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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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DECEMBER 1989

After Bavadra

Kuini
takes
over
the
party

Land scandal rocks
New Caledonia



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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 59 No. 23

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

December 1989

COVER

It happened in the Philippines. It happened in Pakistan. Now it's happening in Fiji. Kuini, widow of deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra, has accepted the offer to lead her husband's National Federation Party/Labour Coalition. It is the beginning of a new era in Fiji politics. Page 8.



THE REGION

Cook Islands: A new formula for schools has been drawn up. It has attracted both criticism and support. Page 15.

New Caledonia: A report has revealed a land scandal that is again testing the Matignon Accord. Page 17.

BUSINESS

Finance: Remittance from New Zealand is propping up the Western Samoan economy. It is also causing some fragility. Page 25.

Tourism: Takahashi continues to expand his empire in the region by buying three more hotels. Page 30.

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Jale Moala

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...anyhow*
have a
Winfield 25's



Five
smokes
ahead of
the rest

WV2
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TROPICALITIES

LETTERS

Marriage of convenience

IN February 1989, a person came into my travel agency and booked a return ticket to Nadi, Fiji.

During my conversation with her, the subject of her marriage came up and she told me that she had just become married to an Australian man and that she was trying to find husbands for two Indian girls who were living in Fiji, and they were willing to pay A\$4000 for a marriage of convenience with an Australian citizen.

She indicated there was a lot of money to be made in this way and was I interested and if so, she would give me both girls' phone numbers in Fiji.

MICHAEL AZZAZ SULEMAN
Payless Travel
Burwood, NSW.

Two errors

THE table headed *How the Pacific Islands Are Doing* which appeared on page 30 of your September issue contains two errors. The figures given in your table for the GNP per capita for Fiji and Western Samoa had been taken from a column headed Population (thousands) in a table printed on page 234 of the 1989 *World Development Report*. The Per Capita GNP figure for Fiji shown in the World Bank's 1989 *World Development Report* is US\$1570 while that for Western Samoa is US\$550.

At least in terms of GNP per capita, Fiji and Western Samoa are doing better than is suggested in the table you published.

DR G.J. ABBOTT
Department of Economics
USP, Suva.

Personal view

REFERRING to my letter *Japan and Fiji* on October issue, the letter does not represent the organisations indicated under my name at all. It is all from my personal point of view. I regret any inconvenience caused to the organisations.

SHIGETOSHI TAKAGI
Suva, Fiji

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include writer's full name, address and home telephone number. All letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

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Penpals

John W Karo, 15. He wants penpals from anywhere. Address: PO Box 760, Taraka, Lae, Papua New Guinea.

David Kiuare, 15. A student from Papua New Guinea. Address: PO Box 4245, Lae, Papua New Guinea.



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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — DECEMBER, 1989 5

TROPICALITIES

STAMPS

Around the world in 96 years

By John Hunter

A POSTAL cover mailed in Nuku'alofa almost a century ago has turned up in New York City. The cover was cancelled in 1892 and addressed to Hamburg, Germany. It had been dispatched from Nuku'alofa to Apia then sent to Sydney. From there it travelled aboard North German Lloyd's Australian Main Line ship to Brandisi, Italy, where it was forwarded to Hamburg. How it ended up in the United States 96 years later is not known. Details of the Tongan mail services of the last century are interesting as told by the *Tonga Chronicle*:

"The German involvement in Tonga's postal services can be traced back to the German firm of Johann Cesar Godeffroy und Sohn, of Hamburg, which had a treaty with the Tonga Wesleyan Mission by which all natural produce was sold to the firm. In 1875, the Imperial German government signed a treaty with Samoa to authorise the North German Lloyd Steamship Co to establish a line to the South Pacific. The following year a Treaty of Friendship between Germany and Tonga was concluded.

"As a result, North German Lloyd established the *Australische Hauptlinie* (Australian Main Line) from Europe to Sydney and the *Australische Zweiglinie* (Australian Branch Line) from Sydney to Nuku'alofa and Apia.

"On July 4, 1886, the Imperial German Post Office Department ordered a shipment of postal supplies for Tongatapu. But because New Zealand feared German expansion in the Pacific, Tonga took over its own postal affairs on July 30, 1886. When the steamer *Lubeck* arrived on September 19, use of German stamps were prohibited and Tongan stamps were required.

"On November 3, 1888, the Post Office



Department in Nuku'alofa agreed that all German mail destined for Samoan and German addresses be combined and routed through the German Postal Steamship Agency at Tongatapu. But as the Australian Branch Line grew more and more unprofitable, it was terminated and Tongatapu's German Postal Steamship Agency closed in June 1989."

Catalogues

THE 24th edition of the *The Australian Stamp Catalogue* has been released. This edition has over 2500 price changes and more than 800 new listings. The catalogue has 176 pages with all stamp illustrations in full colour. It includes all Australian stamps issued up to the end of 1989, Australian FDCs are listed, as are specimen overprints, stamp packs, annual albums maximum cards, heritage stamp books, stamp replica cards, PSEs, postal cards, letter cards, airletters and aerogrammes.

The territories' section contains the stamp and postal stationery of Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Island, Nauru, Norfolk and Papua New Guinea. The catalogue is used as a standard reference and many use its catalogue numbers as definitive reference numbers for Australian stamps. It costs A\$19.95 and good value for this price.

Price quoted for stamps reflect the general lower value for general material but the scarce material in early Australia

and Papua New Guinea show quite hefty price increases. For investors, this is the area to obtain your blue chip investments.

Shows

THE New Zealand stamp show, *New Zealand 1990*, the World Stamp Exhibition, is at the Auckland exhibition centre from August 24 to September 2 next year.

New issues

Papua New Guinea: September 6 — Dancers: 20t Motu Motu, 35t Baining, 60t Vailala River, 70t Timbunka.

Future issues: Christmas.

The postponed release of Frama labels will now be made next year, probably in March.

Fiji: September 25 — World Cup Soccer 1990: 35¢, 63¢, 70¢, 85¢. Designs depicting Fiji soccer players in action. Fiji participated in the 1988 qualifying rounds of the 1990 World Cup final but was unsuccessful in going further.

Kiribati: September 25 — Exhibition sheetlet: 3 x 35¢, views of the renovation work on the Statue of Liberty with Plulexfrance 89 logo.

November — Transport and Telecommunications Decade, 1985 — 1995: 30¢ Telecommunications Building, 75¢ MV Mataburo, cargo and passenger carrier.

New Caledonia: September 28 — Engraved Bamboo: 44¢ lizard totem, 70¢ scenes.

Cook Islands: October 4 — Endangered birds of Cook Islands: 15¢ one of the world's rarest birds, 20¢ Rarotonga Fly Catcher, 65¢, 70¢ the endangered Fruit Dove, \$1.50 souvenir sheet — Rarotonga Fly Catcher and Fruit Dove.

The Cook Islands has announced that agents have been established in the United States and the United Kingdom for the sale of stamps.

Australia: October 11 — Trams: 5 x 41¢, depicting old trams around Australia; November 1 — Christmas: 36¢ Annunciation to Mary, 41¢ Annunciation, 80¢ Adoration of Magi; Radio Australia 50 years: 50¢.

Fifty years ago on December 20, 1939, Radio Australia made its first shortwave broadcast to the rest of the world. It was the early days of World War II. The station had been set up quickly to make sure that Radio Australia could always reach Australians caught in warfare overseas. It would bring them news from home, and reliable news of the progress of the war.

But just as important was the plan to bring words of truth and encouragement to people of other nationalities, too. Some broadcasts were made in French and Dutch, because those were the languages most widely understood in Asian and Pacific regions. □



PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

OPINION

Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS last year was a tumultuous time in the region. The rebellion in Bougainville was already a month old and Papua New Guinea was quickly losing grip of its political problems and increased lawlessness. In the Vanuatu capital of Port Vila, a failed coup resulted in the President and some senior politicians being put in jail to spend Christmas behind bars. In Fiji, Methodist fundamentalists blocked roads in the capital Suva and successfully crippled the city and stopped many people from going to church. It was a time of prayers, not for good harvests, but for peace in a region that was becoming synonymous with ethnic violence. Christmas last year was not a happy one.

This month, however, when Father Christmas returns to the islands, he will find that things are different. Generally the region is quieter. A solution to Bougainville is now nearer than ever before. Fiji is continuing to iron out its political differences. Kuini Bavadra's acceptance of the Coalition Party leadership is likely to give Fiji's interim government an opponent more willing to compromise and allow national reconciliation to take place. Port Vila is certain to regain some of its romantic image, and Prime Minister Father Walter Lini's Christmas sermon will take on a happier theme.

But as we end one decade and prepare for another we still find timidity in trying to predict the future of a region that has become a hot-bed of political turmoil and violence in recent times. The Pacific is going through change. As island states mature, people begin to see clearer the faults of the past and education beget more men and women unwilling to gamble their life on the wisdom of others. The system that saw colonies turn into autonomous states begin to be challenged, and changes continue to take place; sometimes slowly, and sometimes rapidly with unhappy consequences.

By next Christmas, the changes will bring many things: younger leaders, new rules, new governments. The flames of Bougainville would have been doused and Fiji would be nearer to its first general elections since the 1987 military coups. But who can really tell what's around the corner? It's hard to say in a region where politics is as unpredictable as the weather.

Merry Christmas, anyway. □

Man of the Decade

NEXT month Pacific Islands Monthly will name the person who's had the greatest impact in the region this decade. We will let December go and make the announcement after the decade has ended and the new one has begun.

Pacific Islands Monthly, now the most widely-read news magazine exclusively covering the Pacific, will name other people who have made significant contributions.

Our numbers have changed

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COVER



Right connections? Kuini Bavadra in a man's world but with the right blood lines.

Kuini of hope

Power in the hands of the chiefs

Mrs Kuini Bavadra has become the leader of Fiji's Coalition Party, taking over from her husband who died last month. Other events last month suggest that Mrs Bavadra might be a beacon of hope in post-coup Fiji.

By **Jale Moala**

FOR nearly three years now, Fiji's Coalition Party has been waging a verbal war against the interim government. Statement after statement, from both sides of the fence, kept alive the flame of dissent in a country gingerly moving away from the traumas of two military coups in 1987. A settlement was nowhere in sight. The Coalition, dominated by Indians and still smarting from being toppled from government by the army takeover, refused to play to a new set of rules strongly in favour of the indigenous Fijians.

Last month, however, after the death of deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra, the Coalition approached Kuini Bavadra to take over the party leadership. She agreed — "because of my husband's personal sacrifice". Mrs Bavadra immediately voiced optimism that now, for the first time since 1987, there was hope of reconciliation and compromise. "We have to face reality," she says. "The interim government is running the government. The Coalition Party cannot set up a government in exile (and) I think it is reasonable to co-operate as much as possible."

It is almost inevitable that the interim

government of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara would grasp this opportunity to try and heal the wounds of 1987.

But of greater significance in events that took place last month was the death in Suva of Fiji's paramount chief, the *Vunivalu* and former Governor-General, Ratu Sir George Cakobau. While the nation mourn the death of a man described as a chief, statesman, sportsman and friend, the death brought together Fiji's leader and their people on the tiny island of Bau.

Traditional presentations from all parts of Fiji during the mourning cere-

COVER



A nation mourns: the casket of Ratu Sir George Cakobau goes to Government House to lie in state.

mony highlighted the complicated and intriguing family relationship which ties the country's most powerful chiefs. Ratu Sir George is a direct descendent of Ratu Seru Cakobau, the chief who engineered the Deed of Cession which brought Fiji under the British flag in 1874.

Through a continuous string of arranged marriages throughout the ages, Cakobau, Mara and the President of Fiji, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, are cousins and carry the country's most powerful blood line. Mrs Bavadra, through her father's mother, is a close cousin of the three men. The significance of this is that for the first time since Fiji gained independence in 1970, control over the major political parties have returned to the hands of the same family.

Says Mrs Bavadra: "There is an advantage there that I can at least speak to some that my people are traditionally related to and I think they will listen. It would have been more difficult if I didn't have that link with the chiefly system." Mrs Bavadra's grandmother is the sister of the late Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna, Fiji's favourite son, cousin of Cakobau and the father of modern Fiji. It is this powerful link that Mrs Bavadra might

use to bring about the reconciliation she seeks.

Many see her as being tougher than her late husband. And because she is of noble birth, compared to Bavadra the commoner, she will give the party a greater Fijian identity even though it will continue to rely on Indian votes.

Mrs Bavadra's father is a chief. Together with their people they travelled to Bau island, not far off the coast from Suva, to make presentations at the mourning of Cakobau. Throughout the week of mourning, chiefs and their people renewed ancient allegiance, recounted blood ties and strengthened customary political alliances.

From a Fijian viewpoint, the death of a paramount chief encouraged unity and paved the way for national reconciliation.

For Mrs Bavadra, the allegiance and alliances forged through centuries of arranged marriages, has made her a more acceptable leader than her late husband in the eyes of indigenous Fijians. For this she becomes a more likely alternative Prime Minister in post-coup Fiji. □

Forgive and forget

NEARLY three years after her husband was toppled by a military coup, Kuini Bavadra said she has risen above the disappointment and forgiven those who brought her family so much sadness. Says Mrs Bavadra: "Because of the situation after the coup (in May 1987) we were compelled to develop a closer relationship with God and we think we have gained a lot spiritually."

"This is something my late husband and I talked about in the past two-and-a-half years when he was alive. We've gained something. We often talked about it as a blessing in disguise. We've become stronger, spiritually, into the extent that I don't feel any bitterness whatsoever and I thank God for it. It is the greatest gift that God can give those who try and emulate the teachings of Jesus Christ."

I was very bitter immediately after the coup but as I developed this relationship with God nothing seems to matter anymore. I treat them as fellow men, as my chiefs, as my brothers.

Excerpts of an interview with Mrs Bavadra at Viseisei Village:

• Why did you accept the job?

It's because of my late husband's personal sacrifice. I feel morally obliged not to sit back and withdraw to a comfortable position and watch the Coalition Party continue with the struggle that meant so much to my late husband and to those of us who adored him as a leader and as a personal friend. The other reason is my strong conviction that as a Christian I cannot just sit back and watch things being said and done to other communities that we have lived with for over a hundred years and not do anything about it.

• How are you going to lead?

It's one of reconciliation. I want to infuse a sense of togetherness. I want to instil in our people that we can still make it as a nation, that we don't have to fight, that we don't have to say strong words against each other. We are deeply religious people, Christians and non-Christians alike; we believe in the same universal principles of brotherhood of men and goodwill to everyone whether black or white, Indian or Fijian. I believe that we all have this basic sense of goodwill and goodness.

• How do you compare your leadership to that of your late husband?

There is not much difference in the approach and the philosophy in the

COVER

sense that our approach are quite gentle by nature. We believe in being as peaceful as we can and that we should respect our political rivals. We feel that we can differ with dignity. This is what I will continue to do.

• If you became Prime Minister of Fiji, what would you like done?

The idea of prime ministership is so remote from my list of priorities. There are more pressing issues that we need to work towards as a party. The idea of achieving office or the idea of even thinking about that is far from my mind at this time.

I want to be seen more as a servant who is willing to serve. I don't want to be seen as having dreams of high office and I don't want to place too much emphasis on achieving status and all that. That is the biggest challenge that I face.

• What are your priorities?

To fill the vacuum that most of our people feel in the party about the death of my husband. It is important to remind our people that we must not be overwhelmed by the loss and that we must carry on. I feel that I can contribute something to bring back confidence to our people.

• Is your appointment a boost for women in Fiji?

Yes, I think so. But I am not the first. A lot of other women have made big contributions in government and the private sector. Women have achieved very important positions and this will enhance the aspirations Fiji women can have. This shows that they, too, can rise to the occasion if demanded of them.

• Would you like to work with the interim government?

That is the only thing we can do, realistically there is no other way. We have to face reality. The interim government is running the government. We have proved in the last two-and-a-half years that the Coalition Party cannot set up a government in exile. If it was possible I would have done it, but since we have not been able to I think it is reasonable to co-operate as much as we can. The ways and means of doing that will only be clearer after I have had full discussions with party members.

• Is your strong customary base an advantage?

There are both advantages and disadvantage. One of the disadvantages is that I can be seen by fellow Fijians as some kind of a traitor. But I want to dwell on the advantages rather than on that element of disadvantage I want to show that being Fijian is irrelevant when it comes to national leadership. What is important is to have an individual who has the strength and character to speak

out and to offer a helping hand, one who is sincere about reconciliation. It is not important if you are a Fijian or an Indian leader.

As far as my links with the chiefly system is concerned, I feel there is an advantage there that I can at least speak to some that my people are traditionally related to and I think they will listen and that will make the struggle easier. It would have been more difficult if I didn't have that link with the chiefly system.

• Will you accept the draft constitution which gives indigenous Fijians a numerical advantage in parliament?

I am a great believer in the thought that no group of people has an inborn right to think itself superior to other social groups. I abhor any form of discrimination and I will continue to oppose the draft constitution although I am sensitive to what Fijians say about protecting their indigenous rights. I appreciate their fears and I will go to great lengths to protect Fijian rights because I am a Fijian myself.

But we should not overdo it and turn around and tell other racial groups that because they belong to one particular racial group they should have less say in parliament. I don't think that's right. It's wrong from a Christian viewpoint and it's wrong from a Fijian viewpoint. Fijians always show grace and are always nice to people whom we think do not belong to our community as such.

• What killed your husband?

He had cancer. It was an incurable form of cancer.

• Did it have anything to do with the stress suffered after the coup?

I was told by some doctors that it was very much stress-related.

• What are your memories?

There is a lot of sadness in it. It's been one of the most difficult times of my life, being with him in the last few weeks when he was in hospital. It's been very hard for me personally because I know that as a person he was a very strong man, although he was very gentle. To see him physically fading out was something that hurt me deeply and something I will not forget for the rest of my life.

There are some good memories of being together in the last few weeks, last few months when he continued to suggest things that have to be said in press statements, he continued to joke with his friends. He did not want his friends and supporters to show pity on him. Those are the qualities that I want to remember him by. Although he was undergoing a lot of stress and experiencing a lot of pain he never showed it.

• Did you consider the possibility that people might not accept having a woman as leader?

Yes, I thought about that and I am not totally blind to the reality that some of our locals might not like a woman as head of a political party. It depends on me, on how I conduct myself. It can be done. If you focus on the opportunity to serve then you will be able to convince the people that it doesn't really matter whether it's a man or woman who leads.

• Are you prepared for the dirty game of politics?

I believe that politics does not have to be dirty, does not have to be rough. I believe that it can be graceful and dignified, and that you can still say things with conviction, sincerity. Generally speaking, you win more respect from people if you say and do things with grace and dignity. This way, in the end, you end up being a better person and a better politician.

• Would you lead the Coalition into general elections or would you encourage boycott?

That is something that I want to reserve comment on until after consultation with the party. It has to be a party decision. It's too important an issue for me to say something on right away.

• Would you join the interim administration?

That is for the party management board to decide.

• Were you ever double-minded about leading the Coalition?

Yes, certainly, because I have never seen myself as someone being fully equipped for this high office. I still think that the party has other people who are more capable and more experienced than I am. But perhaps the time is not right for them to take on this role. I think the time is right for me to be given the opportunity but I don't think I am the best in the party.

• How much has the country grown since the coup?

I cannot speak for the government, I only know about the civil service because I worked there. We have really performed very well as a civil service and although there has been a lot of migration experienced in various fields, in teaching, in medicine and technical and other professional areas, there were other civil servants who were left behind and they really performed well. Credit must go to how the civil service has been managed and credit must go to the senior civil servants who helped maintain efficiency and productivity in the civil service since 1987. □

COVER



Crowd at Bavadra's funeral: "... a recognition of great principles ..."

Baba's obvious choice: she's tougher than tough

TUPENI Baba was always accessible to the media. It was one reason why Radio New Zealand spoke to him last month, immediately after the death of Fiji's deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra. "Radio New Zealand asked me, 'Who is going to be the new leader'," he remembers. "I said, 'If Kuini is willing to take up the leadership most of us will support her.'" Events quickly accelerated and before month's end Kuini Bavadra, widow of the deposed leader, had been approached and had accepted the leadership of the Indian-dominated National Federation Party/Labour Coalition. Baba, the education minister in Bavadra's ousted government, was instrumental in her rise to power overnight.

How will Kuini lead? says Baba: "Kuini is going to be much tougher. She is not going to take some of the things some of us have accepted. She is going to stand her ground."

Excerpts from an interview with Baba, Head of School of Humanities, University of the South Pacific:

• What will the Coalition be like after Bavadra?

The Coalition after Bavadra will be no

different from the Coalition when Bavadra was the leader because the philosophy of the Coalition is based on the values which Bavadra stood for. Those are articulated as the values of the Labour Party. They were articulated in our submission to the Constitutional Review Committee. They are articulated in the UN Charter for Human Rights. It is basically about a government for the ordinary people. A Government to restore human rights, to make sure of the conditions of the ordinary people; education, health services, welfare are protected and are adequate. One of the important hallmarks of our policy has been to promote multiracialism in Fiji. We believe in the equality of all peoples of the world and those peoples who live in Fiji. It was the kind of policy for which we were criticised because we appeared to be treating everybody the same. The Fijians accused us of neglecting their interests which we did not.

• Which party does Mrs Bavadra lead in the Coalition which qualifies her for the leadership?

Kuini is leader of the Labour Party. She has been nominated by the managing board of the Labour Party to be

leader of the Labour Party. That will go forward to the executive committee of the Labour and she will become leader of the Labour Party. As leader of the Labour Party she will then become a contender for the post of Leader of the Coalition. The National Federation Party has accepted her if she was nominated by the Labour Party to become leader of the Coalition. These are mere formalities. Individually we've talked to the people involved and they've okayed it. All it needs now is for the two executives of the Labour Party and the Coalition to formally install her. It's a formality. Already the Federation has accepted her as leader of the coalition.

• Will Mrs Bavadra be able to bring the two Coalition parties closer?

I think she will. She has worked very closely with people in the parties, she has been travelling with us throughout the world, she has been speaking in the many platforms for which the Labour Party and the Coalition have been speaking. She is a very fair person, as fair as Dr Bavadra. I think she will bring the parties much closer together.

The guiding principles for us, really, are the basic principles which Bavadra stood for which is really multiracialism, equality for the people of this country, and respect for human rights.

• Why Mrs Bavadra?

Kuini is a very senior public servant. Kuini is a very able woman, she has led

COVER

FACT FILE

Name: Adi Kuini Teimumu Vuikaba Bavadra

Date of Birth: December 23, 1949

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts in History/Politics/Administration (University of the South Pacific)

Last position held in government: Principal Administrative Officer (Public Service Commission); acted as Director (Personnel Division), Public Service Commission

Civil service career: 1970-1974 — Cadet Officer/Clerical Officer, Public Service Commission; 1975-1984 — Translator/Information Officer/Principal Information Officer, Ministry of Information; 1985-1989 — Principal Administrative Officer, Public Service Commission

Primary school education: Navua Indian School (1954-1956), Namalata District School (Kadavu) (1957-1959), Delana Mission School (Levuka) (1960), Levuka Public School (1961)

Secondary school education: Adi Cakobau School (1962-1968), Suva Grammar

School. Passed NZ University Entrance, (1969)

School prizes: (1967) — Adi Cakobau School Principal's Prize for character, 1968 — Adi Cakobau School's Head Girl Prize. **Conferences and overseas courses:** September-December 1978 — Public relations course for overseas information officers, London; represented Fiji Public Service Association women at World Conference organised by Public Service International, November 1984, New York; Head of the Official Fiji delegation to Nairobi at the World Conference on the United Nations End of the Decade for Women.

Positions held in service organisations: Past president of Fiji Public Servants Association women's wing; past president of Adi Cakobau School Old Girls' Association; immediate past president of University of South Pacific Alumni Association (ex USP Student Association); Secretary Coordinator of Suva Hibiscus Festival Association; active member of the Viseisei Methodist Church. □

many Fiji delegations as a leader. She led Fiji at the United Nations End of the Decade for Women conference in Kenya. Kuini is a graduate of the University of the South Pacific. She has had post-graduate training overseas and is a very able person. Kuini in her own right is very capable and politically very astute.

Some say she is much faster than a lot of us in the past (Coalition) government in terms of perception of issues. She has attended many of the conferences that Bavadra went to as leader of the Labour Party. For example, she went to Melbourne at the Progressive Parties conference and she spoke on behalf of the women, a very impressive speech. In fact Kuini has had a kind of preparation for the position of being leader. In addition, Kuini in her own right has got chiefly connection, a fairly powerful chiefly connection. But I think the first thing really

that makes her eligible is her ability and commitment to the values that Bavadra stood for.

We do not deny that she was married to Bavadra and that she has got a Bavadra name and that is important for the ordinary people. But in addition to that she has the right qualifications.

• **Why not someone from within the party ranks?**

The feeling is if Kuini is willing to serve she will serve as leader very, very well. For those of us who were close to Bavadra, if pressured, will be willing to lead. But I think we don't really regard the leadership as something to fight for because it contains major responsibilities. The party cannot maintain too many people. We can maintain Kuini and everybody will have to contribute to maintain her as we did for Dr Bavadra.

So in all Kuini will be able to act as

leader, maintain the principles and keep the people together. The movement will be stronger now than say a few weeks before Bavadra died when Bavadra was very ill.

• **Then she is the Coalition's alternative prime minister?**

Once she becomes leader she will become the alternative Prime Minister. And if we have elections I have no doubt that the people of Fiji will vote her in.

• **Are the people of Fiji ready for a woman prime minister?**

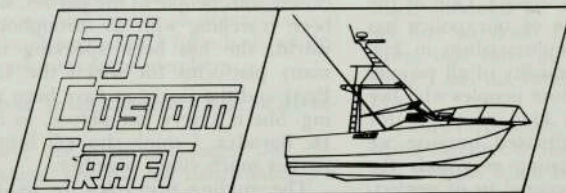
Surprisingly the people of Fiji, I think, are ready. The people of Fiji are looking for people who are capable whether they are men or women. Unfortunately the way the parties operated in the last twenty years did not support women. This is another new dimension which must be recognised. More than fifty per cent of the people of this country are women. Even the most Moslem country like Pakistan which puts women as second-class citizens are able to vote a woman in. In Fiji we've had women as chiefs, women as leaders. But most of us males, because of our own sense of insecurity, have not really given them a fair go. I think this will be a new dimension which the Coalition will offer the people of Fiji.

• **What advantage has she got as a woman?**

Kuini will maintain a lot of dignity and will make sure the dignity is kept on utterances and statements. Kuini will have access to both professional and political advice that most of the leaders in the interim government don't have access to. She will get business advice, she will get academic advice, and she will get political advice. She will get legal advice. These are the kinds of advices that will be given to Kuini by most of us who are involved.

• **Who pushed her name through?**

I am blamed for being one of the first to go on air and mention her because I've worked very close with Kuini, and Bavadra. She's the obvious choice. I think if we had gone back to government Kuini would have played a part in



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Last journey: "Bavadra was a compromiser"

it. She probably would have come in on a political angle, probably on a woman's role. But because she was the wife of the Prime Minister we had to observe certain degree of ethics. She was always in the Labour Party. She was part of the women who had been involved in the labour movement. That's Kuini all over.

• Will she be tougher than her husband?

They have different styles. Dr Bavadra is quiet, firm in his own way, humble, but tough, tough enough not to crack. At the most times of crisis, during the time of the coup and all that harassment, he was able to stand aside, be cool and assess the situation in his own way. So he is tougher in that quiet sort of way.

Kuini is going to be much tougher. Kuini is not going to take some of the things that some of us have accepted. She is going to stand her ground. She can take and she can give it and I think with a little experience she will be a very difficult opponent.

• What sort of leadership do you expect from her?

A very similar kind of leadership. Kuini's own upbringing is different. She will be more prepared to speak out. She will be more prepared to take on a number of things that perhaps Dr Bavadra would have hesitated a little and consult some other people.

• What little things?

I think when it comes to certain traditional criticisms, Fijian interests a few of us like Bavadra and myself would go back a little and consider it very seriously because we were commoners and we had to be very careful in the kind of replies that we gave. Kuini, being of noble birth will have views to exchange on the matter fairly quickly. She will be far more vocal than us in those particular issues and might even take a lot of people who want to use the position to further their

own interests far more harder than some of us.

• Some say Bavadra was not tough enough

Dr Bavadra was a compromiser. But when compromising it was important all the time to maintain the principles. Bavadra would compromise on a matter of strategy. But he was absolutely uncompromising on matter of principles. For example in the recommendations of the Constitutional Inquiry and Advisory Committee, Dr Bavadra was absolutely uncompromising in his criticisms. Well before we had discussed the Manueli Report in detail he had already made up his mind from his hospital bed in New Zealand. He reacted simply because the ethnic thing, the racial thing was not satisfying. No considerable concession had been made on that. It is a racist constitution. He abhorred racism of any sort.

Kuini, we do not know her too much in that situation, how she will respond but I think she is sharp and will be able to perceive the advantages of compromise solutions particularly to strategies. She is very principled herself. She is younger than Bavadra. She's a young woman. She's well educated and she may react from the hip, so to say, in a number of issues.

• How did the Bavadras survive in the time they were unemployed after the coup?

We had to contribute, people made deductions; sugar planters, professional people, the Movement for Democracy Overseas. We made contributions for their upkeep and we will continue to do so. Already a number of people are willing to deduct their salaries to maintain the machinery of the party and the leader of the party, whoever the leader of the party is. This is a mark of our support for the party.

VIEW

Fiji: before and after Bavadra

By Iva Tora

THEY came in their thousands, pouring out of buses, cars and trucks in an endless procession to be at the funeral of deposed Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra on November 8. The village of Viseisei, by the roadside near Lautoka, had never seen a crowd like this. When all the parking spaces were taken near the village, people walked from as far as five kilometres away. They packed the village square in a sea of different colours and races. They stood for hours, tottering in the tropical heat that quickly rose above 30 degrees.

The *Fiji Times* newspaper said there were "30,000" people at Viseisei that day last month. The rival *Fiji Post*, screamed 20,000 in a banner headline. For days the papers carried messages of sympathy from foreign and local dignitaries. Even the interim government, installed to replace the military leadership that ousted Bavadra in May 1987, issued three statements; from Information Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, Deputy Prime Minister Josevata Kamikamica and Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

The gathering was the largest at a funeral in the country.

But from a cursory glance of the papers prior to Bavadra's death, the general impression was that the man and his Indian-dominated coalition had all but fizzled out of political existence. Certainly, it seemed that they had been forgotten in the new post-coup republic wherein the country set about re-adjusting to a new set of rules and an interim government recruited to pick up the broken pieces of an economy on the brink of disaster. The struggle for the restoration of democracy assumed a low profile when denied the right to an effective role in this new scenario.

But if the numbers at the funeral was anything to go by, it is now only too evident that this was far from the case. If anything, the funeral was a poignant testimony that the end is nowhere in sight. That there are some individuals within the community who shared Bavadra's hope of a quick restoration of parliamentary democracy.

Yet only two years ago, it seemed the unthinkable had finally happened when Bavadra romped into office, wresting power away from the Alliance party that

COVER



Tavaia: more support.

had been in government for almost two decades. A commoner, a westerner, and a novice to the political arena, Bavadra had defeated the odds and hit a nerve that struck at the very foundations of a very powerful customary establishment.

The Coalition's victory exiled the Alliance party into the opposition and jolted it out of what was once a secure niche, leaving the conquered to lament its losses and gather the crumpled laurels of a crown held for 17 years.

The new government's promise to the electorate of an inquiry into allegations of corruption became a shadow ever looming on an Alliance landscape where the sun was already beginning to set. And it became a promise shortlived when 10 soldiers stormed parliament and brought to an abrupt end the 17-year life of Fiji democracy.

The 1987 coups brought sharply into focus the distorted image of Fiji as the region's model of a stable democracy and the underlying conflict of tradition versus progress. Perceived fears of threats to Fijian land and subsequent extremist Taukei reprisals; subjugation of Fijian interests to Indian and therefore "foreign" domination under a government seen essentially as leftist with socialist tendencies became a justification for the coups led by the 38-year-old third-ranking army officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka.

The crisis opened up a Pandora's box that sent investors flying, devalued the Fiji dollar, disrupted the economy and saw a mass exodus of mostly Indian professionals escaping overseas on one-way tickets.

From 1987 until his health gave way, Dr Bavadra continued to wage a campaign taken to the international stage, for the restoration of parliamentary democracy. But the push which initially

received fervent international support, particularly from Australia and New Zealand, ebbed into a lull as the international community re-adjusted to a new regime and a new state of affairs.

The coup raised the traditional mechanisms of Fijian politicking to a level not previously enjoyed nor given extensive limelight under the Westminster system. And in so doing, uncovered a can of worms of conflict and friction already existing, but lying dormant within the framework of traditional Fijian politics. It set a precedent for power blocks within the fragile aftermath of the coup, to grab a significant share of the cake and the spoils of power.

The coup gave licence to a new form of religious zeal that divided loyalties within the Methodist church, the religious, albeit imported, bastion of Fijian spiritual life. Encouraged by the Methodist Church's General-Secretary, Rev Manasa Lasaro, Fijians erected roadblocks in a campaign to stop all work, sports and trade on Sundays. The power struggle within the church, revealed the internal mechanism of the hierarchy at work, and a dirty side to church politics such as had never been disclosed before in such a candid and vindictive manner.

The coup provided the impetus for the formation of a fourth Fijian confederacy based in the west of Fiji — the *Yasayasa Vakara* confederacy. But while moves to form a western confederacy can be traced back to early this century, the issue was not revived until the coup.

For so long, despite their rich economic resources, western interests have been absorbed into Eastern Fiji priorities. The economic backbone of the republic, the west, has provided sugar (Fiji's main revenue earner), hydro-electricity, timber and tourism.

With the coup came the realisation of their economic power. But unlike the Methodists, the *Yasayasa Vakara* group opted for a low-key approach in its struggle for recognition and an independent voice.

But the Coalition jumped on the bandwagon and formed a rival fourth confederacy in a political gamble aimed at gathering more Fijian support.

Bavadra's confederacy gained little acceptance. More chiefs gave support to the *Yasayasa Vakara* led by Bavadra's chief, the Tui Vuda, Ratu Sir Josaia Tavaia, Minister for Forest in the interim government.

Bavadra's death and the installation of his widow, Adi Kuini Vuikaba, as Coalition leader, brings hope for a conciliation between the two groups for their cause to appear to be more effective. The importance attached to the issue is such that it has been made one of two issues on the agenda for discussion at

the next Great Council of Chiefs meeting, whenever that might be.

The 1987 crisis also highlighted the peculiar relationship between the traditional Fijian set-up and the Westminster style of democracy. For so long, the two have existed side by side in a parallel working relationship without, it seems, either one crossing the other's boundaries.

And despite the dominance of democratic rule, no boundaries were crossed and the relationship was harmonious — for 17 years in any case. What happened in May 1987 could be seen as an attempt by a traditional system to reassert itself when faced with the perceived threat of usurpation by an imported and therefore alien rule.

Fiji, before the coup, was like a three-legged stool. The Fijians had the land, the British ran the administration and the Indians provided the labour — and had the money. This framework almost always worked in ensuring racial harmony and maintaining the balance of power. But when Bavadra romped into office in April 1987 on Indian votes, the twain met, the three-legged stool lost a leg and the balance was upset.

As one observer put it: "Once you, the Indians, have the money and then the political power, where does that leave the Fijians? It's almost inevitable that someone like Rabuka would emerge."

The Coalition underestimated the strength of prevailing Fijian traditionalist thought in a culture where blood is the essence of loyalty.

Two years after the coup, a number of pertinent questions remain unclear. How do we measure the degree to which traditionalist fears that culminated with the coup was a spontaneous mass response and how much of it was drummed up and fuelled by loss of power. How much of it, was a spontaneous response from below and how much of it was manipulated and directed from above?

The answers to these and other equally pertinent questions will never be known for as long as ordinary Fijians remain uneducated and deprived of the opportunity to articulate their needs and question their leaders.

With an added dose of pragmatism, Mrs Bavadra, as she steps into her husband's shoes, might well bear in mind this slice of wisdom as she takes hold of the party that showed promise but, was denied its right:

"There is nothing more difficult to execute, nor more dubious of success, nor more dangerous, to administer than to introduce a new order of things; for he who introduces it has all those who profit from the old order as his enemies, and he has only lukewarm allies in all those who might profit from the new." (*Machiavelli, The Prince*). □

THE REGION

COOK ISLANDS

A new formula for schools

By Cheryl Lily

EDUCATION in the Cook Islands appears likely to undergo radical changes if proposals from a recent taskforce inquiry are implemented. The controversial report, *Polynesia Way*, has been labelled by many parents and teachers as bold, innovative, naive, idealistic, unworkable, egocentric and superficial. However, Government argues that by 1994 the Cook Islands will have a much better education system.

Polynesia Way, is the result of six months work by a team of five who were chosen to reflect a good cross section of Cook Islands society. Taskforce chairman David Lewis says the team receives submissions from all sections of the Cook Islands community both here and overseas. The taskforce also joined forces with education colleagues in Hawaii, New Zealand and Tahiti in an attempt to provide a Polynesian basis for future education in the Cook Islands.

The release of *Polynesia Way*, fulfils the Government's election promise to appoint a ministerial taskforce to review the education system of the Cook Islands and to submit, within six months, a comprehensive policy statement.

Education Minister Ngereteina Puna says he is very excited with the report that he regards as a reflection of the wishes of all Cook Islanders.

Says Puna: "At the end of the tunnel I see a system that will help our young people face the challenges of the twenty first century. *Polynesia Way* points the direction, but we are taking four years to get there as opposed to other countries that were given twelve months to implement a new system. We are moving forward cautiously."

There has been criticism over the choice of taskforce members by some teachers who were surprised by the makeup of the team. While recognising the fact that they were all good citizens, many teachers felt that the taskforce members were not qualified to review education in a professional way. Taskforce chairman Lewis was the only teacher on the team, along with representatives from the business and public sectors, and a recent ex-student.

Puna says the taskforce team was handpicked by himself and is a very fair representation of the Cook Islands community. "Many people are under the misconception that only teachers know what is wanted from education. The community knows what they want," he says.



Polynesian Way: seeking cultural, economic and political control.

The taskforce identified the national goals of Cook Islands education to be "an education which will enable Cook Islanders to exercise control over their own cultural, political, economic and financial lives." The emphasis of the new system will be to "keep things simple; allow children to go at their own pace and make it hard to fail."

Major reforms recommended by the taskforce include school based management in the form of Boards of Trustees; a bi-lingual education system; the establishment of an Institute of Higher Education; the setting up of educational provinces with the integration of many schools; and a national core curriculum of Mathematics, English and Cook Islands Maori — the remaining subjects to be chosen by the individual boards of trustees.

In recommending major educational reforms the taskforce acknowledges that the Cook Islands public has no confidence in the present system which it regards as a failure. The public, says the taskforce, wants an education system that is fair, of a high standard and equal for all.

The move towards school based management aims to get parents actively involved in education and to have a say about how and what their child is taught. This new system is said to offer a higher level of accountability and allows everyone to be involved in the decision making process.

A bi-lingual approach to education will ensure that every child can speak En-

glish and Cook Islands Maori fluently. It is to begin at the preschool level and will continue throughout the child's school life.

Government has accepted the report and it has now been handed over to an implementation team (all teachers and professionals), who will be responsible for drafting policy within the framework of *Polynesia Way*. There will be no changes until policy has been formulated and approved by Cabinet.

Says implementation team member Lionel Brown: "At present there is no direction in education, no national objectives. Only eight per cent of Cook Islands students pass at Form 7 and those that leave or do not pass, have no real skills. The present system does not cater for the less academically inclined students. The new system will be more flexible and open ended. Students will actually leave school with work skills".

Under the proposed new system, students will stay at their chosen school until they sit the Cook Islands School Certificate. They can then enter the "Institute of Higher Education, where they can choose to pursue an academic career up to University Entrance level, or acquire specialist training to diploma level in trade, agriculture, fisheries, tourism

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or the creative arts.

Chairman of the implementation team Assistant Minister of Education Tiriamate Ngatokorua, says the team is now going out into the community to explain *Polynesia Way* and to gauge public reaction. He says there has been a lot of panic by people who do not really understand what *Polynesia Way* is all about. He hopes that by holding community meetings, there will be a general acceptance of it.

The most important part of the new education system is bilingualism, says

Ngatokorua. "It (bilingualism) is essential for a Cook Islands child to live successfully in the Cook Islands and overseas. It will also give us a sense of belonging. We will keep our Cook Islands identity through our language and our culture."

The implementation team is quick to point out that *Polynesia Way* is only a guideline to education reform. "In essence, what we are doing is putting the meat on the skeleton," says Brown. "Only if a school feels ready and has the necessary expertise to make up a board of trustees will it be able to change.

Schools are also free to choose to stay with the old system if they want or to ask for help from the Ministry of Education during the transition period."

While most people agree that changes are needed, many are sceptical of *Polynesia Way*. Lack of funds has been blamed for the dismal state of the present education system and just how the government plans to successfully provide the resources for the proposed changes remains unclear for most people. The new system will require specialised teachers, more bi-lingual resources and additional school facilities to cater for the expanding curriculum.

Puna acknowledges the need for a bigger education budget. He says he is anxious to get more money to upgrade all the schools with new equipment and improved facilities. "Trimming" the present bureaucratic structures within the education system and diverting the money to the schools is one way. The 1988/89 education budget was NZ\$5.4 million of which \$4.8 million went in salaries and wages alone. With the change to educational provinces, smaller schools will merge and thus avoid duplicating facilities and resources.

The principal of Rarotonga's largest college, Harry Ivaiti, is unhappy about many of the proposed changes. He says that some changes are needed, but nothing as drastic as *Polynesia Way*.

"We need a step not a leap," he says, "Do not destroy the present system which is labelled colonial — marry the old and *Polynesia Way*. We don't need *Polynesia Way* bulldozing it's way through". Ivaiti feels that financially, the implementation of *Polynesian Way* is going to be a blunder. He argues that the burden of costs will fall back onto school committees and parents, who will have to fundraise to meet any shortfall.

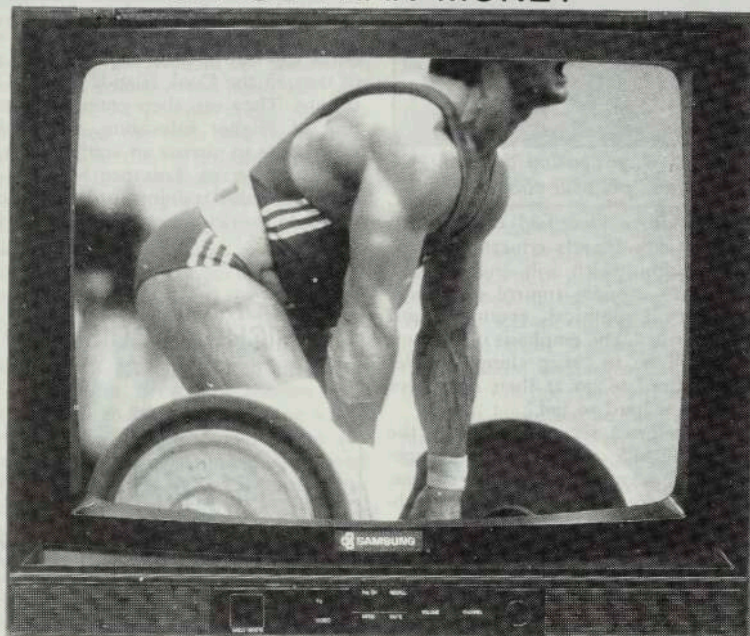
Rarotonga's Catholic college principal, Father Paul, sees "boldness and vision" in the taskforce report. "I think this report will have a big effect on Cook Islands education and society for a long time to come. To implement *Polynesia Way* is a colossal job, I think the big question is, can government afford to spend more money on education?"

Links between New Zealand and the Cook Islands are very strong and concern has been expressed over how proposed changes to the present education system will affect these ties. Most teachers agree that there will be no effect and Education Minister Puna says he is hoping that any changes will strengthen links with New Zealand and maybe even provide an exchange of resources and expertise.

While Puna says that the next four years will be exciting and challenging for education, many parents and teachers are less optimistic. □

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NEW CALEDONIA

The song of relief

THE song brought relief to hardline Kanaks. It was a special anthem composed in memory of the heroes who have died during the struggle for self rule. For those who attended the two-day Union Caledonienne (UC) convention, the anthem, sung by everyone at the gathering at Mare in the Loyalty Islands, was a fitting farewell after two days of intense debate. For the Kanaks it was a moving display of strength, unity, and moderation.

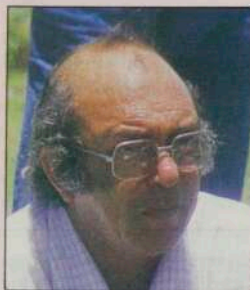
It meant that the party, the largest component of the Kanak Socialist

National Liberation Front (FLNKS), has managed to stay together despite the assassination of UC chief Jean-Marie Tjibaou and his deputy Yeiwene Yeiwene at Ouvea last May. Things were shaky following the provincial elections in June when party officials were criticised for seeming to be too occupied with new commitments. Some critics alleged at the time the UC officials were getting too close to the opposition Rally for the Republic in New Caledonia (RCPR). They were seen as being elevated beyond the reach of the ordinary supporters by their new duties, the bodyguards and the chauffeured cars. For the party supporters in the bush, there was no indication of change in New Caledonia, even after a year of the Matignon Accord.

The two-day convention at Mare last month reflected this feeling of frustration. The party leaders were continually reminded of their roles as representatives of the party. The debates were described as "animated".

Party boss Francois Burck, who succeeded his longtime friend Tjibaou, was re-elected UC president. He won 115 votes (20 more than when he was first elected last May) out of 157, a clear sign of the growing confidence of the party in his leadership. Vice-president Leopold Joredie was absent because of a death in the family. He was re-elected after two rounds of voting. Ricard Kaloi, of Mare, became the second vice-president, a new position created at this convention to give the Loyalty Islands a representative in the top leadership.

The biggest surprise was the failure of Rymard Bouanaoué to regain the seat of the general secretary. Bouanaoué is mayor of Relep. He was absent from the convention and observers believe his absence contributed largely to his non-re-election. He was replaced by little-known Francois Vouty, a 44-year-old with no previous official role in the party. He is seen as the man who will rebuild the link between the party leadership and the grassroots people. He was described as "a man who has time to meet (the people) and listen to them. He is not stuck in a town hall or in an office". □



Burck, Kaloi, Vouty: reminded of their roles as leaders.

NEW CALEDONIA

Major test for Matignon Accord

By Karen Mangnall

THE legacy of two years of land manipulations by a clique of New Caledonian loyalists may turn out to pose the greatest threat to Michel Rocard's Matignon Accords. Such a warning is implicit in the report from French auditor-general Francois Asselineau on the activities of New Caledonia's Land and Rural Development Agency (Adraf) under the Chirac Government (see box, p18).

The report reveals how a clique of RPCR members who took over Adraf from 1986 to 1988, systematically ignored existing Kanak customary and legal claims to ancestral lands and deliberately redistributed those lands to Europeans and other immigrants. Flanks and Union Caledonienne leader Francoise Burck labelled Adraf's manipulations as a clandestine attempt by the RPCR to recolonise New Caledonia by giving Kanak land to a new wave of European and immigrant settlers.

At the October monitoring committee meeting in Paris, the FLNKS (Kanak

Socialist National Liberation Front) forced Jacques Lafleur to give the RPCR's approval to an amnesty for 40 mainly Kanak prisoners being tried for politically-related crimes of violence and murder. This deal, which Lafleur reportedly accepted only under duress, was in return for an amnesty from prosecution for the three senior RPCR members of Adraf condemned in Asselineau's report. Burck says the FLNKS put the Rocard Government on stern notice that the test of its determination to decolonise New Caledonia by the 1998 referendum, is going to be restoring justice to Kanak land claims.

"The main claim of Kanak people for independence is the earth," says Burck. "It's a claim of dignity for the Kanak people." Asselineau himself warns the Chirac Adraf has stored up a legacy of racial conflict by a combination of refusing to recognise Kanak customary claims and insisting on transferring land into private ownership. Instead of balancing economic development and allocating land among all the ethnic groups, Adraf went to the extreme of considering land

redistribution solely from an economic point of view.

"In the overwhelming majority of cases, Adraf's aim was to give private property to individuals . . . in order to bring Kanaks round to the Western view of land ownership and the increased profit which it was supposed to generate," Asselineau said. This, he added, was obvious even from the second allocation Adraf ever considered, with the then French High Commissioner Jean Montpezat leading the opposition to Kana customary claims. Adraf rarely agreed to allocate land collectively to a Kanak clan. Out of 420 allocations there were only two exceptions to the rule: collectives run by the Kamboa-Outcho clan at Païta, and by the Gama clan at Bourail.

He criticises the Adraf executive for failing on every occasion to notify the board of concurrent Kanak customary claims. Of the 126 allocations carried over from the previous Land Reform Board, 71 or more than half were actioned by Adraf in direct contradiction with decisions and promises already

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NEW CALEDONIA

The Adraf scandal

THE French auditor-general Francois Asselineau recently lifted the lid on loyalist corruption in New Caledonia's Land and Rural Development Agency (Adraf). His confidential report accuses three senior members of the RPCR, New Caledonia's main pro-French party, of taking over the running of Adraf from 1986 and perverting its legal functions, in particular, by denying Kanak land claims. Asselineau also implies criticism of the supporting role played by the then French High Commissioner, Jean Montpezat, who was president of Adraf's board.

Adraf was set up in 1986 by the right-wing Chirac Government to replace the Land Reform Board which was itself set up in 1982 by the Socialist Government. The old board's job was simply to buy and redistribute land to Kanak traditional owners. Adraf's role was to buy and redistribute land equitably among all New Caledonia's ethnic populations in

order to develop the rural economy.

Asselineau's commission of inquiry was ordered by French prime minister Michel Rocard when he visited New Caledonia in August last year and was confronted by the FLNKS with evidence of Adraf's scandals. So far only an edited summary of the commission's findings has been made public and it spares the three RPCR leaders: Adraf's former director Denis Millard, the former deputy director Philippe Gomes, and Territorial representative Harold Martin.

The full report, 23 pages plus tables and appendices, says the RPCR members ran Adraf as a clique, giving selected board members privileged access to essential documents. This clique would meet secretly, before Adraf board meetings, and decide upon land purchases and sales which were then presented for rubber stamping at the full board meeting. The auditor-general also found key information was withheld from the full board.

The crux of Asselineau's criticism rests on what he sees as Adraf's deliberate policy of denying Kanak customary land claims and stirring up trouble not only between Kanak clans and European

landowners but also between Kanaks themselves (see main story). This hidden political agenda meant Adraf abandoned its statutory obligations.

It avoided the legally-required Crown Lands Department valuation except in 3.4 per cent of the cases. Of the 129 purchases with a Crown Land valuation, 86% or 111 parcels of land were bought for between double and triple the official value. The report says in many cases a valuation was obtained only after Adraf had bought the land and these valuations were done by Philippe Gomes' father-in-law, a land surveyor not a land valuer. Properties bought by Adraf were overvalued on average by 37 per cent.

As the flip side of this over-valuation, many purchasers were given knock-down prices and deferred loans at low interest rates.

The auditor-general's report cites several examples of the RPCR clique misusing Adraf's power. They allocated 22 parcels of land to members of the Adraf board or their families. Other allocations were made for electoral or political reasons. Asselineau says these decisions "largely contributed to Adraf's reputation for favouritism and partial-

given to Kanak clans. Asselineau warns: "Two of these allocations pose major problems of public order but there's the threat that a greater number, if not all 69 other allocations, will cause conflict in future." Already one of these cases is threatening to escalate into a head-on confrontation between the European owner and several Kanak tribes. The tribe at Oundjo had a verbal contract from the Land Reform Board for redistribution of prime riverside grazing land. The former owner had agreed to sell the land and in return the tribe leased it back to him to run his cattle. Adraf refused to recognise the claim and evicted the tenant, selling the land to a European reported to have had land troubles elsewhere. Oundjo has written to the new Adraf threatening a mass land occupation unless the land's returned. It's already begun seeking support from other Kanak tribes.

Burck says the Rocard Government has agreed to overturn at least 60 allocations made from 1986 to 1988. "In the Oundjo case the Government is embarrassed because the land has been allocated under French law and it's difficult today to go back on this decision," he said. But Asselineau says the potential for future conflict between European and Kanaks is also illustrated by the rate at which recipients have subsequently given up their entitlement. Of 317 pertinent allocations, so far only 49 have been carried right through. Although recipients blamed Kanak legal claims for

their decisions to give up the land, Asselineau speculates this may only mask a more real fear — land occupations.

The auditor-general also accuses the Adraf clique of deliberately stirring up trouble among Kanaks. He says analysis of certain cases indicated Adraf set out to incite conflicts between individual Kanaks and Kanak clans as well as between Kanak clans and European settlers.

By ignoring the existence of customary claims, Adraf in most cases redistributed land to Kanaks who had no customary right to it. In addition, those Kanaks who were allocated land — whether or not they were members of the traditional landowning clan — didn't get permission to claim ownership from the relevant council of elders. "In many cases, it's incited often strident opposition from the customary owners," says Asselineau.

An example of inflamed tempers came in Canala, an area ordinarily at flash-point anyway, where a Kanak man was allocated nearly 47 hectares by Adraf despite one of the board's Kanak members pointing out quite forcefully that the land was already claimed by the Nechero clan. Trouble ensued and eventually Denis Millard, Adraf's director, visited the property with two colleagues. They were attacked and had to seek police protection. An axe was smashed into the roof of Millard's car and all three were threatened physically.

Such confrontations exposed the inadequacy of criteria from successive

High Commissioners under which land should be allocated to the various ethnic communities, Asselineau says, "because the allocation of land to a Kanak isn't in any way an act of appeasement, quite the contrary in fact when that Kanak can claim no customary rights."

Adraf took this attitude to the extreme when it allocated land to a Kanak at La Foa without recognising it encompassed sacred burial sites of the Chome clan, to which the recipient did not belong. The Chome clan also complained other tombs were located in a grotto on nearby land allocated to two Kanak brothers.

Finally, Asselineau describes some allocations as "very inopportune" given recent events in New Caledonia, and cites just one example.

Adraf allocated just over two hectares at Mont-Dore to a certain Maurice Mitride whose Hienghene property was bought for 42 per cent more than the Crown Lands valuation. His Mont-Dore allocation was at a substantial discount and based upon what Asselineau describes as an "imaginary" development project. Mitride was one of the self-confessed killers of 10 Kanaks, (including two brothers of the late FLNKS leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou), at the Hienghene massacre on December 5, 1984. Along with his co-accused, Mitride was acquitted in 1987 on the grounds of "legitimate defence".

Asselineau comments tersely that such an allocation didn't clamour for priority under the circumstances. □

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ity". He quotes from several applicants who spell out their links with the RPCR or the anti-independence cause as reason for favourable consideration. In August 1987, Adraf allocated nine properties to individuals whose applications had been drawn up by Gomes and another 10 properties were allocated to individuals who'd never applied for land.

Adraf was obliged to redistribute land for economic development. But the report found that generally the Adraf clique allocated land without a verified economic development proposal from the recipient. The price to be paid and the terms of payment were frequently settled afterwards. Asselineau gives numerous examples of the bizarre outcomes of "these hasty allocations which illustrate the careless examination of each application":

- In August 1987, Adraf allocated just over 375 hectares at Houailou to an incorporated society still being set up. A year later the group still didn't exist and its development programme was, of course, equally nonexistent.

- In August 1987, eight properties were allocated to Wallisians (Polynesian immigrants from the French territory of

Wallis and Futuna) at La Foa to set up a piggery. Adraf approved this piggery without any commercial feasibility study and even though it contravened the town's by-laws.

- Again in August 1987, Adraf agreed to split a La Foa property between two purchasers but later it was discovered the boundary line went straight through the only house on the land.

- In February 1988, Adraf allocated six hectares of land to one European without realising, firstly, the land wasn't economically viable because it was liable to flooding, and secondly, that one hectare was already leased to a company called Enercal.

The report also accused Adraf of becoming an intermediary in private land transactions with 27 properties being bought and then allocated to someone nominated by the seller.

Asselineau says Adraf failed to adhere to its requirement to redistribute land to all ethnic groups in proportion to their populations. This failure was notable with regard to Kanaks: of 717 Kanak applications for land, only 136 were approved. Another aim of getting young

farmers onto land was met for Europeans but not for Kanaks. And Adraf often gave Kanaks the poorest land (steep terrain, lack of water, distant from road or sea).

Asselineau notes an "unfortunate" comparison between the 581 rejected Kanak applications, including many from fathers of large Kanak families, and other results of Adraf's policies:

- 23 European recipients already owned properties;

- Those 23 Europeans, who already owned a total of more than 4488 hectares (an average of more than 195 hectares each), were allocated an extra 3951 hectares (an average of more than 171 hectares each);

- 34 recipients weren't born in New Caledonia;

- At least 77 recipients had secure jobs as public servants, municipal workers or employees of the SLN nickel company.

Asselineau describes Adraf's internal management as "wasteful" and characterised by flagrant overspending on items ranging from cars, petrol vouchers, orchids and plants for the Adraf offices to hiring helicopters. □

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WESTERN SAMOA

Outliving the crisis

AFAMASAGA Toleafoa arrived in Auckland to be Western Samoa's Consul-General at the same time as David Lange's Labour Government took up residence on the Treasury Benches in Wellington in mid 1984. In the five years since, Afamasaga's been nominal head of Auckland's Samoan community and frequently acted as spokesman and advocate for Pacific Islanders living in the world's largest Polynesian city. Up to 90,000 Pacific Islanders now live in the Auckland metropolis, the largest group being Samoans. Afamasaga's outlasted the former Prime Minister and several Immigration Ministers. During those five years, there've been numerous crises: the visa-free fiasco and one of its outcomes, the Otara machete murder; the crackdown on Pacific Island overstayers; this year's threat to Samoa's quota. Afamasaga has waded into all these fights and, in addition, taken on New Zealand's mass media for mindlessly regurgitating politicians' anti-Islander tirades. *Pacific Island Monthly's* Karen Mangnall spoke to Afamasaga in Auckland:

In your five years here, what are some of the major changes you've noticed in the relationship between the Samoan community and other New Zealanders?

Certainly the community has got a little bit bigger and it's got a higher profile. The main reason is there are now a lot of young people who have grown up here in New Zealand, have been through the New Zealand school system, and who are now beginning to do a lot of very useful things. We find a lot more people in the various professions. We've got lawyers, doctors, school teachers and all these things are creating a change. We've got a lot more Samoans in influential positions as far as our community goes. There are a lot more young people in university and it just keeps feeding into those kinds of achievements.

Sports has also been a big part of our community here. If you look at rugby, there are a number of very high-profile young Samoan men doing very well in the country's national code. That's obviously very pleasing, not only to New Zealand as a whole but it gives our community a great source of pride. The same goes for all the other codes too, for rugby league. We've also got people like Rita Fatiafoa (double New Zealand rep in netball and softball). You will find some other quite prominent names there.

Do you think most New Zealanders share



AUCKLAND STAR

Mata'afa: "I'm not a militant but I won't hesitate to correct the men . . ."

New guard in Auckland

THE guard has changed at Samoa House in Auckland's Karangahape Road. After five years as the city's leading Samoan, consul-general Afamasaga Toleafoa has handed over the job to La'ulu Fetauimalemau Mata'afa. Even a cursory acquaintance with the new guard indicates the Western Samoan government wants its Auckland consul to continue to provide high-profile advocacy of Samoan (and Pacific Island interests in general) in New Zealand. The style may change, but not the substances.

La'ulu is a 61-year-old *matai*, widow of Samoa's first Prime Minister Fiamē Mata'afa Faumuina, a former MP and a powerful and respected voice in Samoan and regional politics. By her own admission, she can make herself unpopular with the basically conservative Samoan male hierarchy because of her outspokenness, especially on the issue of women's equality.

"I'm not a crusader or a reformer but I can't sit back," she said. "If I see some-

thing that's not properly done or I disagree with I won't hesitate to speak out and express my point of view.

"I'm not militant but I won't hesitate to correct the men if I see them not doing what they should, not doing the normal thing." For your future reference, "the normal thing" means treating women as equals. La'ulu is Samoa's first female diplomat to head an overseas post and she says Samoan women see the appointment as "finally men beginning to give recognition to the women".

After years of breaching the ramparts of Samoan male dominance, La'ulu is unlikely to be phased by New Zealand's crop of male MPs who periodically bludgeon Pacific Islanders via the media in the hopes of increasing the redneck vote. First day on the job, La'ulu used a half-hour nationwide guest spot on Radio New Zealand to tell the offender, Whangarei MP John Banks, he'd better change his views and she was looking forward to having a chat with him.

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She's also ready to reiterate Western Samoa's concerns about the trend in New Zealand immigration policy. New Immigration Minister Roger Douglas recently indicated he'd soon revamp guidelines to give preference to skilled immigrants from declining sources such as Europe and north America. Douglas asserts his aim is to balance immigration from Europe, north America, Asia and the Pacific. But La'ulu echoes her predecessor's worries that New Zealand may be heading back to Whites Only immigration policy which would have a profound impact on its relations with Western Samoa.

She believes immigration will continue to be the top priority of government-to-government dealings with the Western Samoans keen to clean up the overstayer problem.

"Our government wants to promote the welfare of the people here and encourage them to be better citizens. At the same time our people come here and contribute to the welfare of this country and they should receive the benefits that New Zealanders get," she says.

La'ulu says she's long argued that Western Samoa doesn't prepare its citizens adequately for life as an immigrant in New Zealand. More than 20 years ago, the Samoan National Council of Women offered, unsuccessfully, to run courses to teach emigrating Samoan women the basics of Kiwi housekeeping.

"It's very difficult for them to come from a warm climate with large open houses and no locked doors to two or three bedrooms with many people living there. They don't know about dusting or buying curtains or blankets on the beds or even dressing the children for the colder weather," says La'ulu.

La'ulu says Samoans persist in seeing New Zealand as the land of milk and honey and, quite naturally, their unrealistic expectations come crashing down once they arrive in New Zealand. She points out: "It's an immediate setback or disadvantage which many don't ever overcome. I would like to see Samoan women becoming more comfortable with the New Zealand way of life."

On the other hand, she believes the younger generation of Samoans born in New Zealand are successfully integrating the best of *fa'a Samoa* with Kiwi behaviour and attitudes. La'ulu wants to encourage more Samoans into the professions and all levels of New Zealand life, particularly local and central government. "Like all immigrant groups Samoans have a tendency to stick together," she explains. "I would like to see our community come out a bit more and get involved with the wider community." □

your view of Samoan achievements?

I believe New Zealanders do have that view of the Samoan community. I've just been in Dunedin and we were talking about how Dunedin was getting warmer and somebody said well, we might see a few more Islanders down here. I said yes, it's probably going to do your rugby a great deal of good. It was a joke but they did see a certain element of truth. I mix quite widely through my job and also through my children and their tennis and there are areas where you don't see a Pacific Islander at all. People there have a very positive view of Pacific Islanders or Samoans irrespective of the less positive things that have been written and said in the news media.

Do you think New Zealanders know very much about Samoans themselves?

I'm always amazed at how little people know. I think they've got an idea of certain things: we do go to church, by and large we're hard working because they see us out in factories, we're keen on educating our children. But as to fully understanding what actually goes on, I believe they don't, I think many people would like to know but it's not always easy. The easiest way is to know someone, make friends and then be invited to their home and social or family things. I believe there isn't enough of that. Sometimes I feel like telling my New Zealand friends that they, being the hosts, should make the first move. After all they're more comfortable here and the Pacific Islanders probably feel a bit reserved and shy.

With the Samoan community making increasing strides and becoming more visible, is this going to bring increased racial friction?

I don't believe so. In a city like Auckland where most of the mixing takes place, it's a big city and I get the impression that people are more concerned with getting on with their lives rather than with race. As Auckland becomes more cosmopolitan, a more multiracial and multi-ethnic society, people will forget about the race of the other person more and more and they'll get on with being an Aucklander. If anything the race tensions along those lines will decrease in future.

The big racial issue which will dominate is how to resolve differences over the Treaty of Waitangi between the *tangata whenua* (the Maori) and the rest of New Zealand. This has caused some friction and will probably continue to do so rather than race issues *per se*.

In tough economic times, immigrant communities are often used as scapegoats. Do you think the Samoan community will suffer such attention in future?

New Zealand has been through an economic crunch, incredible economic change. We've seen people lose their jobs

by the thousands, our own community has been hard hit. Fortunately, we've managed because people have turned to the inbuilt support system within the community. There has been a practice of using the new Pacific Island migrants as scapegoats but I believe the worst of that is behind us.

Do you see dangers to Western Samoa with the trend in New Zealand's immigration policy away from access for Pacific Islanders in favour of Europeans?

Well, one has to look at what's happening at the moment and wonder just where New Zealand's immigration policies will move in the future. The Minister of Immigration is talking about bringing skilled people from Europe. That's all well and good if that's what the economy needs. One would hope that this will not correspond to a reduction in access for people from the Pacific, and certainly from Western Samoa. The Western Samoan government has made it clear its immigration quota is an integral part of our relationship with New Zealand and any changes to the quota would mean substantial changes to that relationship. And I'm sure that's the view of Samoans here too.

New Zealand must also bear in mind its position as a major Polynesian nation and that many Pacific nations look upon New Zealand as a main partner in the region.

We've talked about the achievements of the Samoan community here but what things worry you when you look at the Samoan community's development here?

There are aspects which do worry us and there are aspects of our community here we'd like to see changed. The overstayers issue is a big irritant in relations between Samoa and New Zealand and it doesn't do our community here any good at all with that kind of image. So whatever actions are taken to control this problem will be fully supported by the Samoan community and government.

The economic situation is a worry. A lot of Samoan parents are succeeding in pushing their children through the school system here but we also know there are many who are falling by the wayside. They would be a worry because they will be the problem of the future. If they're poorly educated, if they lose touch with their Samoan roots they're likely to be very difficult to deal with. We don't know exactly how many young people are in that category, but my feeling is it's not a big number. There's enough strength in the Samoan community to deal with these problems.

I'm concerned that South Auckland doesn't become a ghetto. Otara has the potential to turn into some kind of Polynesian or Pacific Island ghetto. I'm sure it's not too late for a lot of change there. □

THE REGION

NORTHERN MARIANAS

Republicans sweep the polls

By David North

THE Republicans won a sweeping victory in the November election in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. They kept control of the governorship and the territorial senate, ousted the Democrats from the position of Washington representative, but did not break the Democrats' hold on the lower house of the legislature.

Although some 300 absentee votes were outstanding, it was clear that former Senate President Larry Guerrero had beaten the sitting Washington representative Froilan Tenorio for the four-year-term as governor of the Commonwealth. In the Marianas the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor appear jointly on the ballot, so Guerrero's victory was also a win for his running-mate, the current Senate president, Benjamin T. Manglona. Loser in that race was Victor B. Hocog, who had served two terms as a territorial house member for the island of Rota.

Earlier speculation that a politician named Tenorio would win the governorship proved incorrect, as Guerrero outpolled or outlasted three men with that name. Sitting Republican Governor Pedro P. Tenorio decided not to seek another term; then sitting Republican Lt. Governor Pedro A. Tenorio lost the Republican primary to Guerrero, with the last of the Tenorios, Froilan, falling in the November voting.

Meanwhile, with Froilan Tenorio running for governor, the two-year position of Washington representative was up for grabs. The Democratic candidate was Froilan's long-time chief of staff and cousin, Herman T. Guerrero, who had secured a substantial amount of Washington experience. The victorious Republican was Juan N. Babauta, a freshman territorial senator from Saipan, the most populous of the islands. Babauta got 4347 votes to 3187 for Guerrero.

The territorial legislature will remain split between the two parties. The nine-member senate was 7-2 Republican before the last election but will be 6-3 Republican in the next two years; the Republicans gained one seat on Saipan, and held two seats on Rota, but the Democrats, for the first time ever, won both seats on Tinian. (Six of the nine senate seats were at stake, with three other senators staying as holdovers; each of the three islands is allocated three senators.)

Gamblers' den

BIG time casino gambling may come to the small Northern Marianas island of Tinian as a result of a November vote by its residents.

Tinian's people, who sense they do not share the prosperity of neighbouring Saipan, voted 459 yes to 63 no when asked to authorise the establishment of such a casino. They regarded it as a major potential source for jobs.

Meanwhile another vote in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas showed that the voters were overwhelmingly in favour of banning all forms of gambling, but because of the special majority needed in such cases, the referendum failed.

The referendum was on and off the ballot several times, as the courts made several different rulings. Finally, the Territorial Supreme Court ruled in favour of a vote, and the islanders split 4610 for abolition of gambling to 2894 in favour of its retention. This healthy margin was not enough, however, to make the vote binding. In the Marianas such issues must be carried not only by a majority of the voters, but also by at least two-thirds of the voters in each of two of the territory's three senate districts. (These are Rota, Tinian and Saipan and

the largely uninhabited northern islands). Voters in Tinian, consistent with their interest in a casino, voted against the Commonwealth referendum, while large, but not large enough, majorities voted for the gambling ban on the other two islands.

The principal form of commercial gambling in the islands are the omnipresent poker machines; you feed it coins, and play five-card draw poker. Some people, including the Catholic Church, regard gambling as a social disease.

The passage of the Tinian referendum will test the powers of local government within the Commonwealth, and will set up an interesting series of conflicts which probably will wind up in the courts. Tinian, like the other two islands, has its own mayor and local government, so a structure is in place to handle the issues that a casino will create.

On the other hand, there are strong concerns expressed elsewhere in the Commonwealth that the little island will be overwhelmed by both the major financial interests (probably Japanese) needed to build the casino, and by the criminal elements that often accompany casino gambling. □

Although absentee votes may change the exact mix, it is apparent that the Democrats, who held a pre-election majority in the 15-member House of Representatives, will continue to dominate that body, probably by a 10-5 margin.

All the races were vigorous ones, with most major candidates charging each other with corruption, unseemly behaviour, and inappropriate public policies.

Guerrero opened one of his newspaper advertisements with an obscene quotation attributed to Froilan Tenorio and then moved on to tamer stuff such as "... You can tell your AG [Attorney General] to stuff his suggestions you know where ..." According to the ad this was from a telex to Governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

Froilan countered that Guerrero was a poor manager, having "almost bankrupt [Guerrero's own] Saipan Shipping Company ..." and then asked why Guerrero was suing the company in which he continued to own shares. He also said in ads: "Ask Larry about the Federal Indictment of his involvement with Casino Gambling."

Over and above the mud-slinging, there were major differences in style and substance between the two gubernatorial

candidates.

Guerrero was less venturesome in the issues he raised, while Tenorio made sweeping suggestions, such as near-total reorganisation of the local schools. Tenorio indicated that the schools were not doing a good job of educating the children, and that a centralisation of the schools was needed to provide adequate education and facilities. Guerrero replied that he was opposed to bussing children, and disrupting neighbourhoods.

Tenorio, a strong nationalist, insisted that relations with the Mainland should be handled through the courts, under section 903 of the Coavenant, while Guerrero called for continued utilisation of the section 902 negotiations; the Bush Administration in Washington, which has dragged its feet on appointing a 902 representative, apparently did not hurt Guerrero's cause thereby.

Guerrero focused much of his campaign on his own interpretations of Tenorio's statements. There was, for example, a session with a women's organisation in which Tenorio was quoted as saying: "I do not see a need for this organisation." Tenorio's reply was that he meant there was no need for such an organisation to press him on women's issues, because he already was on their side. □

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DEFENCE

Spy links at Deep Freeze

ANZUS may be dead but declassified American military documents made public last month reveal that low-level military cooperation still continues in the South Pacific between New Zealand and the United States.

Communications facilities linked with Operation Deep Freeze, involving New Zealand's only foreign base which was set up in Christchurch in 1960 to support Antarctic research, are also routinely used as part of the military tie, say the papers.

Deep Freeze has also been at the centre of revelations in the New Zealand national weekly, *Listener*, about a dispute between the United States and New Zealand governments over drugs and contraband at the Harewood base which is adjacent to Christchurch international airport. The report exposed the top-level negotiations that went on to resolve the dispute and how the US won.

The controversy has also fuelled attention on New Zealand's developing spy facilities which closely link the country to western intelligence systems dominated by the United States, particularly Waihopai spy base which is planned to eavesdrop on communications facilities belonging to South Pacific nations.

Deep Freeze is *de facto* sovereign United States territory — and not subject to New Zealand law, New Zealanders working at the base are barred from joining a union. As far back as the October 1978 Middle East crisis, the base was put on alert — and the New Zealand government wasn't told.

Opponents believe the airport could be used as a major base during periods

of international crisis. They regard the base as undermining New Zealand's independent nuclear-free policy.

The documents, released under the US Freedom of Information Act, relate to a little known international agreement for the naval control of merchant shipping in time of war or national emergency. Signed in 1951 and updated in 1978, the Radford-Collins Agreement's co-signatories are Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the United States.

According to Dr Peter Wills, the New Zealand scientist and peace campaigner who released the papers, proof that the pact was still in force was contained in the standing operational order used by the United States Pacific Fleet.

Dated October 1988, the order defines the geographical areas of responsibility for signatory nations in monitoring shipping movements. New Zealand is responsible for an area extending halfway across the Tasman Sea to the west, to the equator in the north and about 1500km beyond the Chatham Islands in the east.

The declassified documents show coded communications to Auckland and Wellington are channelled through the American Embassy in Wellington. Communications through Christchurch are sent uncoded through communications facilities maintained under the auspices of Operation Deep Freeze.

Murray Horton, of ABC, believes the documents are conclusive proof that Harewood communications establishment also serves a military purpose. "The base is there for Antarctic purposes," he says, "but these show it's a base for other things as well."

According to a draft report among confidential US documents and files obtained by the *Listener*, "various fires of scandal" burned between 1974 and 1981. The report alleges there had been documented cases of misappropriation of government funds and theft as servants. And there had been cover-ups.



Pledge: Shields.

The climate was reportedly "cherry ripe for blackmail and manipulation" and New Zealand government agencies began to screen Deep Freeze, said the magazine.

According to one file on an incident at Christchurch airport on August 21, 1981, a complete stereo unit — Hitachi speakers, cassette deck, tuner/amp and equaliser — was found hidden in a survival pack in a US Hercules aircraft.

Drugs were also a problem. The US Embassy in Wellington had in 1973 warned the Secretary of State of the possibility of base staff being arrested and jailed for up to 14 years for importing drugs. The first serviceman was jailed for 14 months in 1980 after being convicted of possessing cannabis and hashish for supply: within a year there had been a total of 40 interceptions involving military and civilian staff.

However, after high-level negotiations, the New Zealand government eased its pressure by 1984 — when the Labour government came to power — and virtually pledged to keep Customs at bay.

But on October 13, 1985, after drugs were found on a US serviceman who had been a Hercules passenger, said the *Listener*, Customs used a bolt cutter to break into the aircraft. No drugs were found on the plane. When the US protested Customs Minister Margaret Shields pledged it would not happen again.

The controversial reports have focused public attention on the sovereignty issue of Harewood. Although the original agreement strictly limited Deep Freeze activity to support for Antarctic scientific research, successive NZ governments have given permission for the base to be used for purposes other than Antarctic support.

US Air Force Starlifters pass through Harewood twice weekly carrying computer tapes and equipment to and from the American intelligence base at Pine Gap, and other nuclear support facilities in Australia.

According to the *Listener*, former US Ambassador Anne Martindell noted in a message to the Secretary of State in Washington during March, 1981, that the 1958 treaty establishing Deep Freeze was "extraordinarily generous and was concluded at a time when the NZ government was disposed to allow the US to name its terms. We could no longer hope to replicate that situation". □



Outside Anzus: US Galaxy at Harewood air base.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS

The way of the aiga

Living in Western Samoa's fragile economy

By John McCrystal

IT'S a little after 9pm on a Thursday in Western Samoa. The visitor to the capital Apia was leaving by taxi when the radio announcer started reading long list of names. It was the Post Office list of postal money orders waiting to be collected. The driver also listened. He, too, was expecting money from relatives in New Zealand, Australia, United States — "all over the place". The money was coming, "one day soon".

Money sent home by Samoans living abroad has become the major part of the Western Samoan economy. At least 80 per cent of the money come from New Zealand. The balance comes by Samoans working in American Samoa, Australia, the United States — all over the place. Labour is by far Western Samoa's biggest export commodity. In 1988, it returned WS\$73.8 million, compared to WS\$31.5 million earned by all other export products.

"Remittance," said Economic Development Director Tunaimatia Falani Chan Tung "is a positive contribution to the balance of payments". Samoa's dependence upon remittance as a major source of income is manifest.

In 1989, the New Zealand government sought to scrap or reduce the special quota of visas granted to Samoan immigrant labourers. The Samoan response resembled New Zealand's familiar alarm whenever the European Economic Community proposes to cut the quota of New Zealand butter. Western Samoa is in the unenviable position of dependence upon a market commodity that is affected by more than just simple economic and political factors. Given the depressed state of New Zealand's own domestic job market, cutting back on the immigration of unskilled labour is a politically tempting measure. The Samoan situation is precarious, and economic dependence has profound implications not only for

the standard of living of Western Samoans, but also for the Samoan way of life.

Precarious as the situation is, for most Samoans today it is a comfortable one. It is a unique marriage of *fa'asamoa*, (the traditional Samoan Way), and the benefits of the modern West.

Fa'asamoa is based upon the extended family, the *aiga*. Traditionally, the *aiga* is a self-sufficient unit, producing its own needs entirely from the land in purely subsistence terms, the productive capacity of traditional agriculture is still such that most *aiga* remain theoretically self-sufficient. Samoa's commerce with the outside world owes to the taste that its people have acquired for consumer items. *Aiga* members sent overseas to

work and remit enable most *aiga* to enjoy a very high standard of living. While living in a traditional *fale*, a house with a thatched roof and without walls, many families own televisions and video recorders, and most *aiga* have a car. In a nation described as one of the most under-developed in the world, there are incongruous signs of affluence.

"Any reduction in remittance levels would adversely affect the standard of living of Samoans," admits Tanuvasa Livigisitone, the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Development and Planning, and Trade and Commerce. "We recognise the fragility of the situation."

Clearly, the way out of the current "fragile" situation is to boost the performance of the productive sectors of

Then there was success

WESTERN Samoa's off-shore banking centre is being judged a success. It was only in June that the revised legislation was available, and now 120 companies have been listed in Apia with the registrar of foreign companies, Stanley Uren. Most of the companies have come from Europe and Hong Kong, with some interest from the West Coast of the United States. Uren told *Pacific Islands Monthly* he was satisfied with the way the centre had progressed.

Three trust companies are in business. They are Asiatic Trust Company Ltd, which also has offices in Port Vila, Hong Kong and Singapore — it is trading in Apia under the name Western Samoa International Trust Ltd, the other companies being European Pacific Trust Company (Western Samoa) Ltd, part of the European Pacific group which is located in the Cook Islands, Luxembourg

and Hong Kong, and Intertrust Incorporated Ltd, which has associate companies in Europe and New Zealand.

Four banks have been established. Three of these are B2 licences which requires a paid-up capital of US\$250,000 — these licences do not allow accepting deposits from the public nor issuing of cheques. There is one registration under the B1 licence type, with the requirements of a paid-up capital of US\$2 million — this bank can accept deposits above US\$100,000.

One insurance company has registered under the off-shore legislation. Under the new Western Samoa law (called the International Companies Act) firms are exempt from income and other taxes, there are no currency or exchange controls and no levies on remittances of funds from Western Samoa. The country has no tax treaties.

Uren said the government was discussing further overseas promotion of the finance centre, with attention likely to be focussed in the Far East, particularly Hong Kong, South Korea and Indonesia. □

BUSINESS



Children in agriculture: moving in the right direction?

the Samoan economy. If the stream of remittance money were to dry or even slow up in the near future, Samoa would pass from indirect dependence upon other nations to a direct one. To a nation that battled until 1962 to achieve autonomy, this is a repugnant prospect.

Few of the Pacific microstates can hope to achieve autonomy. Western Samoa, if anything, is worse off than most. Hampered by geographical isolation and a lack of native raw materials, it is an unattractive destination for overseas investment. Also, the history of Western Samoa since 1962 has been characterised by a mixture of mismanagement and economic bad luck that has served to largely nullify development initiatives undertaken since independence. Chronic underdevelopment has persisted, and has to a large extent been perpetuated by the growth of remittance levels. As a consequence, Western Samoa is at a disadvantage in the world context from which it may never recover.

Yet within the parameters of these limitations, there is considerable scope for improvement in economic performance. The high standard of living enjoyed by its people disguises the woeful

state of the Western Samoan economy.

Until 1986, the Controller of Customs issued annually a report entitled *Return of Trade, Commerce and Shipping of Western Samoa*. This document in 1986 graphically illustrated the performance of the economy. The register of exports and re-exports, which exhaustively lists all goods exported from Western Samoa in 1986, right down to the WS\$20 worth of rubber bands exported to Fiji, accounts for eight pages of the report. The register of imports, on the other hand, occupies 159 pages.

The Samoan economy is a voracious consumer and a very poor producer. The gap between exports and imports in 1988 was WS\$125 million.

Since 1986, the report has exemplified another aspect of the economy: disorganisation. When the report next appears, it may well bear the title *The Return of the Return of Trade, Commerce, etc*: The report last appeared in 1986. The figures, according to Joe Devoe, the Controller of Customs, have been gathered since 1986, and in no less detail. They are all in the new computer. Difficulties arose in getting them out again. The 1987 report is due out at the

end of 1989.

While the level of imports increases at an average rate of 16.68 per cent per annum, productivity stagnates. The average rate of increase of the Gross Domestic Product between 1984 and 1988 was 1.9 per cent per annum. Production levels of all major agricultural products, declining steadily since 1984, recorded their biggest respective declines in 1988, despite a general trend toward higher world prices. Department of Economic Development figures estimate that the overall economic growth rate was "low by 20 per cent of its worth in 1987 in real terms". The Department of Economic Development singles out the agricultural sector in commenting on the poor performance of 1988: "... a serious concern in the behaviour of the Samoan economy should be with regards to the stagnated production and productivity in the acclaimed mainstay of the national economy. This among other things gives rise to the trade gap. It is very crucial as well as pertinent that the yields of the major agricultural crops should be sustained and improved".

It is precisely the quality of the Samoan way of life that gives rise to poor

BUSINESS

production. As each *aiga* can produce through traditional methods as much food as it needs, and through remittance can afford many of the things that it wants, there is little incentive to produce for an export market. Samoan farmers seldom produce goods for consumption outside the *aiga* because they need the money. More commonly, they regard this as a means to meet some extraordinary expense, such as school fees, the purchase of a car or contribution to a village project. "The way to motivate the *palagi*, the white man, is through here," a Samoan banker said, placing his hand over his heart. "The way to motivate an islander is through here." He placed his hand on his stomach. "I wish there would be a famine," he said. "No Samoan will work unless his belly is empty." Similarly, the Controller of Customs said: "They talk about deficits and other economic techniques. I'm not an economist, but as long as I have a full stomach, the economy is good."

There is little incentive to boost the performance of such a "good" economy. Complacency is a major threat to development initiatives. For example, the agricultural sector, which is so crucial to the performance of the economy as a whole, recognises the need to diversify and develop, and an appropriately ambitious set of programmes are underway. Yet to succeed, these must be pursued with singlemindedness and urgency. The Minister of Agriculture, Pule Lameko, expresses confidence that agriculture and the economy in general are "moving in the right direction". Yet when asked to comment about the need to break the nation's dependence upon remittances, he comfortably observes that "they have been around for a long time".

The Department of Economic Development's latest annual report is an energetic document. It isolates the shortcomings of the economic performance for 1988 and sets priorities for effective improvement. The Director, Tunaimatia Falani, identifies employment as the crucial issue. "Most of all," he says, "Samoa needs a well-disciplined and trained labour force." Labour is, after all, a resource of which Samoa has no shortage. It is important that it is exploited within the country rather than exported. Talk of advanced programmes such as aquaculture, to exploit Western Samoa's redundant fishery, is tempered by pragmatism. "The current government is trying to address the various structural difficulties within the economy," Falani says, then adds with a wry smile. "Our lack of resources makes it impossible to achieve all our aspirations at one time."

Structural difficulties are very much in the mind of the minister, too. The infrequency and unreliability of shipping is one example. A ship sailed the week be-

fore with a crop of 500 tonnes of coconut oil. This week, an order for a further 1000 tonnes has been received. The next ship is due in three weeks, when half of that order will be consigned. It is unclear when the balance will sail. "This is money that the economy could already be using," Livigisitone says. As Minister of Tourism and Hotels and Marketing as well as of Economic Development, Livigisitone places emphasis on the selling not only of Samoan produce, but also of Samoa itself as a tourist destination. The minister, too, is aware of the significance of unemployment. 60 per cent of Samoan youth is out of work. Primary industry provides a limited number and a variety of jobs. The drive, he believes, must be to establish secondary industry and to create opportunities. "We recognise," he says, echoing the words of the Director of his Department of Economic Development, "the fragility of the situation."

Remittance levels fell by 4.4 per cent from 1987 to 1988. With the New Zealand government's measures to tighten up on immigration, levels can be expected to fall further. In 1988, remittances earned no less than two thirds of the nation's total overseas income. Better than four fifths of this money was remitted from New Zealand. Given the depressed state of New Zealand's own job market, the position of immigrant labour is surely vulnerable. "Deep down," says Avologo Ripley, of the Bank of Western Samoa, "the average Samoan knows change is coming." The danger facing Western Samoa today is that of lapsing into a chronic beneficiary mentality, where the incentive to produce is removed by an artificially sustained income. There is evidence that this is happening. While it is true that Samoa will never achieve complete economic autonomy, the challenge now is to restore vitality to the economy. Political independence was sought as the first step to self-determination. Economic self-sufficiency, or some measure thereof, is the more difficult second step which must be no less vigorously pursued. Hesitation increases the risk of sliding backwards. □

Taking it for granted

AUSTRALIAN companies seem to be taking their dominant position in Kiribati for granted judging from attendance at the third Tarawa International Trade Fair. Only two Australian companies turned up to show their latest products, compared with eight from New Zealand and two from Fiji.

It is understood the Australian High Commission in Kiribati was disappointed with the country's poor showing, which

Vanair takes to the sky

VANUATU's new domestic airline, Vanair, is now in operation after taking over from the former private operator, Air Melanesie. The government signalled several months ago it wanted to nationalise the nation's domestic air services, and has since bought four of the aircraft from the private company — three Britten-Norman Islanders and a Trilander. The owner of Air Melanesie, Dennis Buchanan, was reportedly paid US\$500,000 by the government.

Buchanan also owns Talair, of Papua New Guinea, the biggest private domestic airline in the Pacific Islands. He told *Pacific Islands Monthly* he would sell two other Air Melanesie aeroplanes in Australia and absorb two into the Talair fleet. Meanwhile, the other domestic Vanuatu carrier — Doveair — is still flying although the majority shareholder in that company, prominent Port Vila businessman Dinh van Tan, has said he is aware the government wants to eventually operate all internal air links.

Vanair began its operations with services out of Port Vila to Tanna in the south and to the other main island, Espiritu Santo. Doveair has three aircraft, and it is understood the government intends it should continue to operate for a transitional period.

Buchanan said he hoped most of the local Air Melanesie staff would find jobs with the government airline. This excluded expatriate staff: his company's chief engineer had not been able to renew his work permit after September 30, while the airline's chief pilot will have no valid work permit after October 31. "I think they've used the work permits refusal to force us to close down," Buchanan said.

He said he had been concerned about the company's future since the Vanuatu government had last year nationalised the ground handling of aircraft at Port Vila's Bauerfield airport. He had no major regrets. □

was highlighted by their trans-Tasman neighbours throwing a New Zealand Night during the fair.

The companies were there to show their products, mainly in the areas of building materials or foodstuffs. Australia has traditionally been the main supplier to Kiribati, largely due to the shipping service which had linked the two countries for years.

But this year, Pacific Forum Line linked New Zealand, via Fiji, with Kiribati — hence the new interest exporters in that country are now showing the market. □

A photograph of a yellow and black Toyota Hilux 4x4 pickup truck parked on a grassy hill. The background features a dense line of tall palm trees under a clear blue sky. The truck's front end is visible, showing the headlight, grille with the Toyota logo, and a license plate that reads 'HILUX 4W'.

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

Takahashi's got Tahiti

By Al Prince

Editor Tahiti Sun Press

PACIFIC empire-builder Harunori Takahashi has not exactly become a household name in French Polynesia. But his name took on greater significance when he became the first big Japanese hotel owner in French Polynesia.

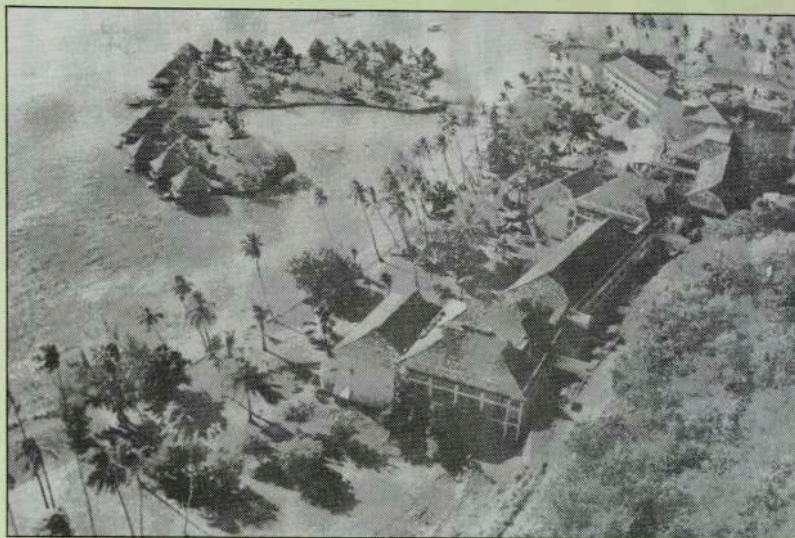
On September 20, the normally fast-moving Takahashi concluded 20 months of work by becoming the majority stockholder in his third major French Polynesia holding within a space of only 10 days.

The first Tahiti property to become part of the Takahashi empire was the 200-room Tahiti Beachcomber Parkroyal. The US\$35-million purchase was closed on September 13. Two days later, on September 15, the \$13.5-million purchase of the 150-room Moorea Beachcomber Parkroyal was closed. Finally, on September 20, the \$30-million purchase of the 200-room Hyatt Regency Tahiti was closed. Those three purchases cleared the way for a two-phase, \$51-million development programme for each hotel that is due to begin before the end of this year and end by late next year or early 1991.

When both phases are completed, \$25 million will have been spent building 100 new rooms and 15 new overwater bungalows at the Tahiti Beachcomber, making it the biggest hotel on the island of Tahiti with 315 rooms and the second biggest hotel in French Polynesia after the 350-room Club Mediterranée village on Moorea. The Tahiti Beachcomber will also end up with the territory's first hotel conference center, which will have a capacity of 500 persons.

At the Hyatt Regency, \$7.7 million will be spent over the two phases on major refurbishing work as part of an overall renovation programme. And \$18.8 million will be spent during the two phases at the Moorea Beachcomber, with most of the work devoted to eliminating major problems that have hampered the hotel's potential since its opening in May 1987.

All details of the hotel purchases and the two-phase development programme for each hotel were furnished by Richard Bailey, whose resignation as interim manager of the Tahiti Tourist Promotion Board became effective on September 1. Since then the 34-year-old Bailey has become general manager of EIE French Polynesia and president and board chairman of the local corporation headquarters of Tahiti Beachcomber,



Beachcomber Parkroyal: 100 new rooms and 18 bungalows.

Vanuatu under the Yen

VANUATU generally and Port Vila in particular are experiencing a substantial increase in the level of Japanese ownership, reports the newsletter issued by Pacific International Trust Co Ltd (PITCO). It says already the largest hotel in Vanuatu is owned by the Tokyu Corporation and the Japanese have purchased several smaller hotels.

In addition, a substantial portion of the high end of the residential housing

market has been bought by Japanese investors who are leasing the homes to expatriate workers. There has been some feeling of uncertainty within government circles as to the future impact of this major change and there have been suggestions aimed at slowing down the rate of this investment. PITCO says the business community considers the fresh investment as a welcome benefit to the country. □

S.A.

The 43-year-old Takahashi started building his empire in Japan in the late 1970s as owner and president of Electronic and Industrial Enterprises (EIE). Since then he has become owner of president of EIE Development, whose interests include about 25 resort hotels, among them seven in the Regent chain and four Hyatts. The new EIE French Polynesia is part of EIE-international corporation of Japan, which oversees all of Takahashi's empire activities outside of Japan.

Tahiti Beachcomber, S.A., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tahitian Holdings, B.V., based in the British Virgin Islands. Seventy per cent of Tahitian Holdings is owned by Takahashi's EIE. The remaining 30 per cent is owned by Tahitian Partners, N.V., which is based in the Dutch West Indies. The intricate arrangement and interrelationship of companies and hotels was necessitated mainly for tax purposes. Basically, the arrangement involves a joint venture between EIE and Tahitian Partners.

That joint venture is called Tahitian Holdings, which owns 100 per cent of

Tahiti Beachcomber, S.A. Tahitian Holdings bought Tahiti Beachcomber, S.A., when the latter owned only the Tahiti Beachcomber Hotel. However, since then, Tahiti Beachcomber, S.A., has gone on to buy the Moorea Beachcomber and 100 per cent of the shares in the owning company of the Hyatt Regency. For the three hotels, this is the second time they have been sold within the past year. They were first bought by Hong Kong investor Adrian Zecha, who initially became owner of the Tahiti Beachcomber Hotel through his purchase of Southern Pacific Hotels Corp, the largest hotel chain in the southern hemisphere. And, in buying the former Hotel Tahara'a, now the Hyatt Regency, Zecha also became owner of the 83-room Hotel Bora Bora, which he still owns.

One of the motivating factors behind Takahashi's interest in hotels in French Polynesia has been Air France's renewal of a weekly Tokyo-Tahiti flight starting last May 4. That flight, combined with Takahashi's increased involvement with Tahiti, has also attracted several other potential Japanese hotel buyers, developers and investors. At the moment, the



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Unitised	\$12.00	per revenue tonnes
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BUSINESS



Hyatt Regency: \$7.7 million in refurbishing work.

hotel properties reportedly being closely examined by Japanese include the Hotel Tahiti, the Hotel Bel Air, the Hotels Bali Hai, the Kia Ora Village and the Hotel Puunui. There are also some Japanese investors/developers looking at French Polynesia with the idea of building new hotel resort projects.

Although such Japanese interest in French Polynesia fits in perfectly with Territorial Government President Alexandre Leontieff's goal of doubling total hotel capacity and reaching 5000 rooms in the next five years, only Takahashi has made the initial financial commitment. However, some of the other hotel purchases are reportedly near to be closing, which may occur before the end of this year. But none of the potential development projects appear to be close to finalising at the moment.

EIE's \$78.5 million for the purchase of three hotels in French Polynesia and a \$51 million, two-phase development plan for those hotels is the biggest money that a foreign investor has put up in French Polynesia, and may remain such for many years to come. For French Polynesia, Takahashi's hotel development plans represent important new jobs. And Bailey insisted that foreign labour will not be used in either of the two phases of development work. He added: "Local services will be used to the greatest extent possible."

What has been frustrating for Tahiti's Government as well as EIE officials have been the delays involved in closing the purchases of the hotels by the joint venture. Bailey attributed those delays to "the complexity of the operation and the many normal government authorisations required". The resulting development plan for the three hotels may not sound as spectacular as the first front-page headlined announcements in the local French press. But the work is aimed at making the Tahiti Beachcomber Parkroyal a bigger and more successful

hotel than it already is, while raising the quality of the Hyatt Regency and Moorea Beachcomber to five-star deluxe levels so that they can eventually be equally as successful, Bailey indicated.

The joint venture development project also includes a third phase that is under study and could include a 200-room expansion of the Hyatt Regency Tahiti; the refurbishing of rooms and the building of 40 new villa-style rooms at the Tahiti Beachcomber; and the relocation of the entry road at the Moorea Beachcomber. Third phase decisions on what work will be done, how much it will cost and over what period it will be completed will be made during the first two development phases, Bailey said.

And EIE French Polynesia is looking at the Atimaono area of Tahiti's south coast next to the international golf course as a site for additional tourist development projects. "We're studying Atimaono," Bailey said. "We think it's an important area for the future development of tourism and we're studying it very seriously. As soon as we get work underway on the other hotels we have, our ideas will certainly become clear on Atimaono."

A potential EIE project also under study is a golf course opposite the Moorea Beachcomber, Bailey said. The first phase of the EIE-Tahiti Beachcomber, S.A., development work is expected to be finished in five months once work begins, he said. Assuming that work starts before the end of this year, the very latest it would be completed is by mid-1990 as long as no unforeseen problems develop.

The 15 new overwater bungalows at the Tahiti Beachcomber Parkroyal are expected to take eight months to complete, giving the hotel a total of 23 overwater bungalows. There is a big demand for overwater bungalows, which provide the highest net revenues at the Tahiti Beachcomber, Bailey said.

The emphasis during the first phase of work at all three hotels will be on what needs to be and can be done immediately, he said. Although the \$1.7 million in refurbishing work at the Hyatt Regency will not be as visible to guests as renovation or new construction work, it involves things that are absolutely necessary in the overall improvement of the hotel, Bailey said.

The \$7.8 million first phase work scheduled for the Moorea Beachcomber will include expansion of the restaurant and kitchen; bridge work; islet and beach bulkhead work; and landscaping. The scheduled Moorea Beachcomber work is part of the new owner's commitment to overseas tour operators to move as quickly as possible in bringing the hotel up to higher standards, Bailey said.

The \$22 million to be spent on second phase development work at the Tahiti Beachcomber will involve more than the 100-room expansion and the building of a conference center. The work will also involve building a third restaurant, which will be located at the hotel's historic point Tata'a. The restaurant will have a seating capacity of 150 persons.

A water sports center will be built at the Tahiti Beachcomber during the second phase of work. The expansion work at this hotel during the first two development phases is aimed at meeting a strong demand for additional room space at the hotel with the consistently highest occupancy rate of the three big hotels on the island of Tahiti. The Tahiti Beachcomber's 100-room expansion is expected to take at least a year to complete.

The \$6 million to be spent on second phase development of the Hyatt Regency will involve work on the reception area, rooms, hallways, the food and beverage area, the lobby, shops and meeting rooms. This will be mostly refurbishing work as part of overall renovation work on the hotel. The \$11 million to be spent on second phase development of the Moorea Beachcomber will be a continuation of phase one work with the addition of water sports center; the reshaping of the islets to improve water current flow in the lagoon; and the building of a sewage treatment facility.

Most of the second phase work at the three hotels will probably continue throughout 1990 with some of it being completed in early 1991, Bailey indicated. Meanwhile, although the purchase of the Moorea Beachcomber also involved the acquisition of the former Hotel Captain Cook, Bailey said there are no immediate plans for this facility. The Captain Cook has been closed since it served as a training school for employees prior to the 1987 opening of the Hotel Sofitel Tiare, now the Moorea Beachcomber Parkroyal. □

BUSINESS

Grappling with island markets

AFTER a year in existence, New Zealand's South Pacific Trade Office can notch up a few successes but also has a better understanding of the problems it has to tackle. One of the major headaches is that many New Zealand firms which, in the past, have tried buying from various island nations have found problems with continuity of supply or quality — or both — and are reluctant to listen to new proposals.

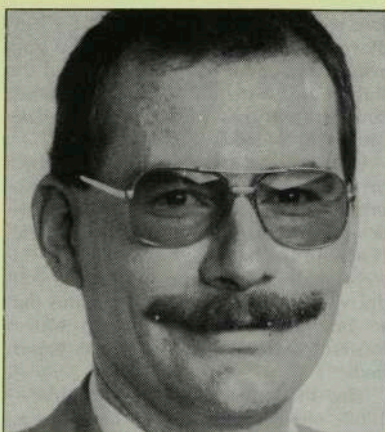
The office was set up under the wing of the Ministry of External Affairs and Trade. The New Zealand government had been under pressure for several years from island leaders to set up an agency which would assist the small states gain access to its market; they were able to point to Australia where the South Pacific Trade Commission had been in existence for several years.

The director of the Auckland-based South Pacific Trade Office, Steve Houlihan, came to the job from shipping, including a spell as marketing manager for Pacific Forum Line. His task is to liaise with the governments and business people in Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue, Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. The main criterion is practical assistance, ranging from introductions to New Zealand importers or clarifying food labelling regulations.

Houlihan said in the first year he could point to a few successes.

A Tongan leather apparel manufacturer, SP Leather Company, had now established itself in the New Zealand market. The Auckland agency paid for a director of the company to visit Auckland and then set up appointments with retailers. The result was orders for NZ\$80,000 worth of leather jackets. The company hopes to double that figure in 1990.

The manager of another Tongan firm, KW International, was sponsored on a visit to the Intec '89 Marine Show in Auckland to show off the company's new fibreglass runabout. Houlihan said it looked like the company would notch up sales of NZ\$30,000 but none of the tentative orders has been confirmed. He puts this down to two factors: first, the waterfront troubles in New Zealand recently which both made export orders from Tonga subject to delay and held up raw materials going to the company in Tonga; secondly, there was no way the company could get a telephone call out of Tonga as the circuits were monopolised by the South Pacific mini-games for



Houlihan: "...opportunities are there".

three weeks in late August.

However, the company has since picked up NZ\$40,000 in orders for fibreglass boat components from New Zealand manufacturers. "This company could probably do \$100,000 worth of business here but there is that hurdle of communications — this case really brought home to me the practical difficulties Pacific Island exporters face," said Houlihan.

An importing experiment from Kiribati also showed up some problems. The trade office had arranged a NZ\$6000 shipment of fresh coconuts — not a great sum, but significant in the context that Kiribati's total exports to New Zealand amounted to just \$18,000. Houlihan told *Pacific Islands Monthly* one aspect of his brief was to help the smaller countries in the region who could not afford to mount an export drive from their own resources.

But he said there was a problem with the quality of the coconuts when the container arrived in Auckland, a fact he puts down to inexperience at the Kiribati end in terms of packing fresh produce for a long sea voyage.

"Price competitiveness is not the major factor for Pacific exporters — they are

more constrained by regularity of supply and quality," he said. This type of experience in the past had made many New Zealand companies consider doing business in the region as "not worth the effort", said Houlihan. "There are many problems, and I think it's easy to get bogged down and disillusioned — a lot can be overcome with exporters getting to grips with what New Zealand requires. The opportunities are there."

The South Pacific Trade Office gets plenty of enquiries (including ones from exporters of stuffed crocodiles and a proposal to train someone to make marble tombstones in Western Samoa) but most of the ones which stand the best chance involve either garment manufacture or food processing.

About 80 per cent of the office's traffic in the other direction — that is, helping New Zealand companies which want to set up in the Pacific nations — concern Fiji. So many garment companies have already made the move there which accounts for New Zealand's concentration on the skilled, relatively cheap labour and good communications which Fiji has to offer. A long way back in second is interest in Tonga, with a scattering of enquiries about Vanuatu or the Cook Islands.

There are jitters about political instability. Vanuatu was not helped by the unrest last year. But Houlihan said there was scant interest in the region's largest and potentially fastest developing nation — Papua New Guinea. Those New Zealand companies which have an export record to Papua New Guinea are doing well (in fact, they are making inroads against the Australian market share in that nation) but there is little hope of getting New Zealand firms to invest in Papua New Guinea. "There has just been so much publicity about the problems there — most New Zealanders don't know that Bougainville is an island hundreds of miles from the mainland. They are extremely hesitant about investing in Papua New Guinea," he said. □

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BUSINESS

Relying on the U.S. big bucks

THE prospect of a rapid change in the Federated States of Micronesia from a dependent consumption-driven economy to a self-sufficient production economy is not bright, according to the Bank of Hawaii's report on the country. The nation is too dependent on funds from the United States, and most attempts at encouraging private enterprise have failed.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is comprised of four states: Pohnpei, Yap, Truk and Kosrae. In 1986 the country had 95,000 people, almost a half of whom are under the age of 15 years. Population is growing rapidly, at the rate of about 3.5 per cent.

The FSM is a unique development economy, says the Bank of Hawaii. In exchange for allowing the United States exclusive access to its million square miles of ocean economic zone, the country received guaranteed funds, now running at about US\$100 million a year. "Any substantial decline in the US payments to the FSM would have an immediate impact on the nation's economy and, therefore, on the living standards of its people," said the bank's report. Those US payments are essential to the FSM's economic survival.

The government is the only major employer. Excepting trade and a few service industries, there is practically no pri-

ivate sector. About two-thirds of the employed labour force works for the government at one level or another, and the state administration controls utilities, communications and other services usually provided by private firms.

In the hope of encouraging a bigger private sector, the government had subsidised a wide range of economic activities. But most had been unsuccessful. "Lack of management experience, entrepreneurial drive and institutions conducive to a viable market economy has so far made most of these ventures wasteful undertakings," the bank report said.

The most recent figure available — 1983 — showed the FSM had a gross national product of US\$10 million, with per capita GNP of US\$1301, a figure which places the country amongst the "lower-middle income" nations according to the World Bank classification. But it is not a poor country, and the FSM population enjoys an adequate standard of living which should be helpful in the country's quest for foreign capital to develop a production economy, the Bank of Hawaii said.

The major problems is the FSM being made up of small isolated markets — fewer than 100,000 people scattered over a vast expanse of ocean, far away from major markets.

The bank report said there was some potential for economic development. The major prospect was tourism. The FSM is too far away from either the US or Japan to be developed into a mass

tourist destination like Hawaii or Guam. But the various states all have regular air connections, and each has unique attractions. The trend is already encouraging: between 1980 and 1987, visitor arrivals increased by 34 per cent, although the total numbers are still small.

Fish and fish products offer potential for development. The FSM would like to compete with American Samoa in establishing large-scale fish processing plants, but there are handicaps: there is a lack of capital and infrastructure, and the FSM does not have a deep-water harbour like that at Pago Pago. The bank sees a better strategy as being the export of fresh fish, an activity which involves only small amounts of capital and a small labour force — the obvious markets would be Guam, Hawaii and east Asia.

Agriculture could also be developed for import substitution, and there could be some light manufacturing — there is the potential for manufacturing or assembling goods for sale in the US. But labour is a problem: a company which recently opened a garment factory on Yap to take advantage of free access to the American mainland market found the local population not keen to take up fulltime employment and had to import 250 women workers from Sri Lanka. The Bank of Hawaii said another obstacle was that goods made in US territories and sold on the mainland could provoke resentment and retaliation among US domestic producers, especially in the case of goods already made in the United States. □

Bougainville shortfall

THE closure of the Bougainville copper mine will mean a shortfall in the country's foreign exchange earnings of up to K50 million, the Bank of Papua New Guinea says in the June Quarterly economic bulletin just released. But the country should be able to maintain an open economy approach with a stable and easily convertible currency.

Even though there are no Bougainville earnings going into the state's Mineral Resource Stabilisation Fund (MRSF) the bank expects that fund — with an end-of-year balance of K144 million — will be enough to cover budgetary needs for the 1990 and 1991 financial years.

The Bank of PNG estimates that the loss of three-and-a-half months of production from Bougainville Copper Ltd, and the expected level of production for the rest of the year, will result in zero real gross domestic product growth in 1989. A firm monetary policy will be implemented which is expected to neutral-

ise any impact on interest rates and prices which the closure of the mine might have had.

Over the six months to June, the balance of payments deficit was K13 million, a significant deterioration on the corresponding period last year. It was due to a deadline in exports coinciding with a rise in imports. The coffee and cocoa industries were faced with depressed world market prices. The cocoa fund was topped up by the government loan and would maintain payments to growers until the end of October. As far as the coffee fund is concerned, the rate of bounty payments will exhaust its resources by mid-1990.

The bank said both industries deserved government support, but this should be aimed at improving productivity and efficiency. "It is essential for the support to encourage the small farm holder. Some estimates show that the coffee and cocoa industries are the source of cash income for 65 per cent of Papua

New Guinea's rural population," the bank said.

In commodities report in detail:

Coffee: Coffee exports in the June quarter increased by 125 per cent to 26,100 tonnes. Exports are expected to be high for the remainder of 1989. But the price received during the June quarter was 24 per cent lower than for the same period last year. Due to the possible exhaustion next year of the Coffee Stabilisation Fund, the Bank of PNG said an analysis of the cost and support structure of the coffee industry was called for immediately.

Cocoa: Volume of exports was up 61 per cent, largely due to the increased production from rehabilitated cocoa plantations and favourable weather in the growing areas. Production was expected to increase further as more of the newly planted, high-yielding hybrid cocoa matured. Cocoa prices were also down 24 per cent.

Copra: Exports were down 12.6 per cent, and copra oil by 21.7 per cent, while prices went down by 18.6 and 24.5 per cent respectively. □

BUSINESS

US adjusts sugar quotas

IN a complex move the United States government adjusted upwards its sugar quota for Fiji and Papua New Guinea while extending the quota time period. The gross value of the decision comes to about US\$3.8 million for Fiji and US\$2.7 million for Papua New Guinea, relatively small numbers when compared against total sale of each nation.

Over the last few years, the US has cut back generally, but not smoothly, on imports of sugar (out of deference to domestic growers of sugar cane and sugar beet). It also has varied the time periods of importation, and, to add an extra complication, now uses the metric tonne about 2200 pounds) not the traditional short ton (2000 pounds).

Effective September 30, the United States extended the time period of the current sugar quota from a 12-month period to a 21-month one, now ending on September 30, 1990. At the same time raised its quotas on a roughly prop-

ortional basis, with Fiji going from 9417 tonnes to 16966 tonnes, and PNG from 7258 tonnes to 12500. (As recently as the 12 months of calendar 1987, Fiji's quota was 25,190 short tons.) By the time the higher quotas were announced, the two nations had shipped their sugar. They now will have to ship about 7500 and 5200 tonnes respectively; this is about half-a-ship's load of sugar.

The gross value of the additional quotas is calculated against the current price of bulk raw sugar in New York, 23 cents a pound at the time of writing.

In one of the many anomalies of the US sugar trade, the politically powerful sugar growers in Florida not only grow it for a protected domestic market, they bring Caribbean farm workers (usually from sugar-producing islands) to cut the cane in the US at wages that do not attract American workers to the crop. This is essentially a double subsidy for a crop that critics say should be grown in the Third, not the First World. □

Highlands floated

THE long-awaited float of Highlands Gold Ltd is to go ahead in Australia, and will take over MIM Holdings Ltd's 30 per cent stake in the A\$1 billion Porgera gold mine in Papua New Guinea. Five per cent of the new company — or 28 million shares with a face value of 50 toea each — will be made available to the people of Papua New Guinea, although a majority of the stock will go to existing MIM shareholders. A total of 565 million shares worth A\$420 million will be available.

The funds raised will be used to fund part of Highland Gold's share of the development costs of the Porgera project, to repay part of Highland Gold's debt to other MIM group companies and to fund ongoing exploration and development in Papua New Guinea and the surrounding region, said MIM chairman Sir Bruce Watson.

Porgera, which has been described as the world's largest undeveloped gold prospect, is scheduled to come on stream in September next year with gold output expected to average 800,000 ounces a year for the first six years. At this rate of production, annual revenues will be more than A\$300 million, with 30 per cent accruing to Highlands Gold.

MIM, Renison Goldfields Consolidated Ltd and Placer Pacific Ltd, who are the three owners of the Porgera project, have embarked on an extensive community relations programme, and eventually Papua New Guinea residents will own 10 per cent of the mine. Dividends

are expected to begin flowing in late 1991.

Highlands Gold has other properties in its portfolio, although the emphasis is heavily on gold. But there are also two large deposits of chromite-nickel-cobalt and copper-gold.

The float decision has been welcomed by Papua New Guinea prime minister Rabbie Namaliu who has urged his countrymen to take up the shares being made available. Namaliu described the float as a vote of confidence in the future of Papua New Guinea's mining industry.

But Highlands Gold will have to insure its loans against "warlike activities", a common provision when projects are undertaken in developing countries where there have been incidents of violence. □

Japanese teach fishing

ELEVEN Kiribati sailors are to spend a year in Japan learning pole and line fishing. They will work on Japanese boats and, on their return, will be employed by the Kiribati government-owned Te Mautari Ltd fishing company, or on Japanese boats fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone.

Air Pacific buy-back

QANTAS, which owns 19.57 per cent of the Fiji carrier, Air Pacific is being asked to sell that interest back to the Suva government. Civil Aviation Minister David Pickering went to Sydney for a meeting with the Australian overseas airline and said negotiations would resume at a later date. Qantas seems unlikely to welcome the request now that Air Pacific is making good profits, with its international services running at near capacity.

Accountants' shortcomings

ACCOUNTANTS in Papua New Guinea were not meeting the needs of their customers, said PNG Investment Corporation managing director Eliakim ToBolton. Speaking to a national accounting conference, he said: "Why is it that there is a pressing need for proficient accountants within the business community at large yet this demand is not being met or likely to be met within the foreseeable future?" ToBolton said accountancy should be introduced at an earlier stage in high schools, and he criticised poor teaching standards. He also called on the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby to introduce a course in the discipline.

Aust funds Kiribati work

AUSTRALIA is providing the funds for new work that has begun on Kiribati's outer islands. The main part of the programme will be the construction of bridges and causeways to link north and south Tarawa, but much of the money will be spent on causeways and sea walls on the outer islands.

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FORUM SECRETARIAT VACANCY HEAD, ENERGY DIVISION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be citizens of a member state of the South Pacific Forum*, for the position of Head of the Forum Secretariat's Energy Division.

The Forum Secretariat was established in 1973 by the South Pacific Forum to encourage economic and political cooperation between its member states, and between those states and the more industrialised countries. Under the control of a Secretary General, the Secretariat undertakes a regional work programme covering economic services, legal and political services, and the energy, tourism, trade, transport and telecommunications sectors. The Secretariat also has significant responsibilities with regard to ACP/EC regional projects funded under Lome Conventions.

The Energy Division implements and administers a range of energy development assistance programmes aimed at increasing the ability of Forum Island Countries to plan and manage their national energy sectors. The Division also assists in coordinating development assistance activities of other organisations in the region's energy sector, convenes annual meetings of energy ministers and officials, provides technical assistance and advice to Forum Island Countries and disseminates energy information and statistics. The Division has a joint work programme with the United Nations Pacific Energy Development Programme (UNPEDP) and the Head of the Energy Division is required to work closely with the UNPEDP Project Manager in implementing regional energy activities.

The Head of the Energy Division is responsible to the Secretary General, through the Director of Programmes, for directing the work of the Division and administering its various energy programme activities. More specifically, the Head is responsible for formulating and developing regional policy initiatives, liaising with energy officials of Forum Island Governments and other energy-related organisations and agencies, negotiating consultancy contracts, identifying appropriate regional projects, preparing detailed funding proposals, negotiating with donor organisations, representing the Secretariat at regional and international meetings of energy-related organisations and formulating and convening regional training activities, seminars and workshops.

Applicants should have proven ability to manage successfully a regional, technical assistance programme, and to direct the work of a team of specialists. Experience in administering energy-related or similar technical programmes in developing countries would be highly regarded as would relevant academic qualifications, say in economics or engineering, with subsequent and substantive administrative/management experience. An ability to liaise effectively at senior levels with member and supporting governments and organisations, and with a wide range of people throughout the region and elsewhere is required. Preference will also be given to applicants possessing general knowledge and appreciation of the economic, social and political aspirations of the Forum's region.

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

Applications, which close on 31 January 1990, should contain full information on education and career background and should list names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated in a professional capacity.

Applications should be addressed to:

**The Secretary General
Forum Secretariat
GPO Box 856, Suva, Fiji
Telephone: 312600. Telex: 2229 FJ, Fax: 302204.
from whom further information is available on request.**

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

**Member countries are: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa.*

BUSINESS

PNG budget a tightrope act

PAPUA New Guinea Finance Minister Paul Pora has handed down a K1250 million budget with only minimal taxation increases. But it seems clear the government is banking on a re-opening of the Bougainville copper mine, and the hope that it can avoid a deficit.

The budget was revealed just days after an official audit showed that 1988 national government deficit as K52 million, and a senior government official has confirmed this current budget will end in another major shortfall. He said the only way to avoid such a result would be to raise customs revenues and taxes or by borrowing more overseas.

Pora apparently told his cabinet colleagues back in September that his budget plans were based on an early resumption of work at Bougainville — the mine (before its closure in May after rebel attacks) contributed 30 per cent of the country's export earnings and 11 per cent of gross domestic product. Pora told the cabinet that if the mine remained closed indefinitely, the government would be forced into a major reassessment of its spending forecasts.

But the government faces other constraints, including the chances that Australia could cut its budget support in real terms as that country faces its own economic crisis. Cocoa and coffee prices remain low.

With private predictions of a deficit next year of at least K117 million, Pora's latest budget must be viewed as something of a high wire act without the safety net.

The only tax increases in the budget are slight rises on beer, cigarettes, spirits, wines, soft drinks and diesel, about K8.8 million in all. Pora said the government had seen revenues rise due to the improved efficiency of taxation collection as well as duty on increased imports.

One of the more controversial aspects of the budget was the doubling of the parliamentarians' slush fund to K100,000. This is officially called the "unaccountable fund" because members can do with it as they please.

Pora said the government was looking to increased tax revenue from the mining sector to encourage investment and growth in the non-mining sectors so that Papua New Guinea could move beyond its traditional and unsustainable reliance on a very narrow tax base concentrated in the formal sector of the economy. Contractors and landowners who receive income from mining projects will be targetted; most small contractors and sub-contractors do not presently furnish

TRADE WINDS

Fiji produces more

FIJI'S industrial production has taken a leap forward. Statistics released recently show that output rose 8.6 per cent in the June quarter over the previous three months, and was 12 per cent up on the same period the year before. Cement output rose the greatest — 56 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Fiji Trade and Investment Board has announced that 10 more Australian companies plan to transfer their operations to Fiji, with the investment totalling about F\$20 million and representing about 1000 new jobs. The board recently sent a delegation to Sydney and the decision by the companies is a result of that. While in Australia, the Fiji delegation met with about 30 businessmen covering the manufacture of footwear, garments, leather bags, electrical items, boat building, agricultural machinery, furniture, seafood processing and mineral development.

The Trade and Investment Board said that so far 71 factories had been set up in Fiji under the tax-free incentive package. These plants employed 6500 peo-

ple, although this will rise to about 10,000 when the factories reach full production.

Up to the end of August, 160 companies had received approval under the tax free zone legislation and would, when they are all completed, mean an investment in Fiji of F\$97 million.

Board chairman, Professor Asesela Ravuvu, said it was critical for Fiji to build a vibrant and diversified export market. And the government had been protecting local businesses in order to encourage more industrial output as part of the policy of import substitution.

The last year has seen Fiji trade missions spread out over the Pacific and Professor Ravuvu said more companies should take advantage of missions which are now being planned. A 10-member mission visited Marshall Islands and Kiribati in early October to promote a range of industrial products. The mission aims to take advantage of the recently introduced Forum Line service to the Marshall Islands. □

a tax return, so the 1989 budget introduces a 17 per cent withholding tax. There will also be a five per cent withholding tax on mining, oil and fishing royalties paid to landowners.

The Port Moresby newspaper *Post-Courier* commented that the 1990 budget "tests Papua New Guinea's revenue collection machinery to the fullest." The few initiatives to raise extra revenue collection machinery to the fullest. The few initiatives to raise extra revenue would mean the government is depending on increasing the efficiency of the taxation system. Commentators have also pointed to plans for the Central Bank to pay all its K50 million profit to the government in the form of a dividend. The government will also draw K80 million from the Mineral Resources Stabilisation Fund.

But cuts have been made in certain areas. Infrastructure spending is down K13 million to K196 million, but still remains the single biggest budget item. One programme which remains intact is the K64 million to be spent on road building, including the sealing of the Magi Highway in Central Province and further work on the Enga Highway.

Provincial governments will get more money under the budget, with Pora saying the rises will help local health and education services. The biggest increases have gone to Western Highlands, Simbu and Eastern Highlands provinces, while

funding has been cut in East Sepik and North Solomons.

At this stage, the Papua New Guinea government will not seek commercial overseas loans to fund the 1990 budget. Instead, it has allocated K254 million to repay part of the country's massive K1.2 billion foreign debt. The repayments are aimed at maintaining the nation's good credit rating when estimates are that more than K6 billion will need to be found to finance future mineral development.

The K80 million drawdown from the Mineral Resources Stabilisation Fund will make up for lost Bougainville revenues for a few months, but this plan is all built on the government's hope the copper mine will resume production at the start of 1990 — a pretence which the company itself no longer maintains. Failure to get the mine back into production will result in a gigantic drain on Papua New Guinea's foreign exchange reserves in 1990. Coopers and Lybrand's Bob Prosser said this would affect the confidence of much-needed foreign investors. Prosser said the real disappointment in the budget was the failure to reduce expenditure — instead government spending would rise by five per cent.

Pora told his colleagues back in September that the 1990 budget would be the most difficult since independence. The government is caught with the pros-

pect of further raiding the minerals fund; it cannot borrow abroad for fear that it would then not be able to raise further loans to finance its commitments as a shareholder in the major mining ventures at Porgera, Hidden Valley and Lihir; finally, it has turned its back on either substantial tax rises or slashing its own spending. A great deal has to go right this financial year for the Namaliu government to make the budget predictions stick.

Opposition economic spokesman Sir Julius Chan told Parliament the budget was "pinned together with panic and madness". He said the document was based on a false premise — the re-opening of the Bougainville copper mine. There was no contingency plan, said Sir Julius. □

Fiji hotel warning

Fiji's permanent secretary for Tourism, Robin Yarrow, has warned the country's hoteliers to remain competitive and not over-price room rates and other services. He said no increase should exceed six per cent. Yarrow said Fiji had to remain competitive with other regional tourist destinations such as Bali, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

Mt Kasi work resumes

TWO Australian mining companies, Newmont Pty Ltd and Range Resources Ltd, have applied for the re-establishment of a prospecting licence at Mt Kasi, on Fiji's second largest island of Vanua Levu. The companies are confident of finding more gold occurrences at the prospect, known as SPL 1152. The area was mined in the 1940s and the new exploration work has concentrated on finding gold which can be extracted by open-pit methods.

PNG mining under scrutiny

PAPUA New Guinea's parliament has set up a permanent committee to oversee mining operations, and it will play a part in negotiations over royalty payments to landowners. The committee's work will also include monitoring the conditions under which nationals are employed by mining companies, and to investigate environmental safeguards and effects.

KAL expands to Saipan

KOREAN Airlines has inaugurated a twice-weekly Seoul-Saipan service using a Boeing 727 airliner. The service will be a non-stop one, compared to Air Micronesia and Northwest Airlines which operate between the two destinations via stopovers in Japan. The flights are expected to be heavily patronised now that South Korea has removed travel restrictions, with its citizens free to spend more time as tourists abroad.

Worries over widening deficit

THE Solomon Islands' widening current account deficit is not sustainable, the Central Bank of Solomons says in its mid-year review. In recent years the deficit has tended to rise, not only in dollars, but as a proportion of national income. "It must be reversed if the economy is to continue to expand, avoid a major crisis in the balance of payments," the bank said.

The report followed statements by the Solomons Finance Minister, Columbus Abe, in which he described the economy as sluggish and the unemployment rate as one of the government's main problems.

The Central Bank said economic activity continued to expand in the first half of 1989 despite tighter financial conditions. Export earnings were up 15 per cent, mostly due to increased agricultural and fisheries production. Nevertheless, there were reduced prices for several commodities — copra, palm oil, cocoa and fish. But investment in smallholder plantings rose.

The bank said the logging and sawmilling industry entered a period of uncertainty as the government moved to enforce environmental standards and the requirement that 20 per cent of logs be sawn locally. At mid-year it seemed that some small operators might close down, but most logging companies would comply with the government's regulations.

Mining companies were waiting to see the government's intentions on taxation and the new mining legislation.

The bank reported that tourist traffic remained at a low level but considerable work was done by the new Ministry of Tourism and Aviation aimed at promoting greatly increased private investment in hotels and other operations.

Monetary policy was kept relatively tight to protect overseas reserves and to minimise inflationary pressures. Interest rates remained in the 15 to 18 per cent range for loans — several points below those obtaining in Australia. Since the middle of last year the Central Bank had

been giving increased emphasis in monetary and exchange rate management to domestic price stability. The bank said the domestic prices had responded well to this. Retail prices had been much more stable: the Honiara price index for January to August rose only two per cent.

About S\$10 million had been added to disposal incomes by the government workers getting a 17.5 per cent pay increase and a rise in teachers' pay. The bank said this extra money in the system would be both inflationary and damaging to the balance of payments, while the financing of it put further pressure on taxation and the government's domestic borrowing.

The increased pressure on the government budget had come, the Central Bank said, at a time when many of the pre-conditions for sustained growth were in place. Solomon Islands production had remained competitive by the maintenance of a realistic exchange rate, monetary and incomes policies and the absence of artificial protection or subsidy. Real gross domestic product was growing at about five per cent a year and the economy was positioned for continued growth in fisheries and agricultural output. Substantial investment was in prospect for plantation forestry, timber processing and tourism, as well as processing and manufacturing industries.

"It is important that these favourable conditions should not be undermined by adverse developments in public finance," the Central Bank report said. The public now needed to see detailed statements from the government on practical plans for taxation, current expenditure, public sector investment, foreign aid and foreign direct investment.

It was a matter of deciding on priorities. "The resources available are finite, and the same resources cannot be used by both public and private sectors, or for both consumption and investment, all at the same time," the bank said. □

Pest hits Fiji mango

MORE than five tonnes of mango shipments from Fiji was destroyed in Australia because of pest infection. The mango stone weevil was found in some consignments, and this led to a temporary ban on more shipments. Fiji exports more than 150 tonnes of mangoes a year.

Fiji's trade deficit

IMPORTS of machinery for the new tax-free zones has been blamed for Fiji's trade deficit for the first nine months of 1989 which soared by 88.8 per cent to F\$312.5 million. The Bureau of Statistics said the increased current account deficit was largely due to the tax-free zones scheme which allow foreign firms to import machinery and equipment without normal duties.

Kiribati air link hope

AIR Tungaru hopes to have its jet service linking Hawaii, Christmas Island, Tarawa and Fiji by the end of December. What the Kiribati carrier needs now is final United States Federal Aviation Administration approval. The company will charter an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 and the improvements to the runway at Canton Island have been made. The Americans required the upgrading to make it an alternative landing strip between Christmas Island and Tarawa when a twin-engined aircraft was being operated over such a long stretch of water.

Bank abolishes passbooks

THE traditional passbook used in savings accounts has been abolished by the American Samoa Bank in Pago Pago. The main reason for the change was that many American Samoans made deposits and withdrawals without using their books, relying instead on their familiarity with bank staff to establish their identity. This had led to constant criticism from the bank's external auditors about the discrepancies between bank records and what was shown in passbooks.

Oil tenders rejected

Fiji's Energy Minister David Pickering said all five tenders for processing crude oil imported from Indonesia had been rejected after they failed to meet the requirements of the newly-formed Fiji Oil Company. Tenderers included the three oil companies operating in the country — Mobil, Shell and BP.

Manufacturing centre study

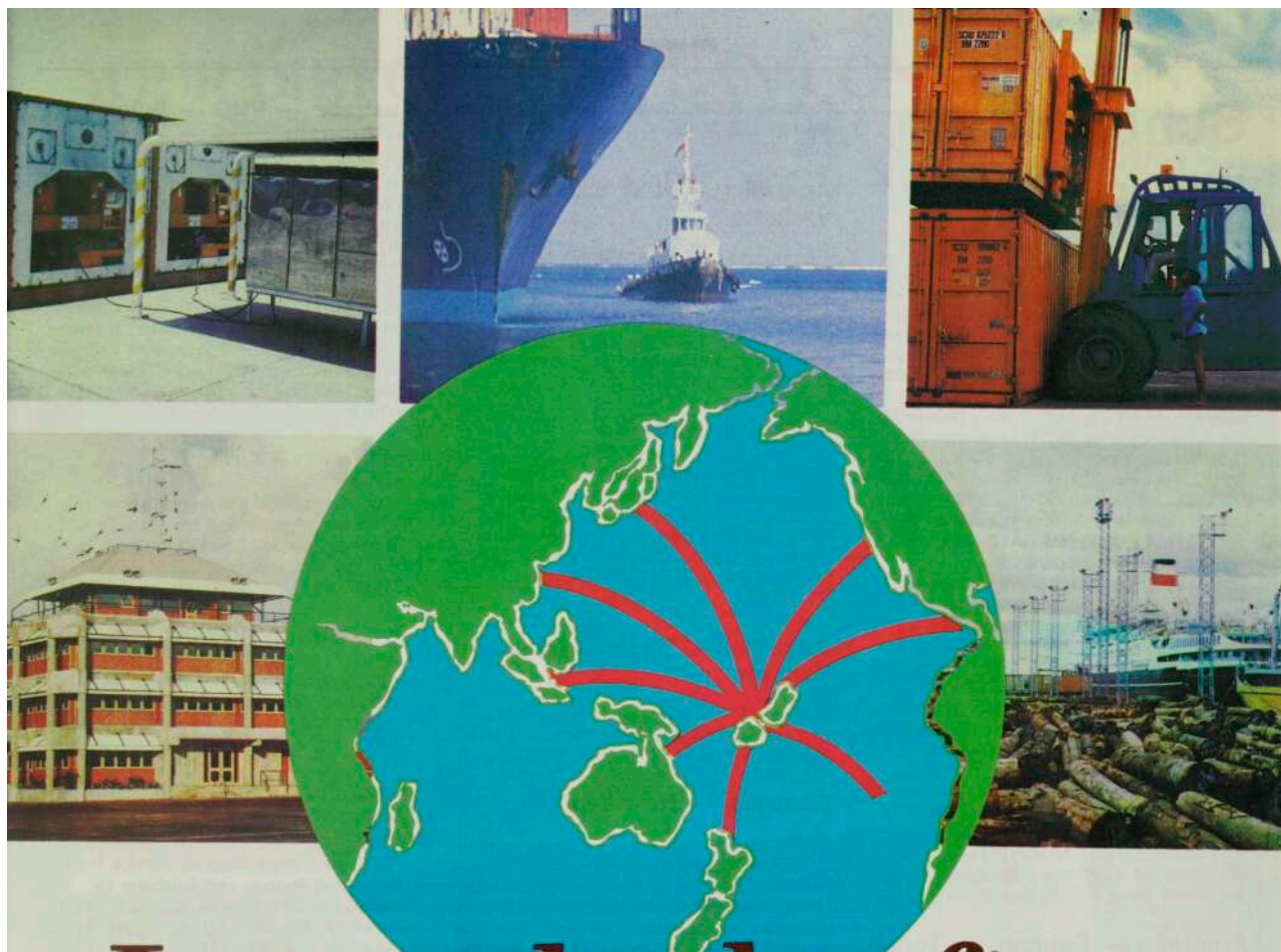
A PORT Moresby Industrial Centre is being studied by the Papua New Guinea government, in an attempt to increase industrial development in the country. A study is to be carried out to assess how many companies would be interested in locating their plants in the centre.

More funds for oil

PAPUA New Guinea resource explorer Oil Search Ltd is to raise another K37 million as it prepares to go into oil and gas production, with its five per cent share of the Hides field and involvement in the Iagifu-Hedinia area. To fund its share of both projects, the company is making a rights issue to all shareholders, including those in Papua New Guinea. The new shares will cost 44 toea or 65 Australian cents.

Emperor production up

EMPEROR Mines Ltd reported to the Australian Stock Exchange that during the September quarter it extracted 40,327 ounces of gold from its Fiji operations at Vatukoula and Tavua Basin joint ventures with Western Mining Corporation Holdings Ltd. This compared with 32,086 ounces in the previous September quarter. Emperor said it had repaired and reactivated one of its pump stands in the Vatukoula mine.



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As from 1st of April 1989 Ports Authority of Fiji offers concessions on all transhipment cargo. To qualify for this concession a minimum volume of 25 TEU containerised cargo or 100 Freight Tonne conventional cargo is required. There's Free Wharfage, Free Handling and Removal, Free security on cargo and Free storage, all you pay is 50% port charge and normal stevedoring rates. Take this great opportunity now and serve your clients better in volume and service in the islands and the world

The Current Levy					
A. Ports Authority Charges					
		TEU		B. BULK	VEHICLE
(i) Wharfage	In	20.25 per box	1.47 per tonne	1.47 per tonne	
	Out	10.12 per box	0.79 per tonne	0.79 per tonne	
(ii) Security	In	7.70 per box	0.03 per tonne	0.03 per tonne	
	Out	3.85 per box	0.015 per tonne	0.015 per tonne	
(iii) Port Charge	In	36.16 per box	2.67 per tonne	2.67 per tonne	
	Out	18.07 per box	1.34 per tonne	1.34 per tonne	
(iv) Handling	In	6.78 per tonne	6.78 per tonne	6.78 per tonne	
	Out	6.78 per tonne	6.78 per tonne	6.78 per tonne	
(v) Storage	In	FREE	FREE	FREE	
	Out	FREE	FREE	FREE	
B. Shipping Agency Charges					
(i) Transhipment		\$100 per box	\$10.00 per tonne	\$10.00 per tonne	
(ii) Receiving & Delivery	In	\$1.50 per tonne	\$1.50 per tonne	\$1.50 per tonne	
	Out	\$1.50 per tonne	\$1.50 per tonne	\$1.50 per tonne	
(iii) Freight	In	1%	1%	1%	
	Out	1%	1%	1%	
(iv) Commission		\$1.00 per tonne		\$1.00 per tonne	



PORTS AUTHORITY OF FIJI

GPO Box 780 Suva Fiji, Telex 2203 PAF FJ, Cable PAFIJI Suva, Fax 300064, Telephone 312700

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 FJ2186 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

Campagne 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 monthly service. Contact: Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, 6 Spring St, Sydney (20 522).

Australia — New Zealand

ANL Ltd operates the Tranztas container service between Australia and New Zealand, offering access to five vessels. These vessels call at Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane (Tasmania, Adelaide and Fremantle via feeder services) in Australia and Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, Port Chalmers, Nelson, Tauranga (Napier via feeder service) in New Zealand. Each vessel operates on an approximate three weekly round voyage schedule.

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 (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

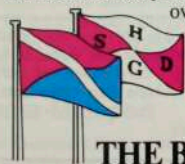
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Additional ports on enquiry.



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

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SHIPPING

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 Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (312 244), Tlx FJ2199.

Guam — Northern Marianas

Saipan Shipping Co operates a weekly service via barge carrying containers and conventional cargo between Guam and Saipan and Tinian. 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

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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 Citco Travel Ltd, Rarotonga, Cook Islands (682) 21 780; Tlx 62024 (UTRAV G); Fax (682) 20 859; Kneubuhl Maritime Services, PO Box 39, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, (684 633 5121); Tlx 782505; Fax (684) 633 5100; Union Maritime Services Ltd, PO Box 4 Nuku'alofa, Tonga (21 644/5); Tlx 6627, Fax (676) 21 645.

Japan — Fiji — Island Ports

Kyowa Shipping Co operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports. 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 Yokohama, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yokohama, 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 Felixstowe. 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 Polynésienne, 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.

Southeast Asia — Fiji

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

FASHION



NORMAN DOUGLAS

Williams and Bulatiko: Fiji's own wash-and-wear artists.

Islanders make art out of printing

By Ngaire Douglas

IN the Pacific Islands there is a long tradition of hand painted clothing. For centuries Pacific women have decorated tapa in freehand or stencilled patterns, the choice depending on their own particular culture. Until missionaries insisted on Mother Hubbards and trousers to cover their flocks, many items of clothing were made from tapa and in several Pacific countries, tapa is still worn with great pride on ceremonial occasions. There are several present day artists in the Pacific who have discovered that by putting their work onto clothing which appeals to both Islanders and tourists, their art is appreciated by a greater audience.

Nicolai Michoutouchkine is a prominent artist resident in Vanuatu. Each item of clothing he produces is an original artwork reflecting his flamboyant style.

No two pieces of the many thousands he has painted are alike, giving a whole new dimension to fashion design. The Michoutouchkine signature is always incorporated in each unique "canvas", the hallmark of an original which intending purchasers should look for. Several people have attempted to cash in on Michoutouchkine's success by producing cheap imitations.

Sune Egan, of Tonga, uses a screen printing technique to produce shirts and scarves etc. Sune has adapted her art style to suit the materials available in Tonga. She arrived in Tonga in 1974 with a supply of the materials she was familiar with but they soon ran out and after finding it tremendously difficult — and expensive — to locate further supplies, she experimented with plain white tapa as the fabric and local brown dyes. Her distinctive style continues in these two tones and is screen printed onto materials. "I have work hanging in Buck-

ingham Palace," she says proudly of shirts which have been presented to Princess Diana and Prince Edward.

Ken Williams and Mary Bulatiko are Fiji's own wash-and-wear artists. Ken began experimenting with art in 1984, designing cassette covers for tapes produced in Fiji. Encouraged by his friends he started screen printing his designs onto shirts, dresses and pants. "A partner and I actually opened a shop in Suva but the stuff was too off beat for the times," he shrugs. "I was using satins and leathers but the appeal was limited." In 1987 Ken concentrated on what is probably the most popular piece of clothing anywhere in the world — the good old T-Shirt. With his own special label ART ON YOU, he secured a market which is now well established and growing steadily.

Mary developed her interest in art in a screen printing course at the University of the South Pacific. While she has her

FASHION

own label, HAND PRINTS, together she and Ken are producing a lively, colourful range of clothing in easy care, easy wear 100 per cent cotton. They combine screen printing techniques with a "squeeze and draw" style and reverse printing to get a variety of effects. Their paintings now decorate shirts, shorts, sulus, trousers, dresses, hats and T-Shirts, all realistically priced. Designs incorporate abstract and representational styles as well as a number of traditional tapa motifs.

A young friend George Evans helps them keep up with the steady stream of orders from shops, hotels and resorts. They each produce work in different styles and colours. Ken prefers the colours of the sea and beach. Mary likes sunny colours. George uses earthy tones. "He really should have his own label now," says Ken. "He'd make a lot more money working for himself but he just likes to work for someone else when he needs some money. All care and no responsibility!"

Ken believes that there is a lot of untapped natural talent in Fiji. "Lots of people just need encouragement to get started in the right direction," he said. "Fijians have good ideas but they just don't know how to market them. We really need some trained people who would be readily available to offer marketing skills to people who want to get started on a new project."

In partnership with his mother, Marge Williams, Ken has opened The Beach Shop in the Dominion Arcade in downtown Suva as a retail outlet. The Fiji Development Bank is currently very keen to assist in the establishment of small scale businesses by local people. With tourism slowly getting back on its feet after the blows of 1987, any ideas for a business which could attract both local and tourist dollars would be favourably considered by the Bank. "If I can get a loan, anyone can," Ken laughs. "I'd be happy myself to give someone advice on how to get started. Sometimes that's all people need to get them going."

Ken Williams is a man who enjoys life in Fiji. He has reasons to. He lives at Korotogo on Fiji's Coral Coast. "I feel better being near the sea where I can follow its colours," he says. He has a talented and lively business partner and companion. He is building up a successful small business. Ken readily admits that he's not one for the restrictions of 9-to-5 jobs. "I'm not one for working," he grins, "but this doesn't seem like work!"

Work or not, Ken and Mary are good examples of how small entrepreneurs can get started. HAND PRINTS and ART ON YOU deserve to be art on everyone. □

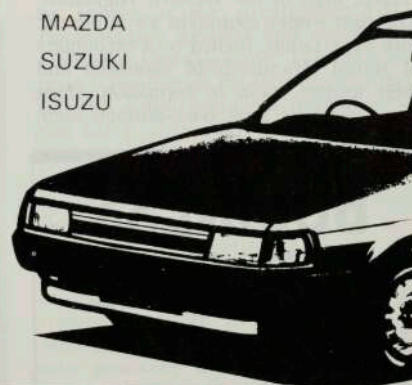


Art On You: "This doesn't seem like work."

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THE ARTS

WAYNE MILES



Dreamtime together: Yothu Yindi with Mt Hagen warriors in the Papua New Guinea Highlands.

Sing Sing in Dreamtime

By Brian Johnstone

A THOUSAND warriors and their women are packed onto the main showground arena at Mt Hagen, high in the Western Highlands. The thin winter mountain air is electric with expectation, fuelled by a cacophony of sound. Hundreds of clansmen and their leaders stand in formation, short but powerfully built dark-skinned men,

their pig-oiled bodies glistening in the sun. The men and women are bedecked in thousands of parrot and eagle feathers, ass-grass, baler shell breastplates, tree kangaroo tails, and the red, blue and black plumes of Birds of Paradise. Many fiddle with stone axes, spears, bows and needle-sharp, poison tipped arrows. Last minute preparations are made to hundreds of instruments fashioned from wood, bamboo, gourds, nuts, seeds, leaves, conch shells and clay.

This is the home of the talking lizard-skin drums and high pitched message flutes which traditionally announce tribal ceremonies, such as pig killings and initiations, to anyone from miles around familiar with the pounding, hooting vibrations. This is Sing Sing at the annual Mount Hagen Show. 50,000 people have travelled from all over PNG to participate or simply to watch the seething human rainbow.

The Sing Sing ground is the traditional music forum in Papua New Guinean life, usually a large clearing near the men's house. Singing and dancing on the Sing Sing ground usually coincides with a pig feast, which, in the Highlands, thousands may attend. The participants

sing their mantras and dance themselves into another state of consciousness but something odd is happening here . . . Hundreds of the gaily decorated locals have stopped chanting and dancing. They are standing watching five tall dark skinned men, covered in red and yellow ochre, singing and chanting strange songs. Two of them are playing strange instruments.

They are the traditional component of Yothu Yindi, a strident young aboriginal band from Arnhem Land in the Top End of Australia's Northern Territory. Their mission is to link the indigenous peoples of the world through a polyrhythmic mixture of ancient music and dance from the Rirringingu and Gumatj clans of Arnhem Land and rock and roll. They're new activists from an old world and they are making history here today. Its first contact for many between two of the oldest civilisations in the world.

Hundreds of Highland eyes are riveted on 23-year-old Milkay Munugurr as he spins, all feathers and ochre, blowing into his yidaki (didgeridoo). He's backed up by Witiyani Marika, pounding on the bilma (ironwood clapsticks), singer, Balu Balu Yunupingu, traditional dancer Malati Yunupingu and frontman Mundaway Yunupingu, who has tempor-

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THE ARTS

arily forsaken his Fender Stratocaster for ochre face paint and dance. A white T-shirt is Mundaway's sole concession to 20th century fashion. A white face, a smile from ear to ear, stands out amongst the mesmerised warriors and their womenfolk. It belongs to Sandi Logan, the young First Secretary (Information) at the Australian High Commission.

It is largely upon Sandi's initiative Yothu Yindi are here. "In the last couple of years both the Australian and Papua New Guinea Governments have made a conscious decision to expand the Hagen festival to other areas such as jazz and contemporary rock," he explains. "We recently brought over an Aboriginal Women's arts and crafts group exhibition and a trio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dancers to the Chimbu Province. The tours were so successful we got requests for more."

Sandi believes there are a number of factors at work. "The Festival of South Pacific Arts in Townsville last year was a re-affirmation of the ties that exist between indigenous groups in the region," he says. "Aboriginal musicians and dancers are also gaining greater exposure in the wider Australian community so there is a snowballing effect. The Australian Government is also making concentrated efforts to promote aboriginality whether it be in science, the arts or in other areas. Many nations in the South Pacific are moving out of the decolonisation period and more and more people are realising the need to force a move to more than just the old expatriate relationship."

The adulation shown to Yothu Yindi here will be the same everywhere they go over the next few days as they fulfill a hectic schedule of three traditional/electric performances each day of the Hagen Show. "Thousands of people



Traditional: Yothu Yindi returns to nature.

would near stampede from venue to venue when they heard Yothu Yindi were about to do a show," Sandi Logan would later report. "They appealed to everyone. But one of the biggest cheers they got was when Manduway (playing a Fender Stratocaster bearing the land rights logo) introduced a song called Tribal Voice and dedicated it to all his brothers fighting for their rights on Bougainville."

Manduway said the song, inspired by Bob Marley's *Stand Up For Your Rights*, was being worked up for the next album. "Where the lyrics are drawn from is the Yolgnu (aboriginal) side of me. Our tribal voice is our constitution. That's what we live by," he says. "If you keep touch with that you can't lose your way . . . it's our direction. The Indians talked about this is America and it was there in Papua New Guinea."

Planning for the new album is done with confidence because Yothu Yindi are fast becoming seasoned international performers. Last August the band was

invited to perform at the South Pacific Festival of the Arts and the following month five of its Aboriginal members represented Australia at the "cultural" Olympics in South Korea.

No sooner had they returned when the whole band appeared at the inaugural Festival of Aboriginal Rock Music in Darwin, their performance recorded and aired nationally in the joint ABC-CAAMA documentary *Sing Loud, Play Strong*, the theme for this year's festival. Yothu Yindi was then invited to accompany Midnight Oil on its 36-day 30 city Diesel and Dust to Big Mountain Tour of the United States and Canada last October.

Film maker Ned Lander followed the tour and has produced a 55-minute documentary entitled into *The Mainstream* which has been bought by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation for use in a season of weekly documentaries, the First Australians, which it plans to air from next month. The film will also be shown at the prestigious I.D.A Documentary Festival and the Leipzig Festival in East Germany. The video features a number of concerts across America with a full traditional component of the band, drummer Bart Willoughby (formerly No Fixed Address), and the two European members, ex-Swamp Jockeys, Cal Williams (Bass) and Stuart Kellaway (Lead Guitar).

The band travelled America and Canada by custom bus playing to crowds of up to 8000 with Midnight Oil and the rousing American Indian band Graffiti Man, led by the enigmatic Trudell. The tour promoted land rights issues common to the Indians and Aborigines, culminating in a fundraising concert at Mesa, Arizona, at the foot of the Big Mountain site from which Navajos and Hopis are being relocated as a result of a broken treaty. As Manduway, a 31-year-old headmaster, would comment later: "We saw a different world out there."



Black brothers: Witiyari Marika with Highlands chief.

THE ARTS

A foot in the past, a foot in the future

By Liz Thompson

SOMEONE once said that culture is such an important part of national development that it "helps to strengthen the independence, sovereignty and identity of nations". The speaker was Soroi Marape, secretary of the Division of National Heritage and Monuments in Papua New Guinea. Marape said developing countries often put too much emphasis on quantity and in the process lose quality in national growth.

Because cultures are often seen as losing their means of "traditional" artistic expression in the face of modernisation, there is often little encouragement of its retention, or transition into another world.

Just as the Aboriginal Papunya artists of Central Australia have shown that they have a new, contemporary art form that has been internationally recognised so too can all Pacific Islands peoples. An art form which has grown from tradition and adapted itself to newly introduced mediums has become part of a contemporary artistic expression in Central Australia. An evolution of culture as opposed to its cessation. Likewise the Aboriginal Tiwi designers of Bathurst Island in Australia, produce and sell numerous fabric designs throughout the world based on the development of traditional design and expression. As Soroi Marape states, this continuation and development of artistic expression, particularly amongst people whose communication was largely visual as opposed to literary, is an essential element of the develop-



Colourful expression: dot painting, Central Australia.

ment process amongst all communities moving into a modernised world.

A promotion of contemporary arts should remain a crucial factor for all Pacific nations. The South Pacific Arts Festival is a thriving attempt to keep arts, not only alive, but to communicate, share and re-inforce their importance. It's importance for both independently

developing countries, and countries whose foreign government has often failed to respect the indigenous culture and its expression.

Papua New Guinea is a great example of a country which has experienced some very exciting artistic activity in the past two decades. Emerging artists, like those from Papunya, illustrate how dynamic new contemporary art forms can be, not only in their execution, but in their subject matter. Many of PNG's first generation of recognised artists were illiterate. They had come from village life to the Creative Arts Centre set up in 1972, armed with little more than imagination, folk tales and legends.

These artists had one foot in the past and one in the future, one in a primitive culture and one in a modern world and their experience was of both, something no westerner could relate to. Their pictures, specifically those emerging from the Centre in the seventies showed fascinating representations of these juxtaposition. Kuage, one of the foremost Papua New Guinean artists painted naive, almost childlike whilst at the same time quote profound images of men in planes, men in cars, in all instances the human form was an extension of the machinery. It was a fascinating view of a foreign culture and contemporary art provided an outlet for what must have been incredible visions and experiences that can never be repeated.

Kuage, Akis, Kundun a sculpture working in metal and iron, Jakupa a painter, Ruki Fame, another sculpture and John Mann were considered to constitute the first wave of contemporary artists in New Guinea. These artists put Papua New Guinea on the world scene. Since then the Creative Arts Centre became in 1976 the National Arts School and admitted students with more education, the curriculum was formalised and expanded to include more specialised disciplines.

The thematic influences of the earlier artists has, to a large extent been retained whilst mediums have changed as has style and approach. Although there is more and more formal training there is still a refreshing quality about a lot of the work, unlike Western abstract painters, the surrealists, for example, who become obsessed with unlearning, moving away from trained or conditioned ways of seeing and with reacting against particular aesthetic values. The contemporary art of New Guinea, its abstraction and symbolism are not produced from the same contrived, intellectual process, a part of so much of the world's abstract images.

From the National Art School, just like the Tiwi designers and the Papunya artists, people are generating a living from developing and utilising traditional



Things are changing: Woodcarvers, Tambanuni, Sepik.

THE ARTS

artistic skills. In New Guinea, Philip Brimber and Wendy Chou Lai are laying the foundations for the emerging textile industry. The textile department at the school displays beautiful silk screens whose designs have been drawn from those which previously adorned shields. Fabrics of this nature are used to produce clothes, cover furniture, hang on walls. It's a way of transferring and developing elements of tradition to suite a new situation, a process which establishes and builds on links with the past.

Carvers from the National Art School

were commissioned to design and manufacture all decorative aspects of Parliament House. Using modern materials, permanent surfaces with weatherproof and colourfast properties they enhanced the architecture with something distinctly New Guinean. A mosaic mural at the Grand Hall's main entrance, which developed from drawings by two of PNG's leading artists, Jakupa and Kuage, is bordered by a carved lintel of kwila wood depicting 19 ancestral masks representing the nation's provinces. Below them the kwila door handles are carved

in the shape of traditional kundu drums.

There are various ways of translating tradition, of developing an evolutionary culture as opposed to adopting the notion that a culture has died. The important thing is that these developments gain support, not only in terms of vocal enthusiasm and encouragement but also financial support and encouragement. Artistic expression is a vital part of any communities development, and, particularly amongst people undergoing great change. A cultural continuation in whatever form is an important anchor, a part



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VACANCY

HEAD, FORUM TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be citizens of a member state of the South Pacific Forum*, for the position of Head of the Forum Telecommunications Programme, based at the headquarters of the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

The Secretariat was established in 1973 by the South Pacific Forum to encourage economic and political cooperation between its member states, and between those states and the more industrialised countries. Under the control of a Secretary General, the Secretariat undertakes a regional work programme covering economic services, legal and political services, and the energy, tourism, trade, transport and telecommunications sectors. The Secretariat also has significant responsibilities with regard to ACP/EC regional projects funded under Lome Conventions.

The objectives of the Forum Telecommunications Programme are: to promote and assist Forum Island Countries with the development of efficient and effective telecommunications facilities, equipment, services and human resources, with emphasis on the needs of rural areas; to assist with the maintenance and operations of regional telecommunications systems in such a way as to advance self-sufficiency among Forum Island Countries in the skills and expertise required; and to complement the work of other organisations providing telecommunications assistance in the region.

The Head of the Programme is responsible to the Secretary General, through the Director of Programmes, for effectively managing the Programme towards the attainment of its objectives through the implementation of regional technical projects and activities. More specifically, the Head of the Programme is responsible for identifying appropriate regional projects, preparing detailed funding proposals, negotiating with donor organisations, representing the Secretariat at regional and international meetings of telecommunications-related organisations, bringing regional telecommunications requirements to the notices of equipment manufacturers and suppliers and convening meetings of the Forum Telecommunications Committee, which determines the Programme's technical objectives and priorities. The Head is assisted by, and supervises the duties of, a professional, technical and support staff complement at present numbering six persons.

Applicants should have proven ability to manage successfully a regional, technical assistance programme, and to direct the work of a team of specialists. Experience in administering telecommunications-related or similar technical programmes in developing countries would be highly regarded as would relevant academic qualifications, say in economics or engineering, with subsequent and substantive administrative/management experience. An ability to liaise effectively at senior levels with member and supporting governments and organisations, and with a wide range of people throughout the region and elsewhere is required. Preference will also be given to applicants possessing general knowledge and an appreciation of the economic, social and political aspirations of the Forum's region.

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

Applications which close on 31 January, 1989 should contain full information on education and career background and should list names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated in a professional capacity.

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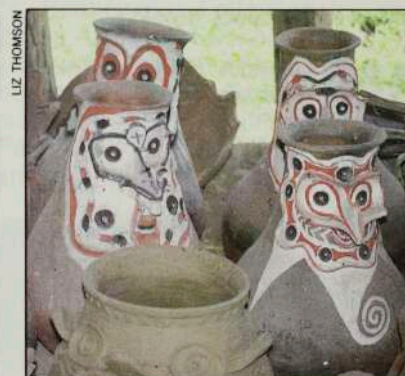
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from whom further information is available on request.

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

*Member countries are: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa.



Sightless eyes: painted pots, Alibon village, Sepik.

of national heritage and pride.

The Papunya artists have enjoyed great acclaim, their work hangs in New York galleries and fetches increasingly high prices, the first wave of Papua New Guinean artists also enjoyed extensive media coverage and an appreciative audience. Besides the obvious talent of both parties, they also had the added advantage of the novelty of their position. People were fascinated by this relatively new occurrence, a modern art, emerging from a primitive society. Now, new artists are emerging, equally talented, with new experiences to depict and it is important that they, who don't benefit from the novelty factor are also recognised and supported.

Contemporary is synonymous with continuation, and a contemporary artistic evolution is an ongoing process. The New Guinea annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition is an attempt to provide young artists with a place to show their work, to move into the public arena and communicate ideas. Likewise the South Pacific Arts Festival. It's interesting that most foreign galleries have primitive art sections, lined with ancient carvings, very few house collections or even samples of those same countries contemporary artists. Such is the fascination with the primitive that frequently that is all that's recognised so re-inforcing the notion that when those practices die out, so too does the culture. □

BOOKS

Under the Japanese flag

NAN'YO: The rise and fall of the Japanese in Micronesia, 1885 — 1945, by Mark R Peattie. Pacific Islands Monograph Series, 4. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1988. xxii + 382pp, maps, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95.

Reviewed by James Brooks

MARK Peattie's *Nan'yo* is particularly specialised, being devoted exclusively to Japan's involvement in Micronesia during a 60-year span that ended in 1945.

It is obvious from page 1 that Peattie, director of East Asian Studies programme at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, has exhaustively researched his topic. More than 250 published sources in Japanese and English are included in his bibliography and his notes indicate he conducted many interviews during visits to the islands.

In his acknowledgment he gives significant credit to Professor Dirk A Ballendorf, of the Micronesian Area Research Centre (MARC) at the University of Guam, and the Rev Francis Hezel, S.J., of Xavier High School, Truk. Both are renowned for their own contributions to the extraction and preservation of historically significant material concerning Micronesia.

For many readers it will probably come as a surprise to learn that the Japanese interest in Micronesia was virtually non-existent until the last quarter of the 19th century. It pays to remind oneself, however, that the Japanese remained in virtual isolation from the rest of the world until Commodore Matthew Perry blasted his way into their con-

sciousness with his gunboat in 1853; and it was not until the fall of the Tokugawa shogunate and the restoration of the Meiji dynasty in 1868 that the Japanese began to look hesitantly outward.

Through 1914 Japanese involvement in the *Nan'yo* — the Japanese word for South Seas and which was sometimes used by them to mean Micronesia specifically — was based on private economic endeavour. Although the setbacks the early entrepreneurs experienced were many, including restrictions imposed by the Germans who had taken possession of the islands from the Spanish in 1898, the Japanese were tenacious and established a toehold that helped register the strategic importance of the islands with the home government.

Foremost among the early economic explorers was one Mori Koben, a Japanese who settled in Truk in 1891 and remained there until his death in 1945. Through an alliance forged with the Trukese chief Manuppis in a battle against another clan, Mori became powerful and respected. His marriage to the daughter of Manuppis resulted in the birth of 12 children, many of whose descendants still reside in Truk.

With the outbreak of World War I the Japanese, ostensibly honouring a treaty commitment to the British, invaded the Northern Marianas, Truk, The Marshalls, Kusaie, Yap and Palau. The League of Nations ratified the occupation in 1919 when the islands were placed in Japan's custody as a "class C mandate". What had been merely an economic opportunity for private investors had ripened into territorial expansion for natural purposes.

Peattie explained in detail the close alliance that existed between the government bureaucrats that were sent to oversee the islands and the business interests that were often granted monopolies. Classic examples were the *Nan'yo* Boeki Kabushikigaisha (South Seas Trading Co) and the *Nan'yo* Kohatsu Kaisha

(South Seas Development Co). The former dominated shipping during Japanese times and the latter, founded by Matsue Haruji, who had been educated at Louisiana State University, developed a rich sugar industry on Saipan and Tinian. His statue as "the Sugar King" still stands on Saipan today.

An important point Peattie makes is that the Japanese intended to gradually absorb the islands into their nation. This was to be done by excluding other countries from trading in the islands and by systematically settling them with large numbers of immigrants. By 1938 there were 45,000 Japanese in Saipan and 15,000 in Palau, compared to indigenous populations respectively of 4000 and 6000.

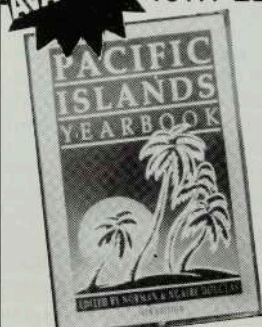
That this flood tide of immigration had a genocidal effect on the native population bothered few Japanese. Peattie notes that even within their own ranks the Japanese had no qualms about discriminating. The racial hierarchy they recognised has main island Japanese at the top, followed by Okinawans and Koreans, from whose ranks came the labourers for agriculture, fishing and mining (the latter of phosphate on Angaur), then Chamorros and finally all other Micronesians. The author noted: "Discrimination took place not only in terms of education, employment and official policy, but also in terms of insensitive treatment by ordinary Japanese."

In the several years before World War II commenced, Micronesians from all of the islands were impressed to work as virtual coolies military construction projects on lands seized from native owners without compensation of any kind.

Nearly a quarter of the book is devoted to Japan's militarisation and America's conquest of Micronesia. Unfortunately, at least from a Pacific islander's viewpoint, the impact of the battles on the peoples of Micronesia seems not to have enjoyed the same intensive research as other phases of Peattie's study. This is likely because the book's focus is on Japan and its people in Micronesia, not the impact that Japan had on Micronesians.

The perpetuation of big nation indifference to Micronesians is emphasised in Peattie's epilogue. It recounts the fact that thousands of Okinawans captured on Saipan were offered the opportunity to settle on Tinian. They were stranded, the author notes, because the United States "had taken over so much of their homes for use as military facilities". Although the Okinawans initially were interested, they abandoned Tinian at the end of 1946. One can only wonder if they had not if there would be a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas today. □

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PACIFIC PEOPLE

Taking a new path

BIKENIBEU PAENIU: Prime Minister, Tuvalu

AT 33, Bikenibeu Paeniu, the New Zealand-elected Prime Minister of Tuvalu, is the youngest leader in the South Pacific Forum. He was educated at Tarawa's King George V school. After obtaining a degree in agriculture from the University of the South Pacific, in Suva he worked for two years as head of the agriculture division in Tuvalu. Then he attended the University of Hawaii from where he graduated with a Master of Science degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics. Following another brief spell as Tuvalu's Agricultural Officer, he worked as Assistant Economist for over three years with the South Pacific Commission in Noumea. He returned to Tuvalu in October 1988 to pursue a political career and has stunned observers by his meteoric rise to power. He and his wife, Foketi, have four children; two boys and two girls. A young leader for a young sovereign nation, Paeniu brings fresh ideas and a new vitality to Tuvaluan politics. **By Diana McManus.**

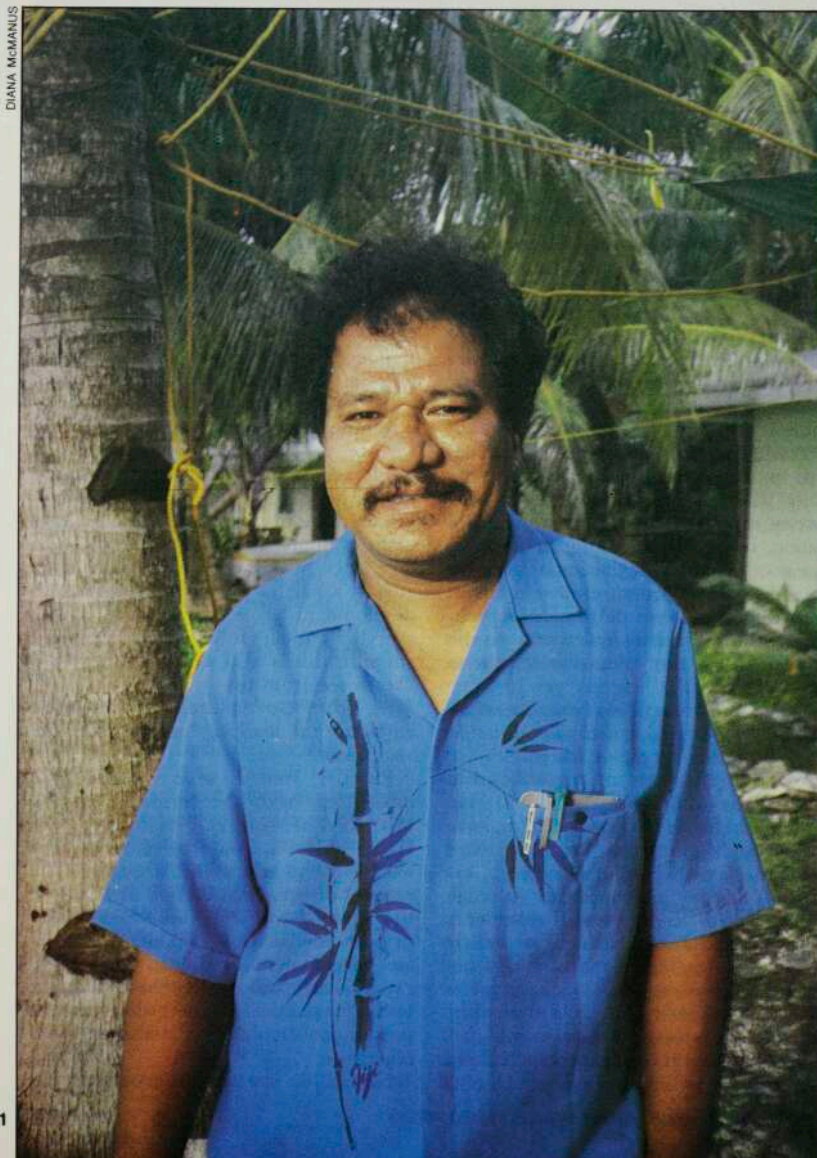
Firstly, could you tell a little about your family background?

I was born at Bikenibeu, Tarawa, on 10/5/56. That's how I got my name! I am the youngest of nine children. I have four brothers and four sisters. My mother passed away soon after I was born, and my father then returned to Nukulaelae. My aunt, Sela, in Nukulaelae brought me up. I finished school at K.G.V. in 1974 and left to study at university. Incidentally, I was amongst the first group of boys in the history of that school to obtain the level of Division 1, Cambridge Certificate. There were three boys and two girls in that group. *Will there be a noticeable difference between the things your Government does and the Administration of the Puapua Government?*

Already a big difference in our approach can be seen. Not only will there be a continuation of many existing programmes but an expansion as well. For example now we have six Ministries. Some of my earliest changes can be witnessed in the reallocation of portfolios. Commerce, formerly part of Natural Resources, is now with Finance. Home Affairs, including Police, Rural Development, Local Government, which was handled by the Prime Minister's Office, is now aligned with Natural Resources. My Office will now handle Foreign Affairs and Economic Planning. The latter was formerly part of Finance. The Health and Education portfolio now includes Community Services. Inherent in these changes in Ministerial responsibilities are changes in policy.

What changes do you hope to bring about in your Finance policy?

I would like to embark upon a programme of international finance as a means of generating more revenue for our country, and open ourselves up more to the outside world in terms of



PACIFIC PEOPLE

DIANA McMANUS



Paeniu with dancers: "... I was among the first ..."

strengthening and widening our links with foreign banks, in ways we will benefit. I feel that this avenue has not been adequately capitalised on in our foreign affairs policy. Moreover, our taxation system ought to be reviewed, carefully. I would like to explore the potential of encouraging joint ventures with overseas companies.

You would need a reliable communications system to enter the international commercial and financial scene, wouldn't you?

Yes. It's vital to have an earth satellite link for the faxes and telephones, especially when we enter the international money market. The new earth satellite station, due to be operating in January, is a good example of the importance we accord to infrastructure development. We realise that one of the main problems with our existing government is the inefficiency of our telex and telephone system.

In what other ways do you intend to expand your links with the outside world? Through tourism and trade?

We shall definitely promote Tourism and Trade appropriately. But I was thinking of aid in particular. We do have traditional donors like Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, France, Germany, USA, but we would like to reach out further to other potential aid donors like Japan, Canada, EEC. I'm mostly looking into the Asian industrialised nations which are becoming rich, as possible donor countries we could deal with. *So you have a broader base to rely on?*

Yes. You see, the concept, especially in my foreign policy, is that we become

politically independent. It's not that we want to deprive our traditional donors but we owe it to ourselves to approach our other friends in the outside world and say: "This is what we want", while accommodating ourselves to whatever their needs are, of course I'd like to get something for the way we see it, and for what we want; to use aid appropriately. *I thought your aim was to be economically self-reliant?*

It is. An aim of my government is to scrutinise very carefully the type of aid we are getting and to accept what I would see as appropriate aid. There are cases where aid comes in and is wasted. What I have in mind, when this Government is more firmly established, is to take stock of our resources and channel at least a part of our own resources into development projects instead of having everything totally funded from outside. I am sure this is also what donors would like to see from us.

Will your Government place more emphasis on assisting outer island development?

Exactly. That is what we hoped to make clear with the formation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Home Affairs, that the Government would like to adopt and strengthen the concept of equal distribution of wealth to the outer islands. It will be a major priority of this Government. Appropriate development of course. Not to the extent that it will neglect the capital but to be responsive to their development needs, justifiable within the national objectives.

What do you see as their most pressing

needs? Are there any specific things you can pin-point?

Many needs. Not only infrastructural, like construction of sea walls, causeways and civil service housing, but things at the grassroots level. For instance diversifying their agricultural production like the *pulaka* pits or fisheries. And just small income generating projects which will enhance the quality of life for the outer islands people. That's more or less the line we are taking. We must find out their needs as they see them. But although we will be spending money on the outer islands, we must continue the improvement of the infrastructure at Funafuti, upon which depends the development of this nation.

How will you overcome islands' jealousy of the money being spent on Funafuti, the capital?

It will be the aim of my government to continue to promote a sense of national identity and help our people to realise that we are Tuvaluans, not just from Nukulaelae, Nanumea, Vaitupu, etc. It is in the collective interest to have a solid base from which to work and that means we must continue to support developments on the capital. In helping the islands we must be very careful not to disintegrate the nation.

Does that mean you will be embarking on some sort of national awareness programme, or media approach?

Yes. I think it is very important, this idea of a national identity. The media is a relatively new element in Tuvaluan society and I would like to see Radio Tuvalu used as a forum for discussion and debate about political matters. No Government is perfect and I would welcome public criticism from my own people as an instrument for improvement. In that way we know what we do wrong and can try to amend our approach.

Are Tuvaluans, on the whole, politically aware?

Much more so now. I hope to encourage this even more by looking at the whole system of voting. As you know we don't have a Party system here and it is all too common for people to vote for their relatives without really understanding the ideas they stand for. In that sense, although we officially have a democracy, sometimes voting is not really all that democratic. I would like to see much more discussion and debate so that our people become more educated about issues and move further away from personality politics. I'm in favour of general platforms being developed in the absence of the party system.

Will there be any changes in your policy on education?

We'll be opening out the training to civil servants and other members of the public. Our only really reliable resource ultimately is our own people. We want to

PACIFIC PEOPLE



Education: "... only, really, reliable resource ultimately is our people."

encourage them to develop to the levels which they achieve. With regard to post-graduate studies, speaking from my own experience which has broadened my insight into development and built up my self-confidence, I would not want to deprive my own people of the same opportunities. So, this government certainly has the intention to open up the policy. *What if there are no jobs available for them after training, and educated people then leave the country?*

There is always the case where our people may want to leave the country. I don't see that as a waste of resources. Our people are working throughout the Pacific and a lot of Tuvalu's income is derived from remittances. With a small country like ours I do accept the fact that people will leave, even if we train them — a big change in attitude from the previous Government in this respect. *Right now staffing in the public service is very changeable. No sooner are people educated and trained for one position than they switch to another. What do you propose to do about this?*

I personally would like to place officers in the job for which they are trained because we want to utilise those skills. But I believe you can also be flexible and used in other areas. Take, for example, my case. I'm an economist but now I'm leading the country. The trouble is, sometimes people have gone abroad to study on scholarships they were allocated, to achieve whatever qualifications they could obtain. But deep in their hearts their interests differ and so they change jobs. It's something I have to

look into.

How else do you intend to improve the efficiency of the Public Service?

At this stage I would like to send stenographers and other office staff for overseas training. As you well understand, development is an on-going process and we must cope with the changing things as we move along. For example, already it's the computer era. Not all our typists can work on computers. That's one of the major areas I'd like to tackle; the strengthening of office support and management services, like photocopiers, computers, etc — to raise the efficiency and communication levels within the Public Service.

In the past 12 months there has been a noticeable reduction of expatriate advisers in Tuvalu and a rapid move towards localisation of managerial positions. Is this the approach your government will also be taking?

Yes. We would like to continue this approach. Then we would draw in expatriates as advisers responsible to the managers. But that is some way down the line. At the moment we are welcoming the volunteers as a source of support. We would still rely on expatriates as advisers, especially in technical and professional matters, but I do feel we have adequate locals who could take up the administrative and managerial responsibilities.

You're very young to be Prime Minister. Others will undoubtedly comment on this. What would you say to them in this respect?

I am young and I am not all that per-

fect. But, be that as it may, I trust in God for everything despite my educational background. My insight into the future is limited but I am convinced, with the guidance of God, I would be able to lead this nation in the appropriate path.

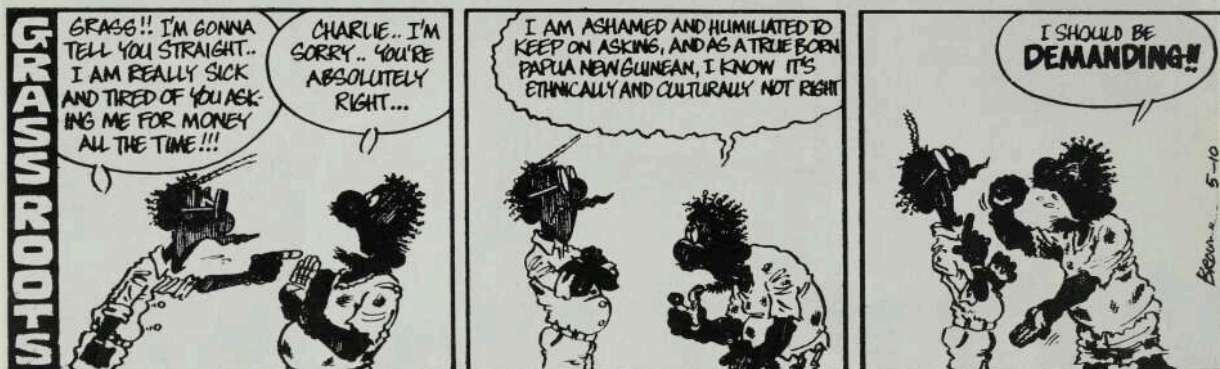
Other important qualities which I believe my youth brings, is the self-confidence and the desire to ensure the welfare of the people, including their opinions; to be in continuous touch with the public, in particular at grassroots level; to foster team and collaborative spirit, and, above all, to do the right and fair thing.

What is your vision of the future for Tuvalu?

I have dreams for my beloved small nation. I won't use the word ambition because I think that is a dangerous emotion resulting in wasted efforts and resources. My dreams lead to the betterment of my people. Like right now I dream of a well constructed new airfield; of a wider base for generating revenue for Tuvalu; of having a greater degree of self-reliance for my country down to each family and individual. I dream of a stronger private sector development; of a place of unity, not only within Tuvalu but throughout the world as well. I could go on and on dreaming. What's important is to try and fulfil these dreams in accordance with our priorities and resources. I'll have the dreams and, with my support and assistance, I'll encourage the officers in the service and so forth to make these dreams come true; to turn them into concrete, positive results. I dream for a better Tuvalu. □

ISLAND PRESS

Reports from the island papers. By John Carter



From the Papua New Guinea Post Courier, Port Moresby

LOYALTY to a close friend went beyond the limits when Moli Peliti of 'Utulau, a clerk at the Agricultural Office at 'Eua, broke into prison to free a close friend of his.

According to reports, Moli broke into prison, just after his friend was jailed and his two jailers had left to go on patrol. Peliti is awaiting trial.

From the Times of Tonga

FIJI'S rum exports to New Zealand are imperilled because New Zealand wants its maturation period increased from one to two years.

"This is absurd. I haven't got any two-year-old rum," the general manager of South Pacific Distilleries Ltd, Ratu Viliame Dreunimisimisi, said.

From The Fiji Times, Suva

THE Mount Hagen Town Authority's campaign against littering in the town has landed two women in jail for two weeks each for spitting betelnut in the street.

The women, Anna Okait and Akipit Pipamp, are the first people to be jailed under strict new littering rules which came into force three months ago.

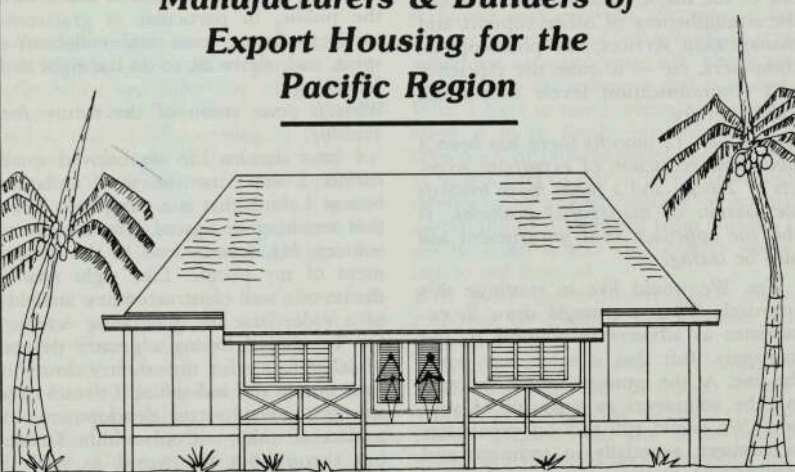
They were jailed after failing to pay a spot fine of K20 each when they were caught by rules inspectors.

From the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby



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TRIBAL fighting in the Highlands has now taken another turn — modern firearms are being used instead of the traditional spears and bows and arrows.

In the Tambul area of Western Highlands, warriors are reported to be using more than 100 guns. And in Chimbu Province, more guns are being used in fights now than ever before.

Police say they are alarmed at the huge number of high-powered rifles, shotguns and pistols that are being used in the different fights.

From the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

PLANS to have athletes tested for doping during the South Pacific Games here in 1991 have been hatched in Port Moresby.

The secretary general of the PNG Sports Federation, John Dawanincura, revealed this, saying ground works for the move were well under way.

He said PNG was planning towards it in order to deter athletes from taking steroids.

"Prevention is better than cure," he said. "We are planning towards it but a lot will depend on funding to get it off the ground."

From the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

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Winning a Thousand Lakes.



Mitsubishi Galant

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

On winding gravel trails in the forests of Finland, one of the fastest rallies of the World Rally Championship provides the ultimate test of man and machine. To all its entrants, it is an extremely challenging event. For Mitsubishi Motors, the 1989 Rally of 1,000 Lakes was exhilarating from start to finish, and immensely satisfying. They not only won this high-flying round of the World Rally Championship outright, but also proved the remarkable capabilities of the Mitsubishi Galant. Just what they set out to do.

Mitsubishi regards motor sports events as the ideal testing ground for the advanced technology they pioneer. Under the extreme rigours of competition, they are able to scrutinize and refine their innovative concepts

for use in everyday driving. Their Organic Performance is one such concept. The vehicle is regarded as a single organism in which normally separate systems operate together to provide the motorist with a safer, yet more dynamic ride. In fact, every detail down to the smallest dial is designed to enhance the vehicle's response to the driver's command.

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