunteers working two daytime shifts and a private security firm has been contracted for night work. The enforced revelation of the games deficit came after games company officials ridiculed as "just nonsense" newspaper reports of the financial blow-out. But Games company chief executive Tom Aldridge says media reports of a possible black African boycott had a "devastating effect" on sponsorship. Potential sponsors had shied away after what Aldridge described as "media speculation" over a boycott had overshadowed supportive statements from a succession of black African leaders.

The Government has warned the games organisers they'll get no extra funds to bail them out. The deficit revelations came on the eve of Foreign Minister Russell Marshall's departure for the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade. Marshall planned to use New Zealand's observer status to lobby countries from the Organisation of African Unity to ensure there'd be no boycott in Auckland next year. □

PACIFIC PEOPLE

New horizon

Dr Alesana Seluka, diplomat, social worker, politician

Dr Alesana Seluka has recently returned to Tuvalu after many years working around the region. He was Tuvalu's representative in Suva before Independence. He went on to Western Samoa where he worked in the office of Tokelau Affairs in Apia. Last year he completed a work contract with the Ministry of Health in Port Vila. Dr Seluka was educated in Fiji where he went to school with men like Fiji's deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra. Amongst his many friends in Vanuatu are former President George Sokomanu. He was a keen sportsman and played cricket with Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. He studied medicine at the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva. His wife, Sega, is Fijian. They have five children. Dr Seluka is now chasing a political career and seeking a place in parliament. By Diana McManus.

For many years you worked as a doctor in countries around the Pacific. What has prompted you to turn to politics?

It is nearly 11 years since independence and I don't think Tuvalu is moving quickly enough towards economic self-reliance. Also, after speaking with the people on my island of Nui, I see that they are frustrated in making their views heard at the national level. I feel it is my duty to stand for election and serve them as well as my nation and now is the time.

How has your experience equipped you for political life?

Mostly through contact with various ministries of health which I have worked in. This way I have become familiar with politics and politicians and the bureaucratic way of doing things. But my political awareness on the local scene has been sharpened in Tuvalu mostly through conversations with my fellow countrymen on Nui. As a doctor, my contact with people was often limited to their physical condition. The people of Nui have shown me their hopes and aspirations, frustrations, ways of achieving goals — a dimension of people and politics which I had formerly missed.

What do you want for Tuvalu?

Basically I want us to move more quickly into the modern world and play a proper part as a regional partner. Our main success since Independence has probably been in establishing a political infrastructure. But Tuvalu must be seen as trying to be self-reliant and generate its own revenue for governing. This means we have to increase our efforts to establish a cash based economy. We have not lived up to our economic expectations.

Why do you think that is the case?

Our islands are remote and scattered. Our people are very insular and have not developed a national or regional mentality. They are used to helping each other out and living on the edge of self-

DIANA McMANUS



PACIFIC PEOPLE



INTERNATIONAL WORKER: Seluka with eldest daughter Beti, wife Segā and grandchildren at Port Vila's Bauerfield Airport, Vanuatu.

sufficiency and they seem satisfied with that. This was alright in the past but it can't continue in the future.

How do you purpose to encourage the cash-based economy to grow?

In several ways. Decentralisation is a good thing as long as projects are carefully monitored and supported by the government until they are truly capable of walking by themselves. Also, the Government should reap some benefit from the success of outer islands ventures in the way of revenue in order to go on helping the people of Tuvalu. Look at the Moana Soap venture on Vaitupu. It is helping the people of Vaitupu, yes, but not all the people of Tuvalu are gaining from its success.

Does this mean you are in favour of tightly regulated business controls?

No. Not at all. I believe in a "laissez-faire" approach and business should be free to develop where there are managerial skills and capital to begin with. But many of our people are beginning from scratch and need more consultation and advice, sometimes capital, until the business is firmly established. To continue to do this the government must share in the rewards of success as well as carrying the burdens of development. It must create its own revenue in order to work more effectively.

Your country has limited resources. What opportunities do you see for Tuva-

luans to increase their cash economy base?

There is room for improvement in agriculture on the outer islands. For example cash crops such as taro could be grown in favour of pulaka and the surplus brought down for sale in Funafuti where the money is. This, of course, depends on an efficient system of marketing, and there is one of the problems. Tourism has a lot of potential here but we must be careful in developing it because our people are quite conservative in outlook and tourism brings with it its own special problems. Of course it is essential to develop exports and create revenue from abroad. We cannot keep relying on the licensing of foreign vessels for our overseas income.

What exports did you have in mind?

South Pacific Apparels is a good example. Copra is not. It is not big enough to rely on and subject to world price fluctuation. Processed fish for example. Dried fish, smoked fish, even fresh fish. We are a nation of fishermen. We should be bringing in new technologies to educate people and develop these products. I don't think the present government has paid enough attention to this.

What is your attitude towards the urban drift and the national brain drain as young people leave their islands in search of better opportunities and jobs?

This is not only a Tuvaluan problem. It is true all over the world. I would not want to stop young people from developing their own potential. But I would hope that we can create the opportunities here on the islands which would give young people something to stay here for and to come back to.

Do you mean by creating more employment?

Well in Tuvaluan terms everyone is employable. The problem is to find a cash income for their labour so they can improve the standard of living for themselves and their families.

What do you see as the main stumbling blocks towards achieving these goals?

We need good management. That's the key for the next generation or at least another decade. Our people are not well trained in commerce or in managerial skills and that leads to inefficiency. And people must be encouraged to stick to jobs long enough to assess their performance and their potential. It's important for the development of the economy. It's the same with projects. We need something more solid. Not just a bit here and a bit there. Otherwise we are left in limbo and don't know where we start or where we finish. I'm not saying this is going on in Tuvalu but bear in mind that Tuvalu is a developing country and is therefore very susceptible to this problem.

Do you see nepotism as being a problem in government?

Yes. We have inherited from the British a system which is impersonal and corrupt free, and it should remain impersonal and incorruptible. An administration should not be interfered with by any group of people or by individuals. If those in authority practise this kind of thing it will interfere with good working relations. If nepotism is allowed to creep in then government will never realise its own potential.

How would you bring about greater efficiency in your country?

We need good office managers and people with entrepreneurial skills. That's why one of our priorities is on training and education. Nepotism, inefficiency, incompetence, lack of training and lack of knowledge are all problems which have to be overcome and eliminated in Tuvalu.

What are your dreams for Tuvalu?

I would like to see Tuvalu play its role as a regional partner as a responsible, strong, self-reliant country. These are my dreams for the future. And to do that you have to wipe out all those stumbling blocks we have talked about. We must come to terms with and live with our partners and join the common effort to make our region a peaceful place to live in and to withstand external pressures. □

PACIFIC PEOPLE

LINDSAY MISROS has been appointed Solomon Islands' Roving Ambassador in Asia. Misros, the deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Relations, has been to Japan and Taiwan to present his credentials.

The Solomons has another Roving Ambassador, **Wilson Ifinaoa**, who covers Europe. The appointments were made after the government of **Solomon Mamaloni** closed the country's diplomatic mission at the United Nations in New York and announced its intention to open a mission in Australia.

• **Alik Likiaksa Alik** has been appointed the first Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia to Fiji. He was deputy chief of his country's South Pacific Affairs Division before his appointment.

Federated States of Micronesia formally established diplomatic relations with Fiji in August 1988. It opened a mission in Suva last April and appointed **Alik** the charge d'affaires.

• **Zohar Raz** presented his credentials in Honiara last month as Israel Ambassador to the Solomon Islands. He is based in Suva.

In a meeting with Solomons Governor-General **Sir George Lepping**, Raz offered Israel's willingness to contribute to the development of the Solomon Islands.

• **Chris Laidlaw** has started work as New Zealand's Race Relations Conciliator with the call for moderation "on all sides". Previously he was New Zealand Commissioner to Zimbabwe.

• **Masiofo Ma'afa** has become the first

A first for Rotarians



McMahon: first for women.

CLARE McMahon, the Australian Trade Commissioner to Fiji has made it into Rotary's Fiji record books. At the regular weekly club meeting in Suva on September 26, she was inducted as the club's first female member. Women in Rotary worldwide is a

fairly recent phenomenon.

The United States, home of Rotary, was the first country to admit women members, nearly two years ago. Commenting on McMahon's admission, Rotary Club of Suva North President, **Ross Addison**, said:

"We did not set out to recruit a female member. Clare was nominated for membership of the club on the basis of her status as the most senior member of her profession in Fiji. We were well aware of changes in the structure of Rotary internationally and have no problems in adjusting to the new rules. We are delighted to have Clare as a member of our club and I'm confident that she will make a very valuable contribution."

Suva North has been a chartered Rotary club in Fiji at least 15 years and has a membership of 45. □

woman appointed by Western Samoa to head an overseas mission. She takes up the appointment of Consul-General in Auckland this month. **Masiofo** replaces **Afamasaga Toleafoa** who has been transferred to Brussels to cover the European Economic Community.

In another appointment, **Dr Felix Wendt**, goes to New York to take up the position of Ambassador to the United Nations, United States and Canada.

• **Brown Sinamoi** has been sworn in as Papua New Guinea's Minister for Communications, succeeding **Malipu Balakau**

who was assassinated outside his home at Mount Hagen last June 30. **Sinamoi** is a National Party member for Choave in Chimbu Province and a former Speaker of Parliament.

He joins two other National Party members, Police Minister **Mathais Ijape** and Finance and Planning Minister **Paul Pora**, in Cabinet.

Fijian **Akanisi Dreunimisimisi** was appointed manager of Treasure Island Resort, the larger of Islands in the Sun Fiji properties. Both island resorts are about an hour from Lautoka by boat. □

OBITUARY

Ivan the Champion

Port Moresby-born **Ivan Champion**, OBE, Australia's last great explorer, died on August 12, at Woden Hospital, Canberra, after a brief illness. He was born on March 9, 1904 at Port Moresby. He was the eldest son of Papua's then Government Secretary, **Herbert W. Champion**. **Ivan Champion** was regarded as a determined explorer of the vast interior and rugged highlands of Papua. Between 1925 and 1940 he conducted a series of exploring expeditions which established him as the best known explorer of Papua.

As a Junior Officer in Papua's Magisterial Service, **Champion** accompanied the late Assistant Resident Magistrate, **Charles Karius**, on the the Great North West Patrol of 1926-1928 which discovered the source of Papua's mighty Fly

River and the headwaters of the Sepik River.

Champion wrote a book about this famous expedition, *Across New Guinea from the Fly to the Speik* (London, Constable, 1932). It is an acknowledged classic of the literature of New Guinea Exploration.

Champion distinguished himself as a Royal Australian Navy officer in World War II. In 1942, as captain of *HMAS Laurabada*, he sailed his ship deep into Japanese-held territory to rescue the remnants of Australia's Rabaul Military Garrison who had escaped from Rabaul. In a daring operation, **Champion** took on board 150 exhausted, sick and wounded soldiers and in a violent tropical thunderstorm, navigated the *Laurabada* back to the safety of Port Moresby without incident.

Towards the end of 1944 **Champion** was assigned to the *HMS Challenger* for six months to survey a route through the Torres Straits for the passage of the British Fleet. After he was discharged from the navy in October 1945, he was

appointed to the Provisional Administration of Papua and New Guinea. He later became acting Director of the Department of District Services and Native Affairs.

In 1951 **Champion** was in charge of the massive relief operations that followed the catastrophic eruption of Mount Lamington volcano. At least 35 Australians and 3000 Papuans perished in this tragic eruption. In 1961, Trans Australian Airlines (now Australian Airlines) named a DC cargo plane VH-SBM *The Ivan Champion*.

Champion's life as an explorer is the subject of a recently published book by **James Sinclair**, the foremost Australian writes of books about Papua New Guinea. The book, *Last Frontiers: The Explorations of Ivan Champion of Papua* published in 1989 by Pacific Press (Gold Coast), recounts the triumphs, travails accomplishments and progress of **Champion** and his fellow Australians who explored the enormous swamps, the vast grasslands and rugged mountains of the interior of Papua New Guinea. □

THE ISLAND PRESS

Reports from the papers. Compiled by John Carter



THE people of Western Highlands and visitors from other parts of the country and overseas were treated to four days of entertainment in Mount Hagen.

The province held two days of celebrations to mark its 10th anniversary. This was followed by the famous Mount Hagen Show.

The show this year was bigger and better with more activities to entertain the estimated 50,000 people who passed through the gates ...

Two smoked bodies from the Aseki area of Morobe Province were put on general display, along with other stands of traditional artifacts and agricultural produce.

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

A CATECHIST was beaten up and his car smashed in an incident involving a village curfew at Luatuanu'u. Sources say the villagers challenged the catechist because his car was going too fast during village curfew. This led to an exchange of words and the assault on the catechist who afterwards had to receive medical treatment. Police are investigating.

From the *Samoa Times*, Apia

PAPUA New Guinea's only drive-in cinema, the Skyline in Port Moresby, has closed after 30 years of operation.

Papuan Skyline Theatres general manager Robert Godsall told the *Post-Courier* that competition from television and pirated video-tapes of new movies had reduced drive-in audiences to the point where the theatre was no longer paying proposition.

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

DEAR Sir,

In the July 28 issue of *The Tonga Chronicle* it was reported that the government of Iran may build an oil storage depot and an oil refinery in Tonga. Though such developments could bring substantial benefits to Tonga, I hope His Majesty's Government will carefully weigh the risks involved.

A worst-case scenario is the disaster that occurred on March 24, when the supertanker *Exxon Valdez* hit a reef and spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound in Alaska. US\$8 million have already been spent to clean up the mess, but Prince William Sound may never be the same. ...

... Iran may not be able to export oil

much longer. I am one of several million Americans who hope that President Bush will order the bombing of Iran.

From a letter in the *Tonga Chronicle*, Nuku'alofa

ONE of the last letters to come up from our departing Official Secretary, Bill Campbell, must surely be this gem.

Bill writes: "I enclose a copy of a letter received by this office from London Buses. As there may be persons on Norfolk Island who wish to purchase a second-hand double decker bus you might wish to print the letter in your paper."

The letter, dated 13th July from London Buses, 500 Chiswick High Road, London W4, 5RG, is addressed to the Commercial Manager, British Embassy, Norfolk Island, Oceania and reads:

"We have a number of secondhand Double Deck and Single Deck Buses available for sale and would be obliged if you could supply us with the names and addresses of major Bus Companies and Transport Journals in Norfolk Islands. — Signed David Jones for Commercial Manager."

From the *Norfolk Islander*

HOW ON EARTH AM I GOING TO TAKE ALL THIS HOME ?

DHL IT!

DHL has years of experience carefully packing and shipping Fiji's outstanding works of art directly to your home doorstep.

Our reputation has been built on caring for your valuables. Don't take chances, phone us ... we're here to help.

Just call DHL — we'll do the rest

SUVA	NADI	LAUTOKA	LABASA
313166	73800	65400	81162
313149	72019	65401	

DHL
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS

MARTIN FABRICS

FIJI'S ONLY HOUSE OF FASHION WEAR

- * FLORAL DRESS PRINTS
- * 100% COTTON PRINTS
- * TAPA PRINTS
- * ISLAND PRINTS
- * HABUTAE SILK
- * FANCY FABRICS
- * MENS SUITING & SHIRTING MATERIAL

LARGEST SELECTION IN FIJI OF

- * CURTAIN FABRIC FROM SWEDEN

AVAILABLE AT ALL MARTIN FABRICS RETAIL OUTLET

SUVA 281 VICTORIA PRD.	NADI TOWN OPP. NAMOTOMOTO VILLAGE
BA TOWN MAIN STREET	LAUTOKA BILA STREET
MARTINS CORNER 4 MILES NABUA	

GARY COUCHMAN???

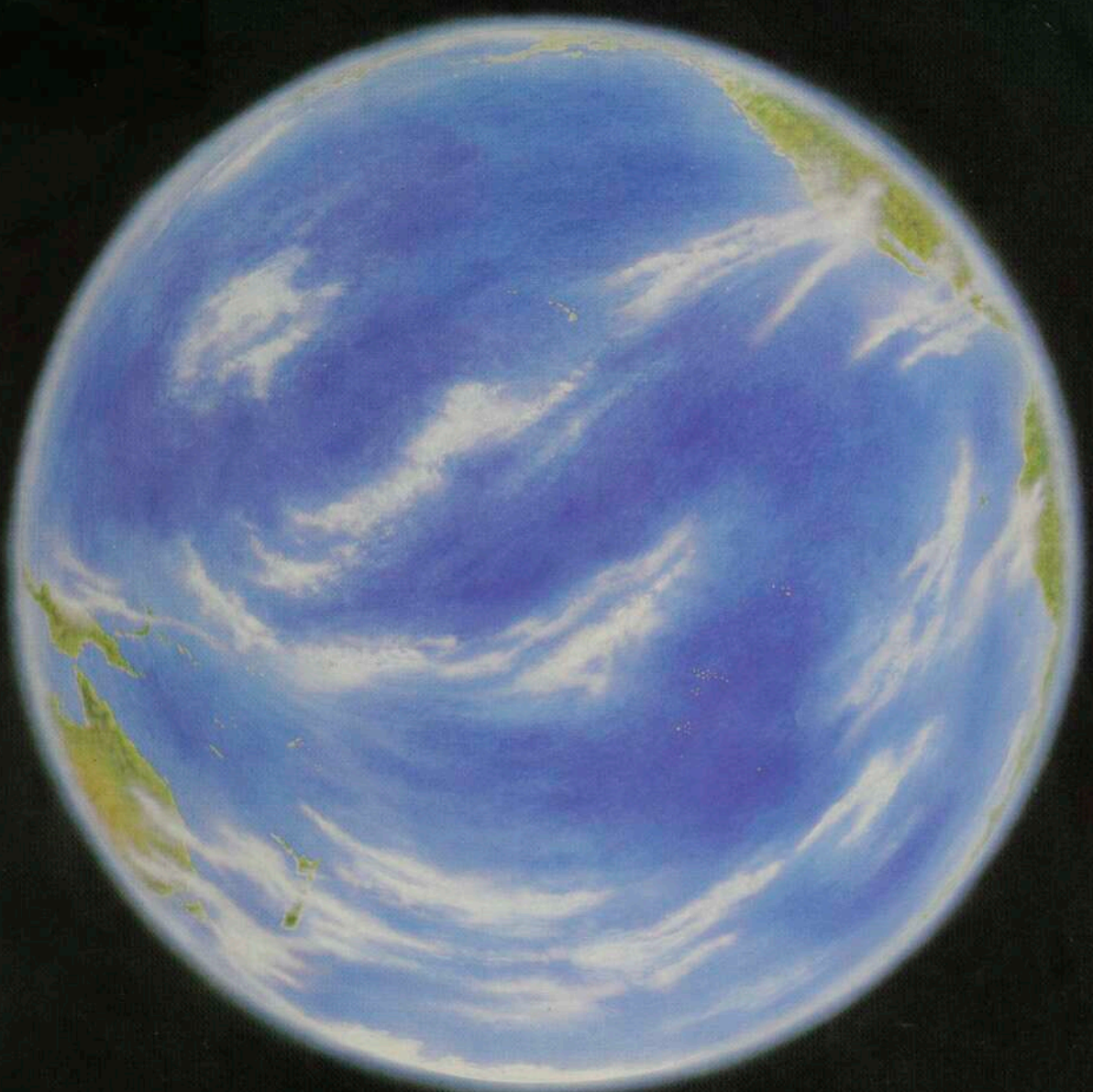
A consultant design office, specialising in a comprehensive design and production service for tourist-oriented projects.

Museum Planning & Displays, Exhibitions, Interpretive Centres, Graphics, Research.

Enquiries to:

GARY COUCHMAN DESIGNER

11 Dusk St., Kenmore
Queensland 4069
Australia
Telephone: (7) 378 8461
Facsimile: (7) 870 3850



Fuels and lubricants.
Plastics. Chemicals. Bitumen.
Aviation Services. Bunkering.
Shell has penetrated
even more of the Pacific
to widen its network
of offices, terminals and

**Network Shell,
now servicing
even more
of the Pacific.**

distributors as well
as service stations.
Now you can re-assess
your source of supply, because
Shell quality and value is
close at hand, with the
service to back it up.



REGIONAL OFFICES: GUAM 671 477 4350. Also servicing Marshall Islands (Majuro), Northern Marianas (Saipan), Palau.
11679 513 933. Also servicing Tonga, Cook Islands, American Samoa, Western Samoa • PAPUA NEW GUINEA 675 228 700. Also servicing Solomon Islands.
NEW CALEDONIA 687 285 720. Also servicing Tahiti, Vanuatu.

Looking for a Hard Time.



★ The Mitsubishi Galant takes overall honours at the Rally of 1,000 Lakes, Finland, 9th round of the WRC.

Finding the ideal conditions in which to put your theories to the test can sometimes take you a little out of your way. As in the case of testing the advanced technology incorporated in the Mitsubishi Galant. They entered the Galant in some of the most grueling rounds of the World Rally Championship looking for those conditions. So, from the rocky trails of the Acropolis Rally to the high-speed tracks of the Finnish 1000 Lakes Rally, the Mitsubishi Galant's organic performance is being put to the test.

Mitsubishi Motors regards all motor sports events as the ultimate proving ground for their automotive technology. And where better to test the embodiment of organic

performance, Dynamic-4? Four comprehensive drive systems: 4-wheel drive, 4-wheel steering, 4-wheel independent suspension and 4-wheel anti-lock braking are melded into a single, thinking performance. An organic performance.

This approach—testing the worth of their technology under the rigors of competition maintains Mitsubishi's finely honed competitive and innovative edge. And the test results become another part in Mitsubishi's ever evolving production philosophy—the organic performance.

MITSUBISHI GALANT



5
AMERICAN SAMOA: MORRIS SCANLAN SERVICE INC. P.O. Box 367, Pago Pago, Tel. 633 5520/AUSTRALIA: MITSUBISHI MOTORS AUSTRALIA LTD. Box 1284, South Road, Clovelly Park, South Australia 5042, Tel. 275 7223/FUJI: NIVIS MOTOR & MACHINERY CO. LTD. G.P.O. Box 150, Suva, Tel. 383411/FRENCH POLYNESIA (TAHITI): ETS BREDIN FRERES ET FILS P.O. Box 21, Papeete, Tahiti, Tel. 4-202-58/NEW CALEDONIA: S.D. IMPORTATION D'AUTO DU PACIFIQUE SUD S.A. B.P. 438 Rond Point du Pacifique, Noumea, Tel. 274144/NEW ZEALAND: MITSUBISHI MOTORS NEW ZEALAND LTD. Todd Park, Heriot Drive, Private Bag, Porirua, Tel. 3114/PAPUA NEW GUINEA: TOBA PTY. LTD. P.O. Box 503, Port Moresby, Tel. 21-7874/SOLOMON ISLANDS: HARVEST PACIFIC LTD. G.P.O. Box 88, Honiara, Tel. 21-7874/WESTERN SAMOA: A.M. MACDONALD HOLDINGS LTD. P.O. Box 10, Apia, Tel. 21-7874