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PNG: Diro's out, Expo's up

NOVEMBER 1991

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T

Inside:

- Yachting
- World Cup
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Back to the Future

**Post-coup
Fiji's economy
bounces back
better than ever**

- ▲ Kamikamica, the mastermind
- ▲ Tax incentives
- ▲ Global markets
- ▲ Investment potential
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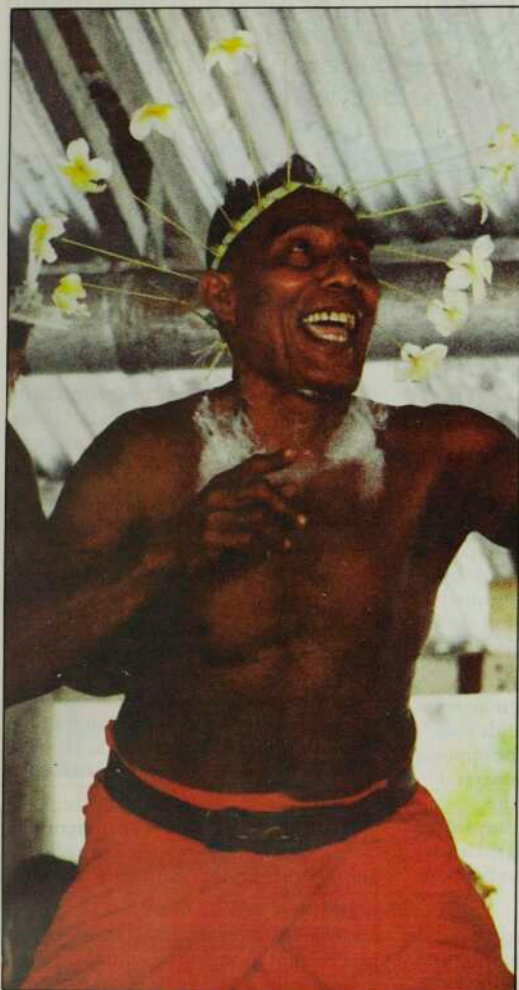
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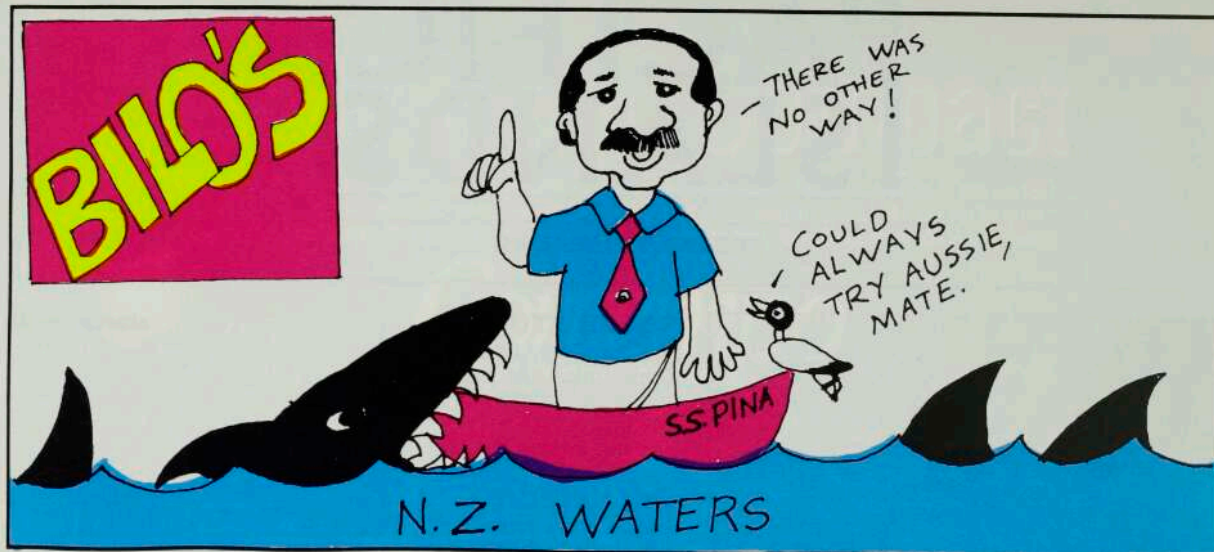
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Letters

Painful but some worthwhile lessons

FUTA HELU in the September edition repeats, parrot fashion, fears of the terrible "Yoke of Colonialism" borne by the Pacific Island nations. It has been fashionable to comment as such by the educated elite, however I have yet to see in any of these one sided criticisms any vestige of thought as to what were the alternatives and where would the islands be today if the colonial era not occurred?

Islanders cling to the myth that paradise existed before they were ravaged by the European powers. In the absence of any organised form of education prior to those days, apart from cultural lore, thousands of years of island history have gone largely unrecorded. Thus it is not generally appreciated that all islands were ravaged by wars and disease, cannibalism was rampant in many islands and the average life

expectancy perhaps twenty five years. Some Paradise!

Do Futa and his ilk think that natural evolution, without outside influence, would have taken the islands to the standard of development they have reached today from societies that had not progressed much past the stone age by the beginning of the twentieth century? Sophisticated societies existed but these were adapted to the needs of the almost total isolation of each island.

He speaks of "the departing masters had stripped their islands bone-dry of resources"; I would have felt the opposite had occurred. Large scale commercial plantations, which have been the backbone of each islands economy since independence, were developed then handed, free of charge, to the indigenous populations.

Perhaps this was not the original intention in developing these plantations and a profit motive was the driving force, yet a profit motive is the basis of the very democracy that the islands are now striving to achieve

It has been a sad thing to watch the gradual deterioration of these assets over the post-independence era by mis-management of one of the few major available resources.

Infrastructure, educational and health services for all islands were also developed and handed, again free of charge, to the new nations.

The success in continuing progress in these areas by the independent countries

has been much more encouraging than the agricultural achievements but these fields provide little revenue to sustain independence.

I do not propose that the colonial era



Futa Helu

was an easy period or that the original intention of the colonial powers was to better the lot of the indigenes. Many mistakes were made along the way and the benefits accrued varied between islands.

The indignity of being controlled by another race is also not to be belittled.

However, colonialism must be considered as an oft painful learning process that brought the islands through some one thousand years of development in half a century. I do not think this development could have occurred in any other way. Many, many problems face the newly emergent nations and life has become much more complicated but the islands peoples are now better prepared to face the challenges of the future.

Let us remember colonialism as a learning process, sometimes painful, but then what learning process is not. It was not altogether the evil that it is vogue to think it.

Michael Anderson,
WESTERN SAMOA

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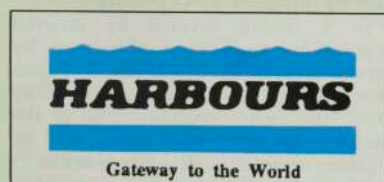
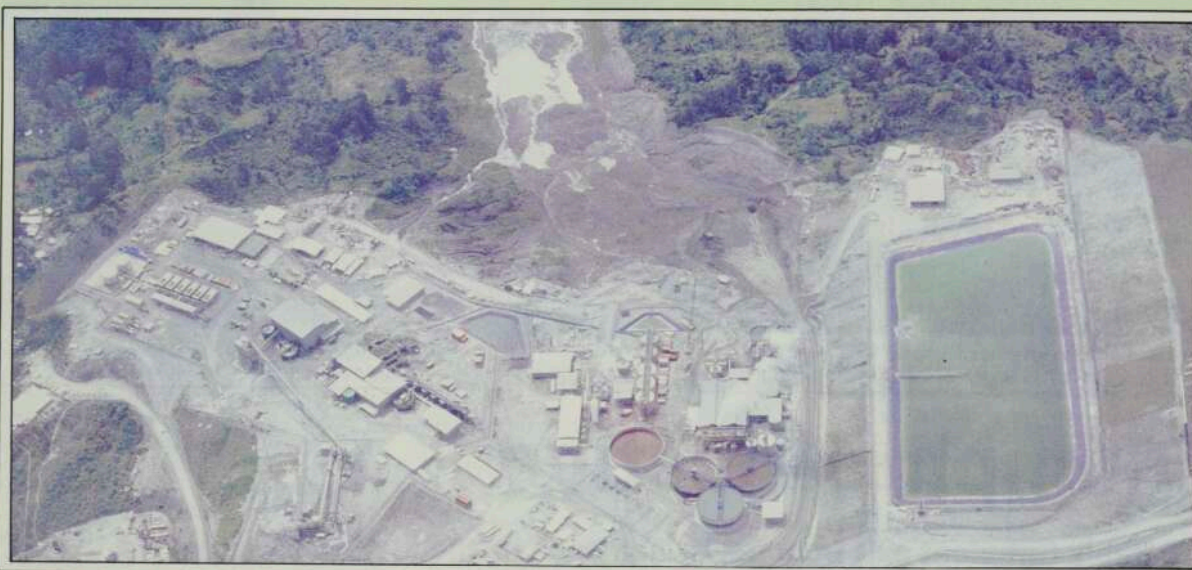
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THE REGION



Friends: Former Governor General Sir Serei Eri with former PNG Deputy Prime Minister Ted Diro, who was suspended after being found guilty of 81 charges of corruption. Sir Serei refused to sign the dismissal papers and he and Diro later resigned.

Triumph of justice

Ted Diro's turbulent exit from power has been likened to a second-rate film ... with a significant theme

By Frank Kolma

THE story has been told many times. Papua New Guinea turned 16 on September 16 this year. Four of those 16 years have been taken up by Edward (Ted) Ramu Diro.

He has been a prominent figure, not just in terms of exposure and controversy, but in determining the course of Governments and, longer-term, for highlighting the weaknesses in the political and legal framework of the nation — if by default.

The man who now heads the Opposition, Paias Wingti, was put in power in 1987 by Diro and dethroned in July the next year by Diro. Current Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu gained power with Diro's help and kept it through Diro. Laws pertaining to Commissions of inquiry, perjury (lying while under

oath), the functions and jurisdiction of the Ombudsmen Commission, and even the Constitutional provision to have the Queen as Head of State, have been questioned, reviewed and in most cases loopholes identified, and moves are afoot to plug them during the course of the now famous Barnett Commission of Inquiry into Aspects of the Timber Industry in 1987.

The same inquiry uncovered lack of Government policies for the forestry industry, rampant transfer pricing, un-hindered logging of some of the world's last reserves of tropical rainforest, and gross mismanagement and corruption, and recommended criminal charges for Diro and a number of businessmen and public servants.

A maker of Prime Ministers, Diro himself was third in line for the post come June 1992, after Namaliu and Wingti. If such news comes as a shock to outside

watchers of PNG politics, it was an inevitable outcome in the intricate, delicate world of PNG politics.

In a nation divided by internal regionalism and held in balance by careful distribution of top jobs in Papua New Guinea, the region represented by Diro (the entire southern half of the country) has never been represented by a prime minister since independence.

The past and present Prime Ministers had come from the other three regions of PNG. Michael Somare represented the New Guinea mainland coastal area; Julius Chan represented New Guinea Islands; Paias Wingti represented New Guinea mainland Highlands Rabbie Namaliu again comes from New Guinea Islands, when really it was due the southern region of Papua. Papua had been content with the mostly ceremonial posts of Governor General and Deputy Prime Ministership in the past, mostly because Papuan MPs had petty differences and none had the national vision of charisma to gain many supporters.

The first Commander of the PNG De-

THE REGION

fence Forces, Ted Diro entered national politics in 1982. He rose above the rest of Papuan leaders and, by the next elections in 1987, had formed his People's Action Party and banded Papuan leaders under one leadership to present a formidable force in Parliament.

His aspirations disappeared at 8.08am on Friday September 27 when the National and Supreme Court judge, an Australian, pronounced Diro guilty on 81 charges of corruption, bribery and misuse of office and recommended dismissal from office for each of 71 counts.

The convictions included an attempt to prevent the course of justice, that he accepted K140,000 in political donations from Indonesian Armed Forces Chief Benny Murdani without declaring it; and that he secretly held directorships in several companies against the leadership code and the Constitution.

The conviction, his recommended dismissal and the Governor General Sir Serei Eri's refusal to sign the instruments dismissing him have been described by one observer as scenes from a second rate film. Diro supporters see it as the culmination of a sinister plot perpetrated by outsiders to destroy a prominent Papuan leader. But mostly, the tale of the turbulent passing of Ted Diro from Papua New Guinea's political life is the story of the triumph of justice — a story forgotten in all the excitement, but worth telling.

Since the Barnett Inquiry recommended Diro and others for criminal prosecution in early 1988 many efforts have been made to pervert the course of justice, by everyone from Diro supporters to the man himself to the Governor General of Papua New Guinea.

In 1987 he was cleared on a technicality in six counts of perjury — which carries 14 years imprisonment — but Diro claimed he was cleared of everything. "It's a victory for justice," he said.

On March 9, 1988, when it was evident the Barnett Inquiry would table its final report, Diro supporters met and put an ultimatum to then Prime Minister, Pias Wingti. Amongst other things Wingti was told "that Tedi Diro's case be done away with" and that this be done "within seven days, no later".

Wingti responded in a statement: "No Prime Minister should interfere with the course of justice; he should not interfere with police matters, he should not interfere with the public prosecutor's office and he should not interfere with the proceedings of a commission of inquiry." He was to lose Government for those words.

Eleven days later Diro, then a Minister in Wingti's Government, wrote to an Opposition member offering the support of his People's Action Party (PAP).

His conditions, paraphrased, were: Forestry Inquiry be done away with; and

Deputy Prime Minister comes to People's Action Party on day one of new Government.

"Whoever satisfies these demands will get PAP and (Papuan) bloc support. (People's Democratic Movement) PDM and Wingti are now caught," he wrote, and asked that it be passed to opposition leader Sir Michael Somare.

Mr Diro has admitted to the leadership tribunal that he wrote the letter and claimed Parliamentary privilege. Tribunal chairman Justice Ellis found the claim to be "misconceived".

Justice Ellis wrote in his judgement: "Parliamentary privilege is the principle which enables Members of Parliament to speak on matters of public and national importance in Parliament without fear... of defamation.

"This was not a letter which had the public interest or national interest in mind: it was motivated by purely personal considerations and unworthy ones at that."

Pias Wingti fell in a vote of no confidence in July 1988. Diro's PAP supported the Opposition to gain Government. It secured the Deputy Prime

The fight for a Papuan Prime Minister has been set back many years

Ministership but the inquiry was not stopped. The final report was submitted and Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu referred it to the fraud squad.

1989 saw a change in Police Commissioners after former Commissioner Paul Tohian's farcical "coup". New Commissioner Ila Geno declared there was "no case" in pursuing the forestry file.

When victory seemed in sight for Diro, the Ombudsmen Commission pounced. Early in 1991 it submitted to the Public Prosecutor, Kina Bona, to have Diro charged with 73 counts of bribery, corruption and misuse of office. Bona duplicated the charges further to 86 and wrote the Chief Justice to appoint a leadership tribunal to hear them.

The leadership tribunal was subject to delay tactics by Diro who first claimed the Ombudsmen Commission did not have jurisdiction. When that was over-ruled, Diro forced a change of commissioners on grounds that chairman, Justice Arnold Amet, was a friend of Forestry Inquiry chairman, Justice Tos Barnett.

When new chairman Graham Ellis took the chair, Diro charged that the Barnett evidence should not be admitted to the Tribunal as they presumed him

guilty. That was also over-ruled.

Having exhausted legal means, more powerful friends were brought in. On September 3 Sir Serei Eri, the Governor General of PNG, long time friend of Diro and former PAP president, wrote to Chief Justice Sir Buri Kidu twice, hinting and then requesting outright that charges against Diro be dropped.

He said: "From what I hear, more than half of the charges against Mr Diro that the Ombudsman has referred to the courts for Tribunal to deal with, is based on the Barnett Report and if this is the case, then the Ombudsmen should do the right and fair thing and have them withdrawn."

The Chief Justice wrote back: "Your first letter to me was most improper and your second letter to me is not only improper, it should not have been written at all.

"When I took my oath as Chief Justice 13 years ago I promised to uphold the Constitution and the Law of Papua New Guinea. You did the same when I swore you in as Governor General of Papua New Guinea. Your letter on the third instant is an attempt to induce me to breach my oath of office. It is not my intention to violate my oath of office."

If the Chief Justice did not intend to violate his oath, Diro went ahead and broke it. On September 9 he refused to go before the tribunal and ordered his lawyer not to represent him there. He told a media briefing: "I refuse to submit myself to the jurisdiction of this Leadership Tribunal. The Leadership Tribunal can go ahead and hear the charges against me if it wishes but I will not appear nor will my counsel appear to defend the charges against me..."

The tribunal took heed of Diro's counsel, proceeded and pronounced him guilty within a matter of weeks.

There was one last attempt to buck the system. Sir Serei refused to sign the dismissal papers and reinstated the suspended Diro to full status as Deputy Prime Minister, only fining him K3,000. The resulting furore ended in Sir Serei himself resigning from office.

To top off Diro's disregard for the procedures and the legal process in the country, he himself resigned from an office he no longer occupied by effect of the Tribunal decision.

Again the law exerted itself, when the Acting Governor General signed the instruments dismissing him from office and, by some legal interpretation, barring him from contesting elections next year. Fears of a Papuan uprising for Diro's sake have passed, but the fight for a Papuan Prime Minister has been set back many years. There appears no leader with the money, charisma and vision to keep and build on what Diro left behind. The party divided after he left, over who should replace Diro and PAP split three ways. □

THE REGION

Sir Eri's swanswong

By James Grubel

PAPUA New Guinea's Governor-General Sir Serei Eri has had successful careers as an author, teacher and diplomat, but he is likely to be remembered for his role in PNG's recent constitutional crisis. Sir Serei's correspondence to judges and politicians over the past month has opened a new chapter in the colourful life of a man who has seen his country grow from an Australian colony to a fiercely independent nation.

Now he is Governor-General no more. He resigned on October 1, only hours before the Queen was expected to rectify his sacking on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, after he refused to comply with the PNG constitution by sacking his close friend and former political ally Ted Diro. (Diro has been found guilty of 81 corruption charges.)

The move has plunged PNG into its own version of *The Dismissal*, the constitutional crisis in Australia in 1975 which saw the queen's representative sack the elected Labor government. Ironically, Sir Serei was stationed in Australia as PNG's consul general at the time of the Whitlam sacking.

Serei Vincent Eri was born in the Gulf Province of PNG in 1936 and educated at Catholic mission schools until he was 14. After a brief stint in the workforce in 1950, Sir Serei returned to study and undertook a teacher's training course. From 1956 the young Eri taught part-time across PNG while studying to complete tertiary qualifications.

In the early 1960s, Eri travelled widely throughout the Middle East, Malaysia and Australia. He was one of the first students to enter the newly-created University of PNG in 1967 and he graduated three years later with a BA with a special interest in creative writing.

Also in 1970, Eri made history when

a short story he had written at university was published as a novel, *The Crocodile*. It was the first published novel by a Papua New Guinean and it won critical acclaim throughout the Pacific. The book jacket says the story is of a man who "knows he must come to terms with the unfamiliar and often brutal ways of the Europeans".

The plot resembles the conflict Sir Serei faced as the vice-regal head of a Westminster democracy in a country where tribal loyalties remain strong. Sir Serei's writing skills have led to some entertaining letters over the past month.

On September 3, he wrote to his Chief

Justice Sir Buri Kidu to ask for up to half the charges against Diro to be dropped. In a letter to Leadership Tribunal Chairman Justice Graham Ellis, after the tribunal found Diro guilty, Sir Serei flatly rejected the findings but thanked the tribunal chairman for "a job well done".

In a final letter to Prime Minister Rabibie Namaliu on September 30, Sir Serei spent two pages justifying his actions and criticising the government for causing the crisis. While admitting Diro was his friend,

Sir Serei said he would gladly sign Diro's death warrant if the circumstances were right.

Again he displayed a sense of humour with the closing paragraph: "Sorry for this long and possibly meaningless letter..."

In 1986 Eri was named president of Diro's People's Action Party and he was appointed Governor-General in January 1990, on Diro's recommendation.

One month after taking over the vice-regal role, Eri was made a Knight in the most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George and Knight of the Order of St John in a ceremony in London.

He is married with six children. □



A highlight: Prince Andrew with Sir Serei Eri at the South Pacific Games opening in Port Moresby

Peddling PNG investment

By Ian Williams

PAPUA New Guinea's regular road show got a good reception in September as it moved from Houston to New York and Toronto before returning via San Francisco.

The seminar for investors consisted of

a two dozen strong team, half government and half private industry.

Greg Anderson, of PNG's Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, described it as aimed at potential financial backers of major projects, and designed to allay investor worries about the Bougainville situation and Port Moresby crime.

"PNG can show that it's learnt a lesson from Bougainville, and the South Pacific Games were just held in Port Moresby without any serious incidents," says Mike Kennedy from the Department of Minerals and Energy. "The crime is caused

by rapid social change and unemployment, and time, education, and the investment we're attracting should help solve it."

Greg Anderson is pushing the attractions of political stability, and a reasonable fiscal structure which taxes profits rather than production. The low royalties are an incentive to marginal production, especially in the face of fluctuating commodity prices.

The seminars brought 60 to 70 potential investors along and provide contacts to follow up on. □

Looking back, then moving on

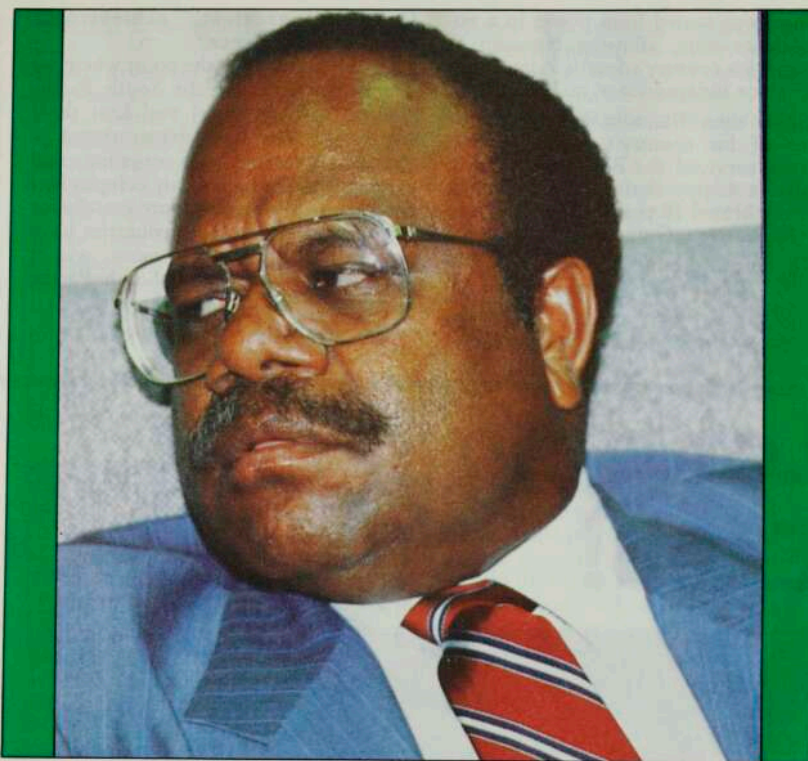
By Jale Moala

ON a warm Friday morning three years ago, a former academic stood at the National Parliament at Waigani in Port Moresby and said the people of Papua New Guinea "deserve an honest government leadership".

The speech by Rabble Namaliu, Opposition Leader at the time with little international reputation, was the beginning of the overhaul of his country's political system.

"Mr Speaker," he said, "a strong choice for an alternative government for the citizens and residents of Papua New Guinea exist on the floor of this house. The Opposition that I lead stands ready to lead Papua New Guinea out of the moral rot and the ethical corruption that has become synonymous with political leadership in this country."

That was July 1, 1988, the day Paia



Namaliu: 'Papua New Guinea deserves honest leadership'

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- c) Terms of Trade.



THE REGION

Wingti was ousted from power in a no-confidence vote, allowing Namaliu to become his country's fourth Prime Minister since independence in 1975.

Since then Namaliu has weathered some of his country's worst political storms, survived the Bougainville crisis, hosted a happy South Pacific Games, and celebrated 16 years of independence for Papua New Guinea.

In Port Moresby, Namaliu spoke to *Pacific Islands Monthly's* **Jale Moala** on the past, the present and the future:

What has been Papua New

Guinea's greatest achievement since independence?

We have matured to the point where we can hold events like the South Pacific Games (in September) and host them successfully. We have demonstrated to ourselves that we can organise and arrange these things as an independent country and obviously we are grateful for the assistance that other countries have provided, including, of course, within our own region and the South Pacific Games Council.

We have made significant changes to

our own political structures... constitutional changes. It is important, particularly in our case, that we have political stability and the best way of getting that is to have a stable political party system where members of parliament or provincial governments are committed to a political party and remain so for the rest of their political life. This minimises political instability.

Once we achieve political stability a lot of other things aren't impossible. The economic development can then be promoted and those who want to invest money will have confidence in the

Let's go Expo!

By Jale Moala

AT a lunch in Suva, someone was asking why Pacific Islands countries were attending the World Expo in Spain next year. It seemed to some at the table that the Pacific was spending too much money in Spain and getting little back in return.

Some months later, half-way across the Pacific in downtown Port Moresby, Camillus Narokobi tried to answer that question. The Expo, he said, is more than just making an appearance: "We are not there just for tourism. We are there for trade, we are there for everything. We are there to make contact and then develop those contacts."

Narokobi, 37, a lawyer, is Commissioner General of Expo '92 Papua New Guinea, the organisation spearheading the country's participation at the universal exposition in Seville, Spain, from April 20 - October 12, 1992.

Papua New Guinea took part at the '84 Expo in Van-

couver and in 1988 in Brisbane.

This time it is entering in a big way. Apart from being part of the Pacific Village (sponsored by the European Community), PNG will for the first time have its own pavillion.

This will incorporate a "modern Papua New Guinea experience" concept. The exhibits, displays and galleries will project aspects of PNG from its early discovery by European explorers (with special emphasis on the Spaniards), its products, resources, opportunities and areas of interest to visitors, and potential of the country.

"We want the world to experience Papua New Guinea and understand how Papua New Guinean resources affect their life even today," said Rod Neucom, of Sunstate Communications, the interior designers of the pavillion. "For example, we'll display Papua New Guinean gold and tell the world how it is used in the manufacture of computer parts, thus illustrating our role in space technology. We'll show our coffee which is sold worldwide, our cocoa. In the end, people will have a better understanding of our products, gain more interest in our trade and we will win more contacts."

The question, said Narokobi, is "Why are we doing it?"

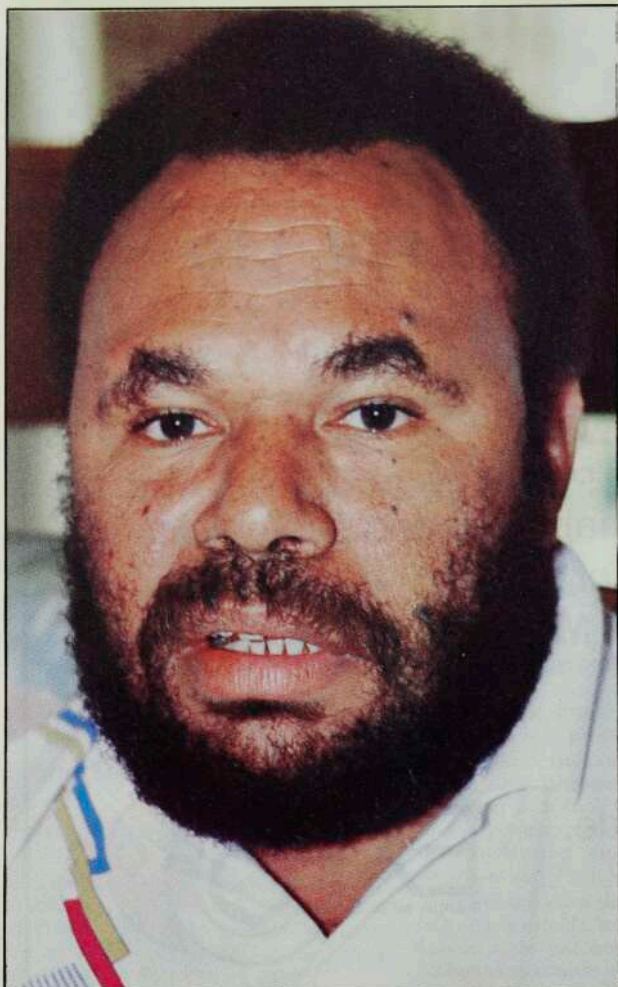
"Simple," he answered. "We are not wellknown in Europe and here is an opportunity to tell everyone about us. Eighty per cent of the world will be represented at Expo which is expected to have between 40 to 60 million

The organisers in Spain reckon that at least 20 million people will see Expo 92, nearly five times the population of the Pacific Islands, and they are likely to make more than one visit. For Papua New Guinea, this is a great opportunity to show off its cultural wealth and business potential.

The pavillion galleries have been designed for maximum visual and audio impact, and will host:

- Nature. This will be a trip into PNG's natural environment from the seas to the mountains. It will identify some of the unique tourist attractions for potential visitors.

- Culture and society. This will



Narokobi: taking PNG to the world to bring in investment

THE REGION

country. Our people will have more confidence in the system.

We have achieved a lot in the past 16 years. In education, although we still have about 60 per cent of the population who are illiterate, more and more people are now literate and better educated.

Unemployment is another of our bigger challenges and will remain so for the future. Fortunately we will be able to address a number of critical problems effectively in the future because of the resources that are now at our disposal. But that will depend a lot on the political

show the country's rich and diverse culture and the people.

● Pot of gold will portray Papua

New Guinea as natural resource-rich, highlighting the mineral and petroleum industry boom to attract foreign interest.

● Primary products. The aim is to promote and sell primary agricultural products such as coffee, cocoa, tea, sugar, palm oil, rubber and spices.

● Forestry and fisheries. Its aim will be foreign investment and markets, and publicising PNG's tuna fishing grounds.

● Exports. Promote export products to secure new overseas markets.

Narokobi is looking for K7.2 million (US\$7.6 million) to fund his Expo campaign. K1.2 million will go towards the Pacific Village being organised in Suva by Pacific Discoveries, the company set up for that purpose.

Corporate sponsorship is being encouraged through a double taxation policy similar to that for the South Pacific Games. This time, however, it has been refined to only apply to 75 per cent of the assessed income of the sponsor, but regardless of whether the sponsorship is in kind or in cash.

The government proposed three levels of sponsorships: corporate partner, corporate, and individual. Corporate partners are the big ones and eight were being sought. By the end of September, Harbours Board and Post & Telecommunication Corporation had paid K500,000 each, and Ok Tedi goldmine had paid K250,000. The government paid K500,000 to help establish the Expo '92 office in Port Moresby.

"'92 is a big year in Europe," said Narokobi. "It's the year of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, it's the year when Europe will dismantle all trade barriers, and it's the year when Madrid will be designated the Cultural Capital of Europe." It is also the year when the world will see Papua New Guinea like they've never seen them before. □



direction of the government of the day.

What areas of development need emphasis?

Infrastructure is one. Obviously we need to build more roads, more bridges into the rural sectors to bring more people in the rural sectors into the cash economy to sell their produce.

We must put more resources into education, into health and into agriculture. The non-mining sector will remain the key to the future of this country because that's where the bulk of our people are and will continue to be. We have to develop the agricultural sector, get more people involved in it. The fisheries sector is undeveloped at the moment. We also need to develop the forestry sector.

One area in which we have not put much emphasis in the past is tourism. Our country has got a lot of tourism potential which we have never realised in the past and we'd like to put some emphasis into that. All these areas have the greatest potential for job creation in the rural areas. That's the way I'd like to see the revenue coming in from the mining sector being put in.

Would that mean elevating tourism to a more senior status in Cabinet?

That has to be the case eventually if we are to be serious about it... we'll have to give it a higher status.

What has been the key to your success as a leader?

In our case, where the government is built on a coalition, it is very, very important that you consult as much as possible with your coalition partners... But it is always understood that where agreement is not possible then the person who is in charge makes the final decision and is accepted as long as they know that they've been involved in the discussions.

What about human rights?

Generally, we've had a relatively free society in Papua New Guinea where the constitutional rights are guaranteed and have been exercised quite freely by the people, from voting to freedom of expression to freedom of movement and a host of other things. We've never really had a major abuse of those rights in the sense that a government in power had either abused them or had taken steps to refuse them. We've succeeded a lot in making sure the constitution works.

Of course, there are blots, like the Bougainville situation. But the Bougainville situation has got to be seen as an exceptional situation where certain things happened because of the circumstances surrounding those incidents. Once we have found a permanent

solution to Bougainville we are prepared to establish a judicial enquiry into those abuses that were allegedly committed on both sides — on the national government side and on the side of the Bougainville Republican Army.

Did Amnesty International misjudge the events in Bougainville?

I think they made hasty conclusions without really understanding the situation in Papua New Guinea. People have a tendency to make all sorts of criticisms because they sound good from the point of view of their organisational objectives but really with no appreciation and understanding of the local situation.

How well has the economy recovered since the Bougainville crisis started in 1988?

The past two years, 1990 and 1989, were the toughest years for us and we have had to take some very drastic steps, particularly in the beginning of last year. We put together an economic package of measures to assist us with the economic management. We got the help of the World Bank to introduce a major structural adjustment programme. This involved, among other things, the devaluation of the kina by 10 per cent so that we can maintain a reasonable level of foreign reserves and also make our export more competitive.

We had to cut expenditure in the public sector and we had to cut the budget by about a million kina. We had to make some drastic decisions in rationalising functions and responsibilities in the public sector and, in the process, cut out any form of duplication. We rationalised government investments in the private and public sectors where the government had been losing money. We had a major privatisation programme because of that.

We took drastic steps to liberalise the investment policies and trade policies. We abolished the National Investment Development Authority and in its place we have set up the Investment Promo-

THE REGION

tion Authority which will assist us attract investment both domestically and from overseas... We changed the forestry legislation because of the abuse of the previous forestry legislation. We made changes in some of the commodity boards and industries like coffee. All of these were geared to making Papua New Guinea more competitive, more export-oriented and efficient in terms of cost.

The lessons of Bougainville made us introduce new policies in relation to mining and petroleum. We now have landowners and provincial governments

much more closely involved in the negotiations or discussions in relations to the development of a mine or a petroleum project. The landowners and the provincial governments are now entitled to equity. We have increased the royalty payments to landowners from 5 per cent to 20 per cent. We have specified in the agreements that the priorities, in relations to jobs and spinoffs, must first be given to the landowners and the people of that province before anyone else. We have provided for infrastructure developments that the company must fulfil as

well as the national government.

These have all helped in the past three years to see at least three major projects:

- Misima, in Milne Bay. This is a gold and silver mine which is in full production;

- Porgera goldmine, in the Highlands. This will be its first year of full production;

- Kutubu oil project. This is under construction.

All of these are multi-billion dollar projects which... (have) placed us in a much stronger position in terms of the economy of the future. We had negative growth in 1989 and again last year. This year it will be reversed and will be sustained on a very good level in future years. When the Bougainville copper mine comes back into production it will be a bonus. Even without Bougainville now the country can move toward a period of sustained prosperity.

Were you saddened by Sir Michael Somare's loss at the United Nations' presidential elections?

In a way we were very disappointed that Sir Michael's candidature didn't come off the way we thought it would. There were a number of countries that told us they would support us and didn't. We are appreciative of the support we got from the South Pacific countries and ASEAN and Australia, New Zealand, Japan.

We knew the United States would be a major influence in this. And because of what happened in the Gulf War, the continuing efforts in the Middle East to resolve the Palestinian question and the outstanding issue regarding Iraq, there was a lot of pressure from the United States on the Western countries to support Saudi Arabia. And Saudi Arabia is a major country in the Arab world and in the Muslim world. They've got the petro dollars to also mount an effective campaign.

It is unfortunate that at a time when the United States was showing increasing interest in the South Pacific they couldn't have offered and used this opportunity in a tangible way to demonstrate that commitment to the Pacific by supporting our candidature. We are pleased that Sir Michael got the support he received. Forty-five is still a substantial number of countries in the United Nations system and it helped Papua New Guinea and the Pacific to be put on the map.

What are your chances like in the general elections due June next year?

Pretty good. We are pretty optimistic but in Papua New Guinea, you know, politics is quite fluid. It will be a very interesting, very challenging election for all concerned. I rate our chances as pretty good at this point. □



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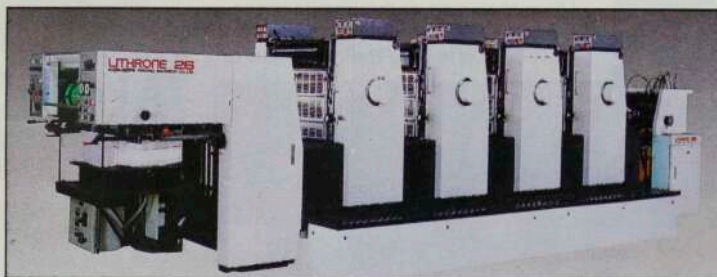
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ALONGSIDE SUVA

Suva, Fiji's largest and main Port of Entry, is situated on the south-east coast of Viti Levu. Suva city is the centre of Government and commerce and also home for the head office of the Ports Authority's administration team. This large cosmopolitan city offers visitors duty-free shopping, handicraft centres, night clubs, restaurants and cultural attractions. More than half of the tourist vessels that come to Fiji, berth in the Port of Suva which is also the main Port of

Entry for Fiji's staple goods and other cargo. In 1987, the Port of Suva completed a multi-million dollar modernisation programme which included major reconstruction and re-design of the wharf area plus the building of decks and access bridges for roll-on/roll-off cargo.

FIJI WITH PAF.

ALONGSIDE LEVUKA

The Port of Levuka, established in 1886, was Fiji's first Port of Entry.

The tall-masted sailing ships have all but disappeared, but the quiet charm of Levuka and its inhabitants still remains, as does the location of the wharf, now a modern concrete structure which serves as the base for fishing vessels supplying the town's tuna cannery.

ALONGSIDE LAUTOKA

Lautoka, is the second largest Port of Entry and handles the bulk of Fiji's sugar and timber exports. Fiji's "sugar city", is only thirty minutes drive from Nadi International Airport. Lautoka Port services Western Viti Levu and is the base for local cruise vessels which ferry passengers to and from the many outlying island resorts. The Port's facilities also include privately owned terminals for the handling of petroleum, gas, bulk sugar, molasses and woodchip.

Additionally, Lautoka has a new Fishing Port, completed in 1988, which services the requirements of local fishermen.

Once the Capital of Fiji, Levuka, was the site where the Deed of Cession was signed commemorating Fiji's cession to Queen Victoria of England. Fiji's European heritage is reflected in some of the best examples of colonial architecture in the islands. Renowned for its "old time" hospitality, Levuka is a popular tourist attraction.

PORTS AUTHORITY OF FIJI

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OUR TIES WITH TOURISM

The Ports Authority of Fiji is first to welcome the fleets of international cruise ships which bring more than 20,000 visitors each year to Fiji. Fiji's two main Ports of Entry, Suva and Lautoka, provide modern port services and facilities to cater for



the more than 50 cruise ships which call into the country every year. Capable of accommodating ocean liners from the size of the QEII, to the smallest passenger yachts, the Ports Authority ensures a friendly welcome awaits passengers and crew.

OUR TIES WITH CARGO

Cargo! The life-blood of the nation. Its prompt unloading, handling, security and despatch is vital to the economy of the country and ensures that both clients and the shipping lines receive efficient services in the minimum of time. The Ports Authority presently



handles approximately 2 million tonnes of cargo a year. It is capable of handling both containerised and non-containerised cargo at all its ports, however specialised bulk cargo such as sugar, wood chip, molasses and bulk fuel is handled through Lautoka Port.



THE PORTS AUTHORITY

Directory, it becomes apparent just how important PAF's role is in Fiji's economy.

As the hub providing the network for all efficient movement of shipping, cargo, passengers and other modes of transport, the Ports Authority of Fiji invites you to take a look at the close ties it maintains with all segments of Fiji's economy to ensure the safe, efficient and cost-effective movement of shipping for the overall benefit of Fiji.

The Ports Authority of Fiji (PAF) boasts one of the most modern and sophisticated networks in the region. With its three major Ports of Entry and its many ports of charge, it is truly the gateway into Fiji. As you look at the vast range of exports Fiji has to offer in this

GET ALONGSIDE

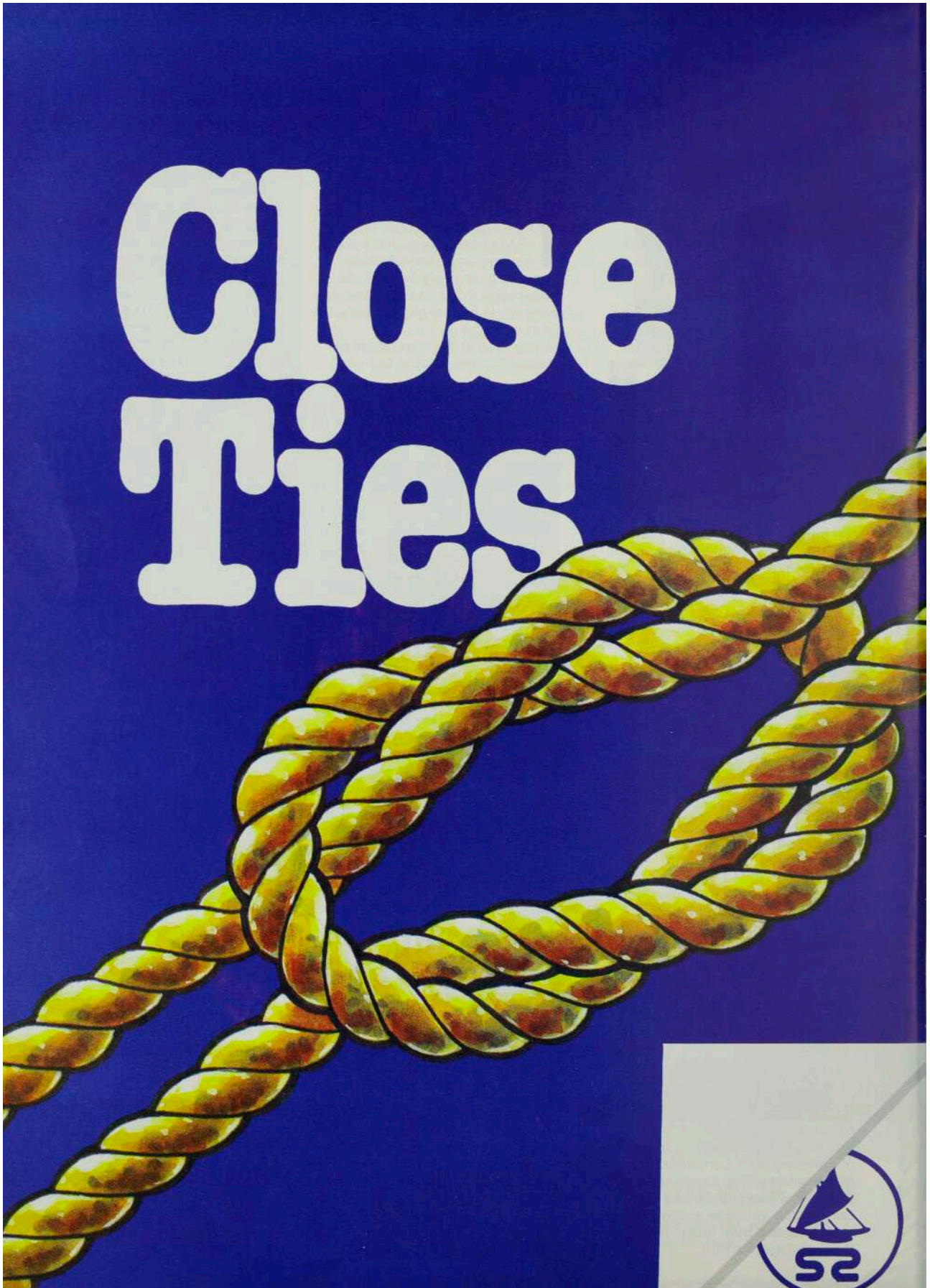


OUR TIES WITH THE PACIFIC AND THE WORLD

In addition to the many shipping lines the Ports Authority of Fiji maintains contact with, PAF is also a member of the International Association of Ports and Harbours and the Secretariat to the South Pacific Ports Association. The SPPA was established to foster the development of ports in the

South Pacific region through the mutual exchange of information, experience and knowledge. The Ports Authority of Fiji is proud of its participating role and contribution to these organisations and is keen to maintain its active participation to ensure that Fiji's port facilities progress with future shipping developments.





The offshore alternative

IN March, the Australian government released a major industry statement which now seems to be offering Pacific Island nations the prospect of much sought after new investment. Already the giant Melbourne-based Yazaki automotive manufacturer has decided to move one of its major component plants off-shore to Western Samoa. Other manufacturers are considering following suit.

Essentially, what Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke did in the March 12 statement was to speed up Canberra's tariff reductions. As a result Australia is now aiming at a general tariff level of just 5 per cent on most manufacturing and agricultural imports by 1996.

Although clothing, textiles and car parts will retain their relatively high levels of protection for longer, those levels, too, will come down faster than originally anticipated under specific industry plans.

In the Island nations, with their special preferential access to the Australian market, lower tariffs have been seen as a threat. Many Pacific businesspeople fear increased competition from big producers in Asia may wipe out the Pacific's fledgling export industries.

There is no doubt lower tariffs will make it tougher for Island manufacturers who have enjoyed duty free access under Spartecca (the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement), but it will be possible for Island exporters to meet the challenge.

At the same time the industry statement holds out the promise of more investment in island economies.

The lowering of tariffs makes it much more attractive for Australian manufacturers, now paying high Australian wage rates, to go off-shore. At the moment Australian garment manufacturers are looking at the possibility of relocating in the Solomons, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa. Other manufacturers are interested in part processing in the Island nations.

Although the Island nations have the advantage of being close to Australia, generally stable, and in many cases with their own preferential access to markets in the United States and Europe, (under the Lome Convention), the competition to win investment is still tough.

Australian manufacturers are also examining opportunities in the bigger low wage countries in Asia, most of which have more years of experience in attracting this sort of investment. Some are investigating possibilities in places closer to target markets. Garment manufacturers exporting to the US, for instance, have been looking at prospects in the Caribbean.

So what are Australian investors looking for when they consider off-shore investment?

For those I have spoken to, by far the most important element is predictability in government policies. It is not so much the sort of requirements that government place on business but the ability of business to accurately predict the outcome of its own decisions which influences the original decision to invest.

Many Island nations are now offering attractive investment incentives. What is most important to investors is to know that company law and licensing requirements are easily understood and not subject to the whims of various public servants or ministers, that there will not be catastrophic hidden costs and

SYDNEY



JEMIMA
GARRETT

that the ground rules will not change, suddenly, once they are established. Although some investors are holding back until after upcoming elections before making their decision to invest in Fiji and Vanuatu, they are optimistic about the future in both countries.

In Australia, Fiji's Finance Minister and co-Deputy Prime Minister, Josevata Kamikamica, has won wide respect for his efforts to set the interim government's relations with foreign investors on a sound footing. And Vanuatu's prospects under new Prime Minister, Donald Kalpokas, are seen as bright.

While some still have concerns about political stability, particularly in Fiji, there is a growing feeling of confidence. In Fiji that confidence has been boosted by Major General Sitiveni Rabuka leaving the army and joining the interim government. Rabuka, the leader of the 1987 coups, is now joint Deputy Prime Minister with Kamikamica.

Just at present Australia's own recession, now admitted by Treasurer John Kerin to be the worst for sixty years, is dampening investor's enthusiasm. Australia's Trade and Overseas Development Minister, Neil Blewett, has warned that the rate of recovery in the retail sector, so important to Island exporters, is expected to be "quite slow".

In the longer term, however, because the industry statement is about restructuring, Australian investment in the Pacific is likely to be unaffected. And some companies are moving off-shore despite the recession.

That can be seen in Yazaki's decision to invest in Western Samoa. Yazaki, a big car part manufacturer, will be making automotive wire looms, a lightweight labour intensive component which links the car battery to lights indicators and other accessories. Yazaki's decision to move to Western Samoa was based on its good experiences with Samoan workers in New Zealand and its increasing concerns about high labour costs in Australia.

The Australian government's decision to exempt car components made in Forum island countries from duty means more investment in that area is likely. Other manufacturers, too, in a wide range of industries are considering the island nations as a site for part processing.

In the longer term interest is still strong in investment in tourism. Australian investors are aware that with the dawn of the Pacific century much of the wealth and therefore the people most able to spend on tourism will be located just a short air hop from the Island nations, in Asia.

Other long term investment prospects lie in more high tech industries.

With its proximity to Australia and its lower wages the South Pacific has a natural advantage for producing small lightweight components which are easy to transport.

A recent joint meeting of the Fiji-Australia and Australia-Fiji business councils nominated opportunities in communication and data processing, health and educational services, component manufacturing and consultancy services serving the region as potential growth areas for the next 5 years. In relation to health services the councils were envisaging investment in high grade hospitals selling operation and recuperation packages for wealthy people seeking a pleasant way of dealing with their non-acute ailments.

At the moment many travel to Australia for treatment. □

Locals get the break

LOCALISATION as a slogan entered the islands round about the early 1960s. It had a political ring to it though not too strident then.

It was also the beginning of independence for former colonies with Western Samoa leading the way in 1962. Educated islanders began to see that they could not only enter professional areas therefore considered rightful domains of expatriates only, but also take up top posts in national as well as regional organisations regarded, up to that time, as impregnable — and fiercely guarded — fortresses of the foreign expert. It was also a time that saw the establishment of regional educational institutions staffed by foreigners who were more broad-minded than the common run of expatriates. The most important of these were the University of the South Pacific and University of Papua New Guinea. Faculty and students in these institutions talked about localisation and it found a way in one form or another into the official policies of Pacific Islands governments even though it did not always appear in them in black and white.

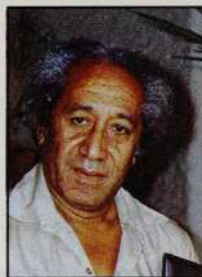
Localisation then is an aspect of the modernisation process in the South Pacific tinged with a nationalism and anti-Europeanism — on the personal level only, please note — that gets more and more menacing as you move through the islands in a northwest direction.

By the mid-80s the process was in full swing, and at different levels. Not only jobs formerly regarded as out of bounds for islanders were taken by islanders themselves and discharging their duties effectively but new organisations were created with the express purpose of bringing together just island people to talk among themselves, to wit the Forum, etc. And most were formed because of dissatisfaction with the way older organisations e.g. South Pacific Conference, were restrictive on vital issues like politics.

Australia and New Zealand are members of the Forum but this had to be allowed by the islanders, some of whom were bitterly opposed to the idea. Those in favour argued that remaining close to the Kiwis and the Aussies was an economic virtue. And they won. The argument has force, but the deduction that economic decisions are not political propositions at the same time is quite baseless — both in theory and practice. The same economist, Milton Friedman, who said there's no such thing as a free lunch also elaborated the thesis that the road to political power is economic power, a point overwhelmingly backed by experience.

Although all island states have accepted localisation they all have different corresponding policies. In relation to regional organisations, the smaller microstates (Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Cooks etc.) seem to be the most enthusiastic in pushing their countrymen to take up posts in them. Their share of posts in

THE ISLANDS



FUTA HELU

these seem out of proportion in terms of size. They should be congratulated, however, for the experience these people acquire in manning those jobs will translate back to their communities as real and tangible blessings.

Tuvalu, right now, has a monopoly on the Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat just as Tonga is in the case of the Pacific Islands Development programme. And Western Samoans are so numerous in these organisations that when a SPREP post was recently advertised carrying the sentence "An appointee who is recruited from outside W. Samoa will also be eligible for the following etc", one's immediate reaction was that this is to keep down the number of Samoans in these organisations.

But then one realises that SPREP headquarters are now being relocated to Apia. In academia also Samoans constitute an emergent force. Albert Wendt, writer-poet, is Professor of English at Auckland University, Dr Pau Luteru is Director of Planning at USP, and the historian Dr M. Meleisea heads the McMillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. The list is long.

Fijians dominate the USP faculty, and Papua New Guineans UPNG, with many of both in other regional bodies. But again, a Samoan, Esekia Solofa, is the next Vice-Chancellor of USP. It is hoped that the Tonga government will strongly back S. Kite, Tonga's candidate for Secretary-General of SPC to take over from Kiribati's Atanraoi Baiteke. For the least ardent in supporting local expertise to work in organisations outside the country is most certainly Tonga. There are at present only eleven Tongans on the permanent staffs of these organisations and none of them got his/her appointment through government recommendation.

The fact is Tonga and Fiji, as the most "British" of Pacific Islands states, regard these appointments as political ones and would never support the application of someone from outside the public service and, within public service, only those who have proved strict fidelity to state interests vis-a-vis non-State or popular interests. In other words, Fiji and Tonga treat these appointments as extension of internal politics.

There have been little corruption or malfeasance of office on the part of islanders in the regional bodies. In SPC, for example, only one case of islander office abuse has been recorded as against about two or three Australian and US citizens. All resulted in dismissal or demand for resignation. But as the halcyon days of the early period draw to a close, the Pacific Way is bound to show its darker side, though it has a positive side and the only one publicised. But that is the subject of a different comment. □

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THE UNITED NATIONS

Islands unite at the U.N.

By Ian Willaims



DESPITE the unforeseen defeat of Papua New Guinea's Sir Michael Somare for the presidency of the 46th United Nations General Assembly, the session was a good one for the Pacific. The breakdown of the Cold War allowed many more original contributions from delegates freed from party lines and point-scoring. In that constructive atmosphere, Pacific states reiterated shared Forum themes; qualified approval of French cooperation in implementing the Matignon Accords in New Caledonia; distress at continuing nuclear testing, and a firm concentration on environmental issues. Frequent references to the work of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), reminded the General Assembly who paid the price for Greenhouse gas emissions in the industrialised world. Attention was drawn to driftnetting in the Pacific.

But the shared policies were dealt with in highly individual ways, and with additions reflecting the foreign policy concerns of the states. Frequent references to the need for an equitable solution to the Middle East question were but one demonstration that Pacific Islands states need not be insular in their outlook. Indeed, in face of the breakdown of the old blocs, the Forum and AOSIS may be among some of the more coherent alliances.

To begin with, they were strengthened by the arrival of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia at the United Nations, marking the end of the old era for the former Trust Territories. But there are signs that the differences which led to the break-up of the old federation still linger on. While FSM has opened an office at the Commonwealth Secretariat's building in New York, the Marshalls have set up home in a commercial building.

The seriousness with which they treated the occasion was apparent in the size of the delegations — 35 from the Marshalls alone (pro rata, that would mean a million strong delegation for China). Some US diplomats were worried that riding round Manhattan in limousines may have excited a taste for hyperactive diplomacy on the part of the fledgling republics — which may be beyond their budgetary capacity. Indeed there are

some suggestions that the Marshalls asked the US for aid in setting up the mission. While the US welcomes two new friendly votes in the General Assembly, it is unlikely to pay for them. Less happy will be France, whose ambassador sprang to his feet three times to exercise a right to reply to Forum nations complaining about French nuclear testing.

Greening the U.N.

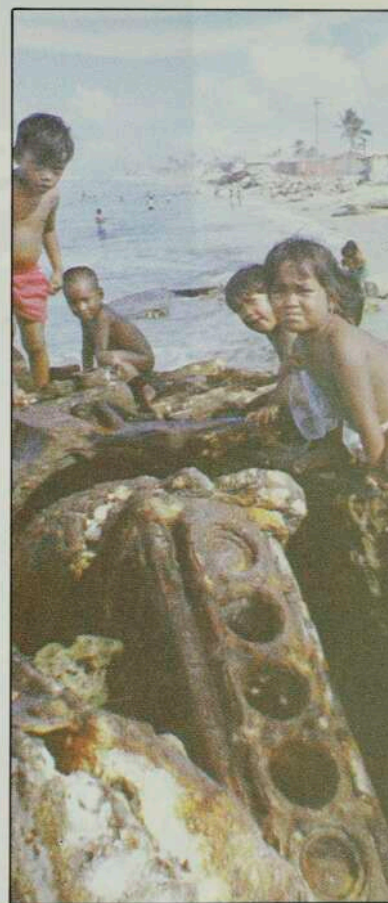
AS Forum chairman, after hitting at nuclear testing, FSM President Bailey Olter welcomed the US's attention to the Forum's concerns over the chemical weapons destruction programme on Johnston Atoll. "We hope the point has been made effectively that our region cannot be considered by the larger nations as a convenient empty space for the disposal of toxic and hazardous waste and chemicals and radioactive materials," he said.

His main thrust was on global warming. Pointing out that FSM's sovereign territory was approaching the size of the continental US, he said: "We do not think of ourselves as small islands separated by great empty spaces. The ocean has been and always will be our great provider. Its bounty alone is our principle resource for economic survival, and we are conscious of our need to live in constant harmony with it. Until recently we believed that we were too few in number for our actions to affect the great ocean." But no longer, he continued, since the discovery of the global warming effect and rising sea levels.

Law and order

MARSHALL Islands President Amata Kabua said the most fundamental issue facing the UN is "the quality of life of mankind ... consistent with national agendas and policies, people need the opportunity and freedom to develop themselves."

On global warming, he said: "There is very little if anything, that one of the smallest and most isolated countries in the world can do to alleviate the problem." Kabua called for "a new and comprehensive vision of a global society, supported by a new system of values. This recognition does not imply the abandonment of legitimate loyalties, the suppression of cultural diversity, nor the abolition of national autonomy. It calls



Dangerous playground: children in the Marshalls

for a wider loyalty, for a far higher aspiration than has thus far animated human efforts".

Lone voice

PAPUA New Guinea's Education Minister, Utula Samana, was alone among all the 166 nations in addressing the problems besetting UN staff. "Never before have the international civil servants been called upon to help guide so many different peoples to peace, democracy and independence," he said. "Many have been detained and held hostage during the courses of their duties. We call upon those responsible to release and free them to their important duties".

Vanuatu warning

ROBERT Van Lierop, of Vanuatu, warned against double standards, "Principles which are selectively applied are not really principles but are instead

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more expedients," he told delegates, contrasting the action taken in Kuwait with the "years of inaction and lack of resolve on the issue of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories". He added: "The deafening silence on the question of East Timor by some who spoke so eloquently on the invasion of Kuwait is, to a country as small and vulnerable as Vanuatu, another frightening reminder of the inconsistency exhibited by some members of the international community."

Solomons' wisdom

IN a wide-ranging pull-no-punches speech Solomon Islands Foreign Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea attacked France on testing and colonialism in New Caledonia; the nations engaged in driftnetting; the militarism of the big powers; the industrialised nations' lack of concern over Greenhouse gases; and questioned the credentials of the American New World Order". And he did it with forceful oratory designed to make his points strike home.

He said the Solomons are "dismayed about the French bomb tests in our waters." On driftnet fishing: "Our seas have been plundered unmercifully with huge purse seiners and ugly driftnets which scoop up every living sea (and sometimes land) creatures in their paths ... Our hills and valleys have become denuded of forest trees and foliage with no attempt by the exploiters in most cases at re-forestation in the aftermath to replenish nature's handiwork".

He added: "In a business-as-usual-world — a concept harboured and jealously protected by one or two of the most industrialised nations for political and economic reasons, global warming and Greenhouse gas emissions ... it is now well established that it is we, the inhabitants of the island countries of the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Oceans and our children of the future, who live four feet above the sea-water level, who will first disappear from the face of this earth in the event of sea-level rise."

In the face of such military, economic and environmental behaviour by the Superpowers, he expressed concern at the precise meaning of the New World Order.

Fiji's peacekeepers

FIJI, the Pacific's most prominent sup-

porter of UN peacekeeping forces, expressed the hope that the Lebanese Government's extension of control over its own territory would soon make UNIFIL redundant — while deploring the failure of many countries to pay their assessment towards it.

Kamikamica vigorously attacked the specifics of North/South trade, particularly agricultural subsidies in the industrialised countries. "Despite repeated attempts to reduce support," he said, "transfers to agriculture by way of direct payments and consumer transfers to OECD countries had increased by 12 per cent in 1990 to \$299 billion." Such subsidies "seriously undermine the ability of developing countries to gain more lucrative and stable markets".

Tofilau's wish

WHILE other Pacific nations had expressed the wish for a Palestinian Homeland and secure Israeli borders, Western Samoa Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana instead supported President Bush's call for the repeal of the 1975 Zionism is Racism resolution — one of the few nations to do so explicitly.

On the environment, he reported happily that South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) had opened its headquarters in "our capital, Apia", and listed the conventions and treaties trying to regulate the environment in the Pacific.

Nuclear rows

THE war of words between the South Pacific Forum and France was fanned furiously. France rushed to reply three times, to PNG, the Solomons and Fiji to the effect that French tests are environmentally friendly and come with added vitamins.

Papua New Guinea urged "France to seriously consider our concern and take positive measures to put an end to this act of terrorism against the eco-system and humanity." Rochereau de la Sabliere, of France, said: "I shall not comment on the outrageous expressions he used, but I should like to recall that the underground testing that France is undertaking in its territory in Polynesia does not do any harm to the interests of the States of the region or to the health of the populations living there, nor does it harm the environment".

Solomon Islands' Sir Peter Kenilorea not only attacked the tests but added: "The recent knighting of the Rainbow Warrior saboteur, Alain Marfat, while at the same time appearing to be saluting his award with another bomb blast at Mururoa Atoll is a crowning act of selfish defiance and belittling by France of the South Pacific nations' concern for their environment and legitimate rights of livelihood."

Quoting Margaret Thatcher that the French "have protective tendencies" he confirmed: "Our experience of the French colonial attitude in the South Pacific as demonstrated in New Caledonia taught us people in the region that this is very true, and regret very much that as history reveals of the past, all the good and admirable French flavour and lifestyle is likely in the end to be lost in our region because of this attitude."

For the second time France replied that their tests were not like others, but "in no way harmed the interest" of the South Pacific.

France sprang into action for the third time to reply to Fiji, whose Deputy Prime Minister had expressed "disappointment at the continued nuclear tests in our region by France, despite repeated calls for them to stop".

The French Mission has a pamphlet explaining their surprise and shock at what they see as singling out France. Bridling at suggestions that if the tests are really so healthy, then they should be carried out in France itself, the pamphlet archly points out that France had claimed Moruroa several years before the US had taken Hawaii. It also cites studies that its test programme does not produce significant exposure in the area.

What it fails to address is why France needs nuclear weapons at all, when over 160 other nations manage quite happily without them. Since some of its most recent systems could only reach into Germany, many of its European neighbours are asking similar questions.

In fact, the position of France and Britain as permanent members of the UN Security Council, when countries like Germany and Japan are not is being increasingly questioned. Both countries' attachment to their nuclear arsenal can be seen as a means of retaining a claim to be great powers when their economies no longer merit the position. Indeed, regarding their nuclear weaponry as a form of national virility symbol, would explain why both countries react with such shock to any question about their nuclear credentials or their place in the Security Council. □

HEADLINES

Dolphins lose to Vanuatu in tuna battle

By David North

VANUATU won and dolphins lost the latest battle between the tuna industry and the environmentalists.

This time the scene of the decision-making was Geneva, Switzerland, where an international trade agency overruled an earlier vote by the United States Congress. The Congress had barred from the lush American tuna market all tuna caught by fleets that kill more dolphins than the more careful US fleet, so tuna caught by boats carrying the flags of Mexico, Venezuela and Vanuatu could not enter the US.

Recently US tuna packers, notably H.J. Heinz with its Starkist brand packed in American Samoa, have avoided buying fish from purse seiners who work the Eastern Tropical Pacific, where tuna are usually found swimming below schools of dolphin. Despite the efforts of the crews, dolphins are often killed when the seines are closed on the tuna.

American environmental organisations, aware that foreign-packed tuna often was caught by ships fishing "on dolphin" managed to get the congress to bar such fish from the US market.

The decision to overrule the Congress came from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) — the international body housed in Geneva. GATT ruled that the US could not impose its environmental standards in this way because this was intervening in the internal affairs of another nation, such as Vanuatu.

The Bush Administration now finds itself in an interesting pickle. On the one hand, it does not like any international body telling it what to do, but on the other it has limited time for the environmentalists and even less for dolphins. But since the Administration wants to work with GATT on other issues, and since it usually identifies with other nation's elites (such as the President of Mexico who is anti-dolphin on this issue) it will probably try to get the Democratic Congress to reverse its position.

That this may benefit Vanuatu, and the handful of Vanuatu-flagged tuna boats working the Eastern Tropical Pacific, is fortuitous; Vanuatu's feelings on this are of small moment to Washington. The GATT decision is not self-enforcing, and it may be months or years before tuna caught "on dolphin" is allowed into US grocery stores. □

'Other' Nobel prize for protesters

NUCLEAR-TESTING protesters in the Pacific, Brazilian land reform groups, and Indian and British ecologists were named as winners of the "alternative Nobel prize" in Stockholm last month.

The annual 1 million kronor (S207,619) prize from the Right Livelihood Awards, founded in 1980 by Swedish-German writer Jakob von Uexkull, is to support individuals and groups doing practical work to solve modern day problems.

This year's prize was shared by the Commissao Pastoral Da Terra (pastoral land commission) and Movimento Dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (movement of landless workers) for winning land for peasants in Brazil; the Save Narmada Movement in India, which is trying to block a huge river-damming project which would displace 300,000 people; Bengt and Marie-Therese Danielson of French Polynesia for campaigning against French nuclear tests in

the region since the 1960s; and Senator Jeton Anjain and the people of Rongelap, in the Marshall Islands, for opposing us "nuclear colonialism in the pacific".

Anjain and the Rongelapese were cited for repeated demands to the US Congress to make full reparations for health problems caused by nuclear radiation from the 1954 nuclear bomb test at Bikini Atoll.

Anjain, a victim of radiation poisoning who doctors say has little time left to live, has been a key lobbyist on behalf of the islanders, said Von Uexkull, who sold a private stamp collection to endow the annual prize.

The Rongelapese were evacuated from their island 50 hours after the blast on Bikini, 160 km away.

They were told it was safe to return in 1957 but after decades of suffering health problems related to radiation exposure, they left Rongelap. □

Moving toward Malaysia

MALAYSIA has signed a bilateral payments arrangement with Fiji to develop new trading links and move away from dependence on The European Community, the United States and Japan.

The agreement was signed in Bangkok on October 12 by Jaffar Hussein, Governor of Bank Negara, Malaysia's Central Bank, and Fiji Central Bank Governor Ratu Jone Yavala Kubuabola, during the annual International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings. The two banks will guarantee payments on behalf of exporters and importers to reduce risk and enhance bilateral trade. Malaysia has similar arrangements with Iran, Venezuela, Nigeria, Mexico, Mozambique, Romania, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Chile.

Vanuatu riddle

Vanuatu President Fred Timakata dissolved parliament on October 14, six weeks after the dismissal of the country's first prime minister Fr Walder Lini. Timakata has called a general election for December 2. Meanwhile, Fr Lini has claimed that according to the Westminster parliamentary system he is the opposition leader — he was dumped by the ruling Vanua'aku Party and formed his own National United Party (NUP). The NUP is now the majority party with 22 members after William Mahit, who

Lini had sacked as Lands Minister, crossed the floor to join the NUP on October 11. However, the Tan Union's Vincent Boulekone, who also is the Speaker of Parliament, said the NUP had been formed after the last election, so it did not even exist in Parliament because no-one had voted to elect any NUP MPs. Boulekone said he would only accept a decision after a parliamentary debate.

Fatal air crash

All 15 people aboard a Solomon Islands Twin Otter plane died when it crashed during a domestic flight on September 27. It crashed in mountains 40-miles south east of Honiara on a flight from Kirakira. The passengers included the recently recruited expatriate pilot, a mother and her two children, an Australian volunteer teacher, a prisoner serving a life sentence and his police escort, and the principal of a Church of Melanesia theological training centre and his wife.

Parliament building unstable

NEW Zealand contractors are working on a new piling system to stabilise the new parliament building on Majuro in the Marshall Islands. Building was suspended at the end of last year when large cracks were found in the structure of the US\$16 million parliament and administration complex. Engineers found part of the building had sunk because of the unstable coral reef.

No win on Fiji casinos

THE Methodist church in Fiji has reiterated its stand against casinos in Fiji. The church was reacting to reports that a US\$12.2 million hotel development

had made provisions for a casino, although negotiations with the government were continuing for approval. General secretary of the Methodist church in Fiji, Reverend Manasa Lasaro, said casinos were breeding grounds for prostitution and other crimes.

Nori resigns

The Solomon Islands Leader of the Opposition Andrew Nori has resigned. He said he had failed in many attempts to increase the number of Opposition members in Parliament and it would be counter-productive for him to stay on as leader. He said he also had stepped on too many toes. His replacement would be replaced at the end of October.

Drug abuse hits schools

MARIJUANA smoking is becoming a problem in Western Samoan schools, especially in rural areas, says the head of Western Samoa's Schools Principals' Association. Leaula Tavita Amosa called for widespread community action. Some schools reported drug abuse has replaced cigarette smoking and beer drinking as the main offence leading to expulsion.

New USP head

Esekia Solofa became the University of the South Pacific's first South Pacific vice-chancellor last month. Solofa is presently the Director of Development at the USP's Laucala Campus in Suva. He will replace present vice-chancellor, Geoffrey Caston, who finishes early next year.

Solofa, 46, has a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Canterbury University in New Zealand, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard in the United States. He is a former teacher and headmaster of Samoa College and has served as chairman of Western Samoa's Public Service Commission. He joined the university as Director of the Institute of Social and Administrative Studies and was appointed Director of Development in 1989. He also served as pro vice-chancellor and acted as vice-chancellor.

No to driftnets

CANADA has become the 15th nation to sign the Wellington Convention which prohibits driftnet fishing in the South Pacific. Protocol Two is open to all countries on the Pacific rim. By signing, the countries agree to prohibit use of driftnets by any ship in the region.

Labour racket

FIJI police have begun investigations into a cheap labour racket luring young men and women to Japan with the promise of good money. In Tokyo, their passports are seized and they are illegally hired out to Japanese firms. Their wages are taken by their agent, believed to be a Pakistani national, who workers claim only gives them part of their pay. □



Tuning in: aerals on most homes in the Suva area showed the significance given to television's debut last month

Tuning every home in to history

FIJI had its first taste of television last month after Television New Zealand was granted temporary rights to operate and broadcast the second rugby World Cup tournament live from the United Kingdom and France.

Residents of the Suva area scrambled out to buy aerials, or materials to create their own — from denuded umbrella frames to frayed computer cables. By 6pm Thursday, October 3, the skyline was dotted with contraptions bolted at odd angles to every second rooftop, and families and friends crowded around screens for the historic moment.

Many persevered until 3am to watch a line-up of international news, comedies and documentaries which followed. Some local schools reported record absenteeism among students and teachers on the Friday, and again on the Monday. Ratu Sukuna Memorial School vice-principal Josaia Benaca said "TV hangovers" had created drowsiness, headaches and body aches among those who did make it to school.

However, the big lure for the Rugby-mad nation was Fiji's scheduled match

against Canada on Sunday evening, October 6. Unfortunately, Fiji's lacklustre performance then and in the days ahead failed to gain them television immortality.

A satellite broadcast in Samoa sounded a sweeter tune.

Samoa's performances (see page 49) were viewed by cheering crowds after Television New Zealand helped the Broadcasting Department of Samoa set up a satellite dish in Apia for a closed circuit viewing of the Cup, and the Government announced within days it had approved TVNZ's bid to establish a television service there.

The Western Samoa government had called for expressions of interest in setting up a service and received a number of proposals from foreign private organisations. But the World Cup exercise made the Government's approval, in principle, of TVNZ's proposal timely, appreciated, and perhaps no big surprise. Meanwhile, despite a crushing Cup defeat, many Fijians who have tasted television are hoping for a similar announcement. □

Status move losing steam

Poll results raise some doubts about Guam's Commonwealth movement.

LEADERS of Guam's Commonwealth movement are in an unenviable position. While maintaining a united front and "full steam" ahead posture with Federal negotiators on a new political status, the island's Commission on Self-Determination appears to be losing public support.

An independent University of Guam telephone poll of about 400 voters, published in May, concluded that a 60 per cent majority of those polled, including 52 per cent of Chamorro voters, do not believe or are unsure whether Guam needs a Commonwealth status. A 53 per cent majority agreed with Guam Delegate Ben Blaz that Guam should negotiate changes in the Draft Bill and when necessary break out sections of the bill to introduce as separate legislation.

Finally an 89 per cent majority, including 90 per cent of the Chamorros, wanted a public education program to clarify what the Commission was doing.

Commission spokesmen poo-

pooed the survey as a "hatchet job" by Professor Bob Rogers, ex-Commission Executive Director under former



Ada: pressed to make the island more competitive

Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo. But then another voter poll, conducted on behalf of the island's Gannett Company daily newspaper, the *Pacific Daily News* and K57 Radio, and taken by a private, highly reliable polling agency, confirmed the results. It also indicated public support for Commonwealth had dropped to 27 per cent compared to the initial 49 per cent voter support provided in the 1982 plebiscite. That lost support appeared to be switching to status quo, which received 25 per cent in the *Pacific Daily News* survey, up 15 points from the 10 per cent it garnered in 1982; and statehood, which received 28 per cent in the PDN poll, up from 26 per cent in 1982. Independence was up 1.3 points to 5.3 while free association was down from the 4 per cent of 1982 to 2.4 per cent.

Many political observers on Guam speculated that the gradual shift was due not least to the time passed getting from the plebiscite to meaningful negotiations with the US government. Several Guam Commissions under Governors Calvo, Bordallo and Ada took six years to draft the proposed bill. It was introduced into Congress by Guam's Delegate in 1988. The Commission and a Federal Task Force have since been discussing a compromise version, which they hope to have for Congress next year. The delay

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THE REGION

was partly caused by the Commission's original position that it could not negotiate any part of the bill.

After a heated face-off with a Congressional sub-committee in December 1989, the Commission resolved that it could negotiate "technical changes" but that the principles of the bill's provisions could not be changed. Talks were resumed but the Commission's uncompromising stance also confused voters.

Another aspect of the problem may be that during that six-year period, and the three years since the bill's introduction, Guam has experienced unprecedented economic growth. Since Guam leaders envisioned and touted the Commonwealth movement primarily as a way to remove federal constraints on the island's commercial expansion, some segments of the population are asking why Commonwealth is needed. Moreover political conservatism normally runs wide and deep during healthy economic times.

Then, there always has been a segment of Guam's population, coalesced around the Filipino-American minority, that feared provisions of the Bill that would confer some exclusive political and economic rights on the Chamorro indigenous group. This group appears to be gaining economic allies and others who are tired of the drawn-out process or confused about it.

Disunity continued to grow in July as the Guam Chamber of Commerce reignited a bitter feud between the Commission and Delegate Blaz. The Chamber, concerned about what it saw as declining quality of service in the tourism industry, asked for the immigration section to be taken out of the Commonwealth Bill and given expedited treatment by separate track legislation in the US Congress.

The immigration compromise worked out by the Commission and the feds provides for a special guest worker program that would allow non-US citizen, alien, skilled, unskilled and professionals to come to Guam for six-year periods. They could full permanent as well as temporary jobs and the Governor could control their numbers. But the guest workers would not be allowed to use their Guam time toward eventual naturalisation. The US government, under the proposal, would retain overall authority under Commonwealth for Guam's immigration.

The Chamber had pressed Ada throughout the summer to address the changing nature of Japanese tourism and make the island more competitive. "If we don't manage to raise our level of service, we will suffer more and more," said Manfred Piper, president of the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association. Piper and other tourism leaders believe the dearth of skilled labor on the island is the

main reason for low quality of tourism service.

Several Commission members expressed dismay and alarm at the prospect. The Governor and the Commission have been engaged in a nasty little public dispute over the past two years with Guam Delegate to Congress Ben Blaz who had proposed a similar "separate track approach" to other section of the Draft Commonwealth Bill. Blaz wanted to move quickly and separately on the return of excess federal land, the extension of Supplemental Security Income to Guam residents, and war reparations.

As Commission member David Lujan said, "Where are we going to draw the line when it comes to introducing separate bills. Congress is going to be faced with one major bill and many sub-bills. Congress will say 'Let's put this big bill aside and put attention to the smaller ones'."

But Ada, in a surprise mood that caught the Commission offguard, dis-

agreed. Perhaps partly in response to business community criticism that his administration was not adequately responding to changing trends in Japanese tourism, Ada supported the Chamber's request. "It's important to note that if there are certain problems that need to be attended to immediately, then we can't be steadfast," Ada told the Commission on July 28. "We'll have to be open-minded. I'll advise the Chamber the Commission does not like the idea, but is willing to discuss it."

The Guam Commission continues its schedule of meetings with federal officials and has not publicly indicated any need to change its strategy or tactics. But public disillusionment with the process of status change, and growing economic pressures for separate track solutions to current problems will continue to complicate the Commission's task. It also may delay an already drawn-out process and, after all, the next gubernatorial election is only three years away. □

White House off track, out of touch

By David North

A POLITE letter from George Bush's White House has Guam's teeth on edge.

It was a thank-you note to the Governor, and it was signed by the Director of White House Personnel, Constance Horner, a powerful figure in Washington.

The problems were: the Governor to whom it was addressed, Ricky Bordallo, had not been governor for four and a half years; and he is no longer alive.

The White House had lost track of Guam's political calendar and, worse, had missed the widely reported suicide of Bordallo, who chained himself to a statue of an ancient Chamorro chieftain on a public square and shot himself, rather than spend a few months in a Mainland prison camp.

He had earlier been convicted of corruption in a federal court and was scheduled to report to prison the day after he killed himself.

The White House letter thanked the Governor for his recommendations of some persons for presidential appointments, and assured him that they still were under consideration. The note apparently was a routine form letter, and related to recommendations which must have been sent to the White House years earlier. Bordallo left office in early 1987,



Bordallo: scrappy and successful too

and died on January 30, 1990.

As luck would have it, the letter came to Bordallo's widow, Madeleine, a scrappy and successful Democratic politician in her own right. She was recently elected to fill a vacancy in the Territorial Senate after losing a race for the Governorship in November, 1990.

Her spokesperson said "she really thinks the White House should keep up on who they're writing."

The *Pacific Daily News* grumbled editorially about the letter indicating, yet again, the "not always benign neglect" that so often characterises Washington's treatment of Guam. □

TONGA

Eua awake! the Marines have landed

By Kevin Doll

FOR the Tongan population on Eua Island, it was a normal night; the cool southeasterly breeze was whistling, almost tunelessly, through the tall, swaying palm trees, as the vast Pacific Ocean belched itself, with resounding sighs, onto the island's coral-sand beaches.

Against an August backdrop of the familiar sounds of a rolling surf, creaking coconut palms, chirping crickets, and scurrying crab scavengers, Eua slept — oblivious to the fleet of invaders, riding the midnight waves within a harpoon's ambit from shore.

Chief Scout Swimmer for the "intruding" forces, Corporal Robert Gasser, of the United States Marines, was scared. He was in unfamiliar waters, and tiring fast with the knowledge that his team of scout swimmers was scattered.

He knew he had to make a quick decision, either to find the beach his team had to reconnoitre for the impending amphibious landing, or call off the landing because of the dangerous conditions.

His swim partner, Corporal Patrick Lynch, who he thought was right behind him, was trapped out on a reef, unable to escape the eight-foot waves which were pounding him against the coral.

Luckily for Lynch, 21-year-old Tongan Private, Neti Tanaki, who was also separated from his swim partner, heard his cries over the roar of the pounding surf. "I just felt this big hand grab me and yank me right out," Lynch said later.

After assessing the water and reef conditions, Corporal Gasser opted to set off an illumination pop-up, signalling the invading forces not to come in.

The troop commanders then decided it would be wiser to proceed to the Eua dock to land, considering that it was, after all, a very friendly "invasion".

The August/September "invasion", by a combination of American, Australian and Tongan troops, was hosted by the Tongan Defence Service to provide the Royal Tongan Marines with experience in amphibious and maritime surveillance



KEVIN DOLL

At the ready: in Tongan waters, a joint US-Tonga operation prepares a practice assault on Eua

operations.

Code-named *Tafakula '91*, it was historically the first occasion that a United States military unit had conducted a joint operational exercise with the Tongan forces. It was also the first major US Marine exercise in the region since World War II.

American participation in the exercise, through platoons from Hawaii-based Kilo Company, Third Battalion, Third Marines, and Alpha Company, Third

Reconnaissance Battalion, followed an invitation from the Tongan Defence Forces which is being re-organised to place increased emphasis on maritime and amphibious operations.

The Tongan and American forces were complemented by troops from the Assault Pioneers Platoon, First Royal Australian Regiment. Another aspect of the exercise was the joint maritime surveillance training, which saw the inclusion of three Australian-designed Tongan patrol boats, an Australian

patrol boat and an Australian Orion aircraft.

The US Marine contingent, led by Captain Leon Pappa, was tasked with assisting in the various amphibious operations *Tafakula '91* required. This included the training of a scout swimmer team composed of Tongans and Australians, and led by Corporal Gasser and other Kilo Company scout swimmers.

"Last year, during exercise *Late Tofua '90*, the emphasis was maritime," Lieutenant Colonel Fetu'utolu Tupou, the Commander of the Tonga Defence Services said. "This year *Tafakula '91* also emphasised ground training."

The Tongans and Australians were the driving force behind the ground manoeuvres of *Tafakula '91*, with the island of Eua as the battlefield. The multinational forces found the jungle, hills, grasslands and sheer cliffs of Eua a foe in itself.

Beginning with the midnight amphibious landing, platoons from the three participating countries conducted day and night patrols to neutralise the "enemy" forces of a similar but smaller, multi-national group, composed of US Marines, Australians and Tongans.

Neutral judges roamed Eua, and during firefights, designated the "dead" and "captured".

The final assault of *Tafakula '91* came in a pre-dawn raid as the friendly forces attacked the stronghold of the "enemy", an abandoned house on a cliff overlooking the ocean. Firing blanks at the fleeing forces with illumination rounds lighting up the sky, the "fight" was brought quickly to an end.

Tupou and Pappa said the exercise was a success. "The familiarisation of equipment at the start was a very good move," Tupou said. "The training teams must be congratulated for their efforts."

For the Americans, Pappa said most of their training objectives had been achieved. "We were able to provide some basis for future operating procedures for the Tongans in ship-to-shore transfers."

The Kilo Company commander explained this was of vital importance to the Tongans due to their available resources and the need for a high state of readiness in amphibious-styled operations.

He said the training and subsequent amphibious operations also showed the pitfalls and dangers of such training, evident in high surf and coral obstacles in the region. "We gained good learning experiences from the Tongans and Australian, because of their different training and patrolling techniques," Captain Pappa said. "The Tongans know how to

stay alive in the jungle ... what to eat and what not to eat."

Tafakula '91, however, was not all sweaty, camouflaged, rifle-wielding, Rambo-type towering giants, as seven-year old Caroline Halahala found out. Although she needed a translator to understand what the tall American was saying, her relief at having an ingrown toenail removed was a credit to the Medical Civil Action Program (MedCAP), that coincided with *Tafakula '91*.

Three Kanehoe Bay Navy doctors and six corpsmen helped local medical workers treat the locals. "The Tongans had requested that we perform MedCAP during the exercise," said senior doctor, Captain Robert Knudson. "There are a shortage of doctors in Tonga; medical assistants take up the slack."

He said most of the illnesses treated were similar to those in the United States. "The nutritional balance of the Tongan diet is good and they have a good immunisation plan," he added. Illnesses treated ranged from skin infections, diabetes and tumors, to ear and viral infections.

The medical team donated five tons of antibiotics and medications to the Tongan government. □

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL.

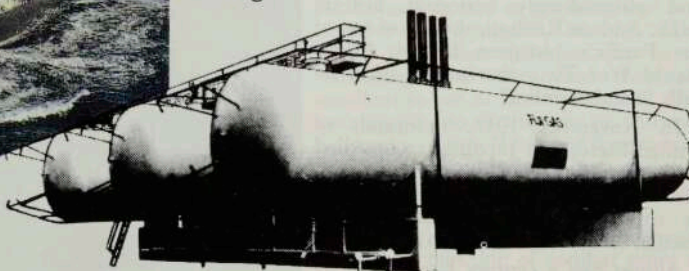


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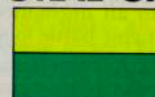
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Saved: Stan Gajda with the 90-year-old naval gun he helped restore on Betio in Kiribati

Gajda's Guns of Betio

IF ever a country and a man with a hobby were made for each other, it would have to be Kiribati and Stan Gajda. Gajda is an Australian who has lived in Kiribati since 1989, working as Project Site Supervisor for a major Australian International Development Assistance Bureau engineering project. He is training a local team to construct a series of causeways and bridges linking Kiribati's outer islands.

But Gajda's hobby — more of a passion, to tell the truth — is collecting and painstakingly restoring historic relics. And on Kiribati, the site of one of the Pacific's bloodiest battles during World War Two, that means what he calls "combat relics".

In November 1943, thousands of United States and Japanese troops died in 76 hours in the Battle of Tarawa, when the US forces pushed Japan from one of its strongest command bases in the Pacific, on the island of Betio in Kiribati.

Almost half a century later, Betio — where Gajda now lives — is Kiribati's most populous urban centre. But it is also still home to an uncounted number of relics of that epic battle fought long ago.

Gajda, who has now become Kiribati's "unofficial war relics consultant", discovered this when he first visited Kiribati



Saved: Gajda and fellow Australian Phil Young with combat relics

on holidays in the early 1980s; in fact, it was the main reason he went there in the first place. Said he: "We just walked around and you looked down and you

could see bullets and all sorts of other bits and pieces. Even now, I walk along the beach at low tide and see all sorts of rubbish left over from the war.

"There's a Japanese tank down on the beach. When I first had a look at that, it still had the machine gun in it. I couldn't believe it. There was a lot of stuff just waiting to be saved from eventual destruction by the elements."

So Gajda began searching Betio, and the other islands of Kiribati's North and South Tarawa chain.

Taking a metal detector with him, he discovered war relics everywhere, and took the best-preserved and most unusual examples home to restore and add

FOCUS

to his growing collection. In and around Gajda's house, there are various kinds of ammunition, from small cartridges to anti-tank mortar shells (any suspected of still being live he keeps outside in his yard). He has also collected equipment used by the US and Japanese troops, including guns, helmets, eating utensils and Japanese body armour.

One of the most poignant objects in his collection is a standard-issue US Marine Corps eating dish found in the shallow lagoon off Betio, still showing the marks of its use. "It would have come from a Marine's backpack. He probably dropped it in the battle — the Americans staged their major landing on that beach, and many of them were hit and put out of action there," Gajda said. "The dish was covered in rust, but now I've cleaned it up you can see the scratch marks the bloke made on the bottom with his fork and spoon when he was eating".

Gajda has also restored and re-mounted one of the old 8-inch naval guns used by the Japanese Imperial Forces, which still sits on Betio's ocean beach. This gun, a British-made Armstrong Whitworth, is over 90 years old. It was supplied by the British arms manufacturer Vickers Armstrong on contract to the Japanese Imperial Navy in 1900, and is believed to have been installed on a battleship and fired in the Sino-Japanese war of 1905.

When Japan entered World War Two in the Pacific, the gun was taken from storage and used for the defence of Betio. Said Gajda: "We restored it with a Tourism Council of the South Pacific grant. It was in the worst condition of all of the big naval guns here, almost falling over when we found it. It took \$14,000 to fix it up."

Asked why so many relics of the war had been simply allowed to rust away on



Saved: mortar shells



Saved: anti-aircraft gun in Gajda's front yard

Kiribati, he said it was because for local people much of the "combat rubbish" appeared to serve no practical purpose.

"I think that these sort of things really don't contribute to peoples' lives here as local islanders, and so anything that isn't useful to them is just left," he said. "They would find rifles with just the barrel remaining, and they find they are excellent to use as iron rods across their cooking pits, to sit the pots on. Aircraft fuel tanks — they'll be used for washing tubs, or to hold water. But stuff like ammunition cartridges, that's just left lying around," he said.

Now, Gajda believes the time is right to use his collection of combat relics to establish a memorial for posterity, and even provide a boost for Kiribati's tourist industry. "Some of the relics are unique, and they would make an interesting display for people to see. For example, historians, tourists, US and Japanese war veterans and their descendants." □



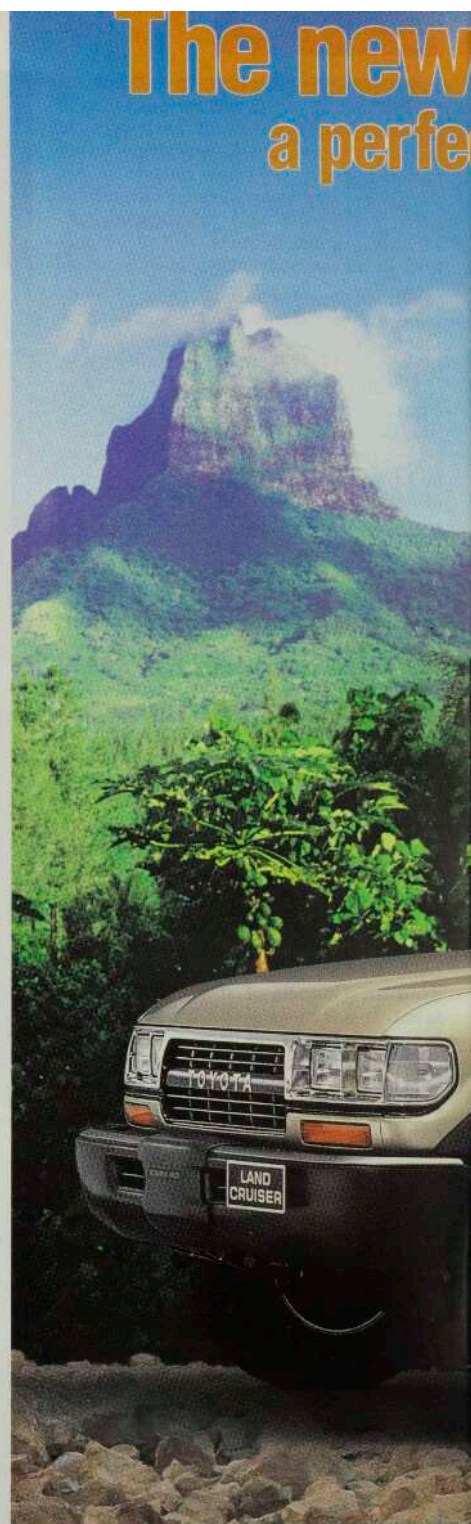
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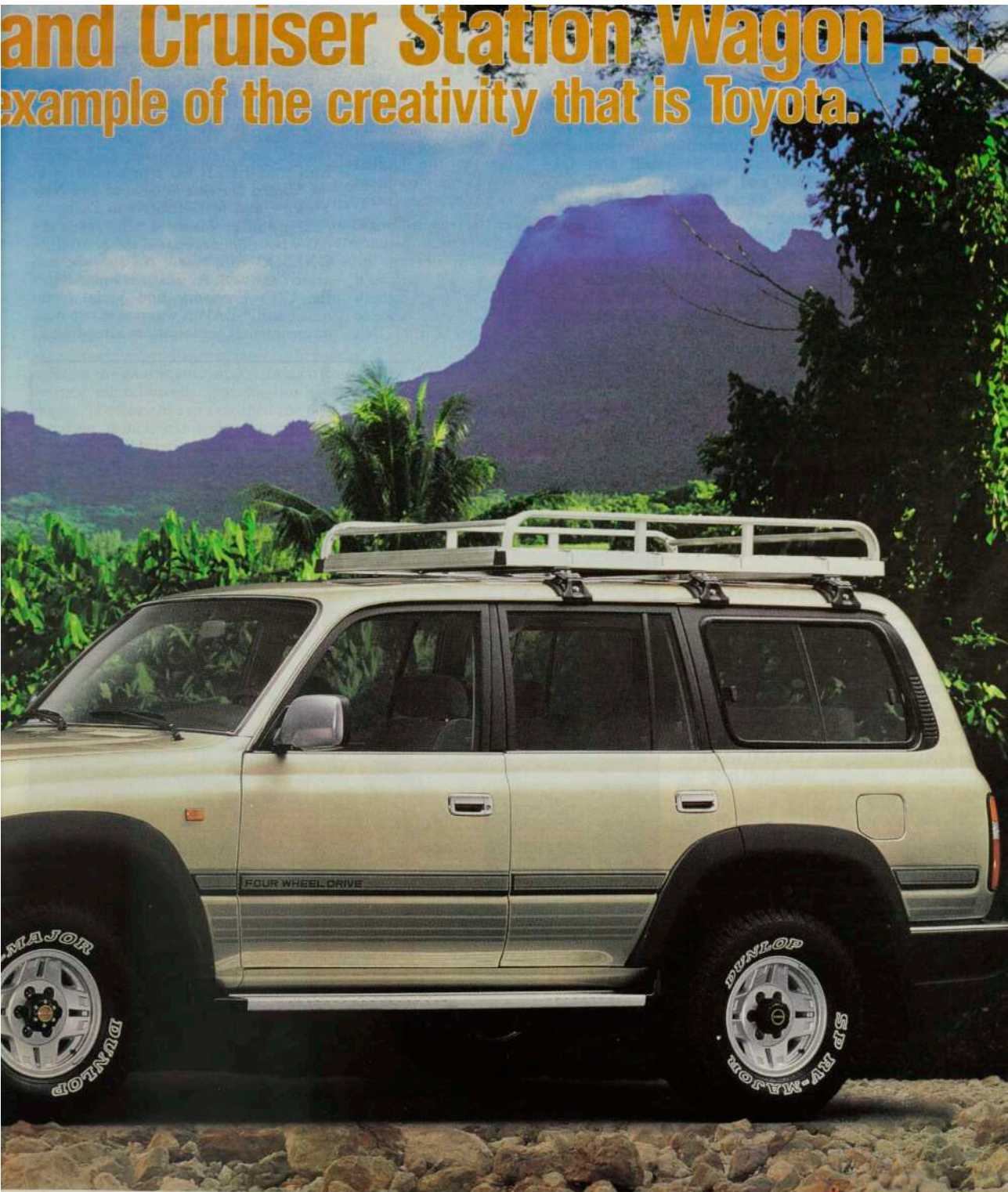
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Women and the environment

PACIFIC women will have the chance to get together in a series of meetings to discuss women and the environment in the next few years.

Supported by UNESCO and WHO, the Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA) will host regional meetings in the Philippines this October, in New Zealand next April, then in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Another grant from UNESCO has allowed the organisation to produce a poster in eight languages promoting the

importance of the environment to family life. Based on a painting produced by American artist Joan Snyder, members will also take copies to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Brazil next year.

Any that are left will be seen in Tonga, where the Association's next plenary conference will be held in 1994 at the invitation of Princess Nanasipau'u Tuku'aho. 1994 will be the thirtieth anniversary of the previous conference to be held in Tonga, as well as the UN's

"Year of the Family". The expected 300 delegates will be attending.

Founded in Hawaii in 1928, the Association has now held 18 conferences. The last one was attended by delegates from Tokelau, Tonga, Fiji, both Samoas, Hawaii and New Zealand, and Pacific Rim countries. It has representatives to the United Nations in Geneva and New York — and to UNESCO in Paris.

Mrs Shirley Munyan, who holds the latter position, negotiated the grant from UNESCO with ease. "No one else had asked" she says. At this year's meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Commission, PPSEAWA was one of two non-governmental organisations attending. □

Aid to reduce dependence on aid

By Ian Williams

AID to reduce aid dependence is the intention of a recent United Nations Development Programme "multi-island" project, the South Pacific Project Facility.

Based on previous projects in the Caribbean and Africa, it is intended to help small and medium enterprises. Australia, Japan, Canada and others are donating \$46.25 million for the scheme, and UNDP is offering \$750,000 which is intended to provide technical help to would-be entrepreneurs.

In particular, UNDP's help would provide expertise in drawing up project plans to persuade the financial institutions and joint venture partners to invest.

It also will provide training for government officials and development bank personnel in the field of new business development.

They will be looking especially at ways to help smaller businesses in sectors like agriculture and fisheries. The current minimum is about \$100,000, which is a massive sum for many of the economies and businesses in the island. UNDP hopes to lower the minimum, and to provide opportunities for agriculturists and fishermen to submit joint applications. But it need not be fishermen — the project will be looking especially for women entrepreneurs.

Currently it is believed that the project has only one hitch — a squabble among the donors over the headquarters, some of whom are reported to want it to remain based in Sydney, and others who want it to remove the islands.

Another UNDP project in PNG is



Big-time fishermen: smaller fry could also get a boost from UNDP aid

providing first aid for the traditional enemies of small businesses — the taxmen. A million from UNDP is added to \$1.25 million from Australia and the same from Port Moresby itself to train Public Accounts staff in systems develop-

ment and troubleshooting.

The regional secretariat which administers five provinces will also be getting help. It is hoped that better cash flow and monitoring will help balance the budget. □

Defence within . . . or without

DOES New Zealand need a defence force? It's a question that crops up every now and again and the arguments have probably never been as persuasive as they are today.

The fall of communism in Europe and the apparent ending of Soviet expansionism have removed half a century's need to prepare to fight the Red Peril. As a Defence White Paper published earlier this year noted: "There are no direct threats to our security".

The country's economic plight, which is forcing dramatic cuts in social welfare spending and unprecedented trimming of government expenditure in many other areas, enforces the case against maintaining a costly defence establishment that has no obvious enemy. (Defence has not escaped the cuts. Its spending, which has been around two per cent of gross domestic product for many years, is heading down towards 1.6 per cent. But it still consumes more than \$1 billion a year.)

The country's anti-nuclear policy has been in place for more than six years without any of the dire consequential predictions of its opponents coming true. New Zealand survived and there are even signs that the United States may be learning to live with it.

Little wonder that people — even those who could never be accused of being isolationist — are again asking whether we actually *need* to continue spending all that money. Is a defence force a bit of a luxury when economically the country is like a poor boy with the seat hanging out of his pants, they ask?

They are not alone, for countries around the world are looking to be able to reduce defence spending in the light of the ending of the Cold War and the consequent easing of international tension.

These are questions of considerable interest to Pacific Island countries. Tokelau, Niue and the Cook Islands have a very direct interest, for New Zealand is constitutionally responsible for their defence. The Treaty of Friendship with Western Samoa has implied obligations, and membership of the South Pacific Forum and the large number of island people in New Zealand make it impossible for this country to overlook regional interests in its foreign and defence policies.

In addition, New Zealand has mutual assistance programmes — with defence training in one form or another as the main purpose — with the Cooks, Western Samoa, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu.

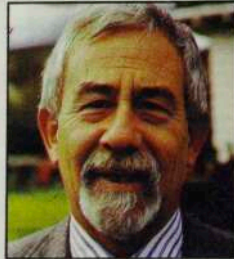
To them it would probably be unthinkable that New Zealand should dismantle its defence forces and abdicate its responsibilities and training assistance. If it did, they would almost certainly feel the need to invite other countries to fill the gap — a situation that could revive, rather than diminish, tensions in the area.

Anyway, the National government is not about to declare the defence establishment redundant or renege on its commitment to the islands — any more than its Labour predecessors would, although they probably had a larger share of pacifists, neutralists and isolationists in their party ranks.

Despite the budgets cut (which the defence establishment insists have been directed at infrastructure rather than operational capabilities) New Zealand forces will continue to be seen in the four- or five-a-year exercises they conduct in the region.

These give the island states' military, paramilitary and police forces training that does not cost them a great deal and the New

WELLINGTON



DAVID
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Zealand Army tropical experience they have not been getting so readily since pulling out of Singapore in 1989.

Since the withdrawal of military co-operation with Fiji after the 1987 military coups, these exercises have been shared more widely with other Pacific countries, giving them more regular links with New Zealand and the defence forces more experience of their neighbours.

To mutual benefit, New Zealand usually combines military exercises with civic action in the form of medical or engineer construction activities which benefit the local communities.

New Zealand forces also maintain a ready ability to assist whenever the natural disasters which hit the Pacific all too frequently strike. The New Zealand Army spent 25,000 man days in the South Pacific last year — and much of it was on reconstruction work following Cyclone Ofa.

New Zealand's interest is not, of course, entirely altruistic. The White Paper identified three potential situations which might call for a limited deployment of New Zealand forces in the region — the need to evacuate New Zealand citizens, a terrorist threat or attack, and requests for assistance in dealing with low-level threats to law and order.

"Within the South Pacific, security problems will continue to be internal rather than externally inspired," the paper said.

It deduced that the island states were of little interest to larger powers and had few instabilities that could be exploited.

"New Zealand's interests are, however, affected by the continuing ability of Pacific Island governments to provide a stable environment for economic growth and social development. Their success, or lack of it, will shape the region's political stability, migration patterns and the calls on New Zealand's resources."

Being able to respond to "low-level contingencies" in the Pacific is thus a key plank of defence policy.

New Zealand has a body called the Ready Reaction Force — effectively an infantry battalion group of up to 2000, including mortars, light artillery, armoured reconnaissance vehicles, engineers and logistic support — for such contingencies.

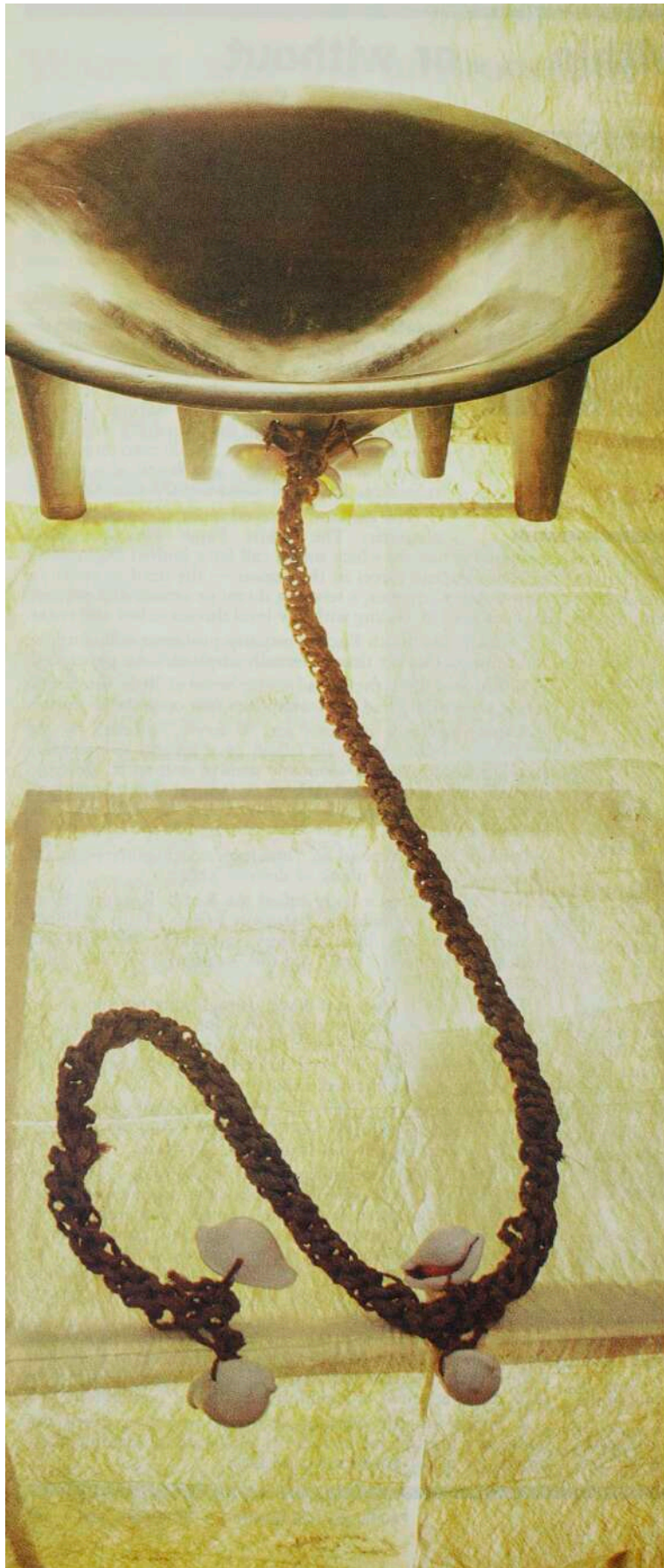
The snag is it does not have enough suitable air or sea transport to move and sustain such a force in the region. As the White Paper pointed out: "Our current airlift capability may not be sufficient for even limited low-level contingencies, and we have no dedicated sealift."

The Air Force's five Hercules transport aircraft are about 25 years old and increasingly costly to keep flying. The Navy's tanker carries fuel but has little room for stores.

It is this sort of irrational gap (a bit like buying a Mercedes Benz when you can't drive) that stimulates arguments against having a defence force at all. The anomaly was identified in the 1987 defence review, but although the government is finding money for the new Anzac frigates it has made no provision for the logistic support ship the White Paper said was "a further and essential part of our ability to mount effective operations in the region".

The White Paper said the capability to deploy "a sizeable force to every Pacific Island" was not warranted. It suggested a converted merchant ship that could go to islands which have seats of government of significant centres of population.

A review on the question is under way but, given the budgetary limitations, nobody in Wellington is holding their breath for a fast government decision. □



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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS



Masterminding an economic comeback

By Martin Tiffany

As you gaze from Josevata Kamikamica's window across the serene setting of Albert Park towards the lush botanical gardens and the sea wall, there is a

definite calming effect.

It may have been on this scene that the deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning looked as he pondered Fiji's economic future after the 1987 coups — a future that many predicted would take years to recover. But, with the quietly-spoken

▲ **Cup running over:** despite temporary setbacks, tourism is one of Fiji's industries tipped for future growth. Investment in Fiji is being promoted to local and international investors from the United States, Europe, Japan, South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand at this month's Networking South Pacific '91 forum and trade show, organised by the Fiji Trade and Investment Board through the UNDP/UNIDO and the Centre for the Development of Industry in Brussels. The forum, to be held at the Sheraton Fiji Resort in Nadi from November 13-16, also will cover manufacturing, agro-fisheries, forestry and services.

BUSINESS

Kamikamica as the mastermind, the economy has staged a remarkable comeback.

Fiji already has proved its potential by holding its own over the past three-and-a-half years, particularly considering that even before the 1987 events its economic performance left much to be desired.

Economic growth, in real terms, measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) totalled only six per cent between 1981 and 1986 — an average of about one per cent per annum. Per capita growth in real incomes was negative between 1980 and 1986. Average real income per capita fell by seven per cent during this time.

Numbers in total paid employment declined from 81,406 in 1981 to 79,854 in 1986. This was at a time when about 11,000 young people were joining the

labour force each year.

Government debt had risen from F\$268 million (27 per cent of GDP) in 1980, to F\$581 million (40 per cent of GDP) in 1986. Annual interest payments had risen from F\$16 million to F\$49 million.

When Kamikamica took the reigns of the economy after the interim government was appointed, Fiji had lost international friends, its foreign reserves were depleted, business confidence had fallen, the inflow of tourists had halved, and unemployment had soared. The interim-government commissioned a "stocktake" of the economy.

"The unavoidable conclusion from the economic stocktake was that what was required was not a strategy to correct the immediate impact of the coups, but to put the economy on a path of sustained growth," Kamikamica explained. "This

meant acknowledging that policies of government intervention in the economy, including its own economic involvement, and policies of regulating wages and industries, had not succeeded."

Kamikamica explained that the lesson to be learned (regardless of hardships caused by the coups) was that a small open economy has little choice but to adjust to world conditions if it wants to improve its living standards. Policies were designed to change Fiji from a high-cost, high-tax and slow-growth country, to an efficient and competitive producer.

The idea is to put the country's resources into efficient domestic production and export-oriented production rather than inefficient production for local markets. Consequently, many import duties and fiscal duties were reduced in the 1989 and 1990 budgets.

In a recent appraisal of Pacific island



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economies, the World Bank reports that Fiji has potential for faster progress than neighbouring island states. It parallels Fiji and Mauritius and says the key to sustained growth will be greater private participation in investment and economic affairs. Results show things are going the right way.

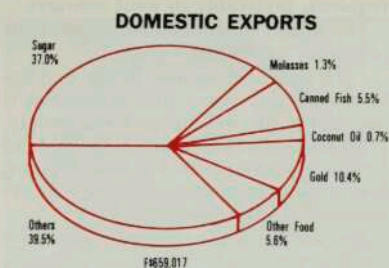
Economic growth in Fiji in real terms from 1989 to 1990 totalled 18.6 per cent of GDP — an annual average increase of 6.2 per cent. GDP in 1986 was F\$1326.1 million, in 1987 F\$1329.2 million, in 1988 F\$1433.3 million, in 1989 F\$1661.4 million and last year it rose to F\$1859.9 million.

Income per head has increased from 1987 to 1990 by nearly 40 per cent from about F\$1800 to F\$2500.

The number in total paid employment has increased from 78,200 in 1987 to 89,900 in 1990, recording a fall in unemployment from 9.3 per cent in 1987 to 6.4 per cent in 1990 and it is expected to fall below six per cent this year.

The biggest rise in employment has been in manufacturing — a direct result of the Tax Free Factory (TFF) scheme introduced in late 1987. In the first quarter of this year manufacturing employed 22,089 people, compared with 13,482 employed in the last quarter of 1987. The TFF scheme also is currently one of the major generators of foreign exchange earnings. Last year it attracted F\$53.3 million of investment and generated F\$231.1 million of exports.

"To encourage the transition of Fiji from an inward oriented economy to an outward, or export, oriented economy, the government has given special incentives



to encourage investment in exporting industries," Kamikamica said.

"We think that manufacturing for export has good potential for Fiji. This view is supported by the immediate and dramatic development of the garment industry in Fiji. We expect production of other manufactured goods to expand in future. Footwear, furniture and food processing have been mentioned as good prospects, but there are plenty of others.

"Outside manufacturing, we still look to the tourist industry as a major source of economic growth... I see

opportunities also in forest products, fishing, mining and non-sugar agriculture," Kamikamica said.

According to Len Wilson of Fiji Forest Industries (FFI) the forest industry could contribute up to double the present levels. About 500,000 cubic metres of logs per year are presently produced, of which half is from the pine industry.

Last year gross tourism earning was estimated at F\$335 million while sugar earnings are around F\$200 million. Other major exports include unrefined gold, timber and fish.

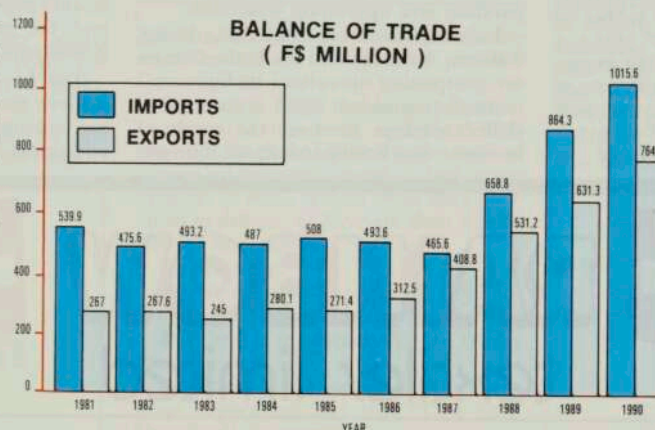
Andrew Thomson, chief executive of the Japanese giant EIE International which is developing the major integrated resort at Denarau Island near Nadi International Airport, says tourism has helped transform the islands into the region's top vacation destination.

"Last year, our 4500 hotel rooms provided accommodation for a record 278,000 visitors who generated F\$340 million in foreign exchange. In terms of a GDP of F\$1.229 billion, tourism represented about 12 per cent.

"It employs, directly and indirectly, some 24,000 but the multiplier effect of the tourism dollar brings the wealth of the industry to every village and settlement," said Thomson.

On a broad scale the economy is largely based on private enterprise, with government ownership of service utilities, the national airline (Air Pacific), and the Fiji Sugar Corporation which mills all the country's sugar.

Sada Reddy, the research director at the Re-



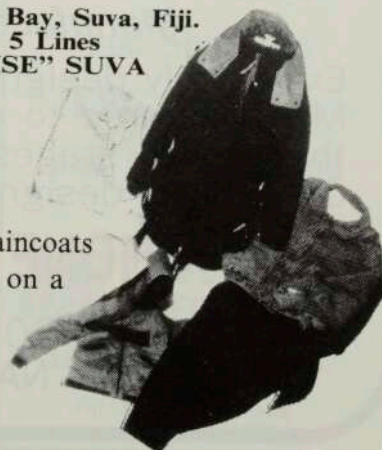
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serve Bank of Fiji (RBF), says at present Fiji businesses rely predominantly on overdraft and term lending from the commercial banks and the non-banks. He said alternatives need to be developed like greater equity participation and raising funds in the market place through issues of various debt instruments.

"But to move on these fronts it may require institutional strengthening. For instance, this may mean strengthening the Suva Stock Exchange. Various finance legislations will need to be reviewed so that they provide the right legal framework to undertake financial reforms," Reddy explained.

Reddy said the RBF already has undertaken a major organisational restructuring. The bank is strengthening its supervisory capabilities to help maintain a stable financial system in a more deregulated economy.

Meanwhile, the RBF says the drop in foreign reserves and continued high demand for private sector credit has seen further contraction in liquidity.

Fiji's external reserves fell to US\$203.8 million at the end of July, from US\$239.4 million at the end of June and US\$215.5 million at the end of July last year.

Kamikamica said most of the investment in Fiji was by local businessmen so a study had been taken to develop new types and sources of finance. But investment from overseas still would be

required, preferably in joint ventures.

He offered investors assurances about next year's elections.

"It is widely recognised in Fiji, and has been for many years, that investment is essential to the well-being of our people. I do not think that it will be possible to form a government in Fiji that does not have a clear commitment to the encouragement of investment."

Despite the fine comeback staged by the Fiji economy it faces some problems and criticism. For example, the Fiji Manufacturers Association says the country's contradictory economic reforms are discouraging potential investment from Asia, especially Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Association president, Padam Lala, says the interim government is deregulating selected industries in Fiji, but not following suit in infrastructure and labour costs. Lala, a garment manufacturer, says changes to labour laws promised October 1 have not happened and instead, delays in labour reforms and the government's contradictory policies are hampering manufacturing from expanding and upgrading businesses.

Lala says investors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia and the United States are postponing operations in Fiji.

Another problem faced is the lack of skilled workers to meet the needs of investors, but Kamikamica said if invest-

ment grows at 10 to 20 per cent per annum or less it will not be a problem. Meanwhile, they had opened a garment training school, were establishing a tourism training school in Nadi, and were bringing in skilled expatriates to address the outflow after 1987.

Looking at the economy as a whole, Kamikamica said strike threats and world recession have combined to rob Fiji of a projected 3.4 per cent economic growth this year. He now predicts the growth to be around 1.5 per cent.

But, in the longer term, Kamikamica sees a rosy future if Fiji pursues financial stability, economy-wide competitiveness, a price structure which reflects world market opportunities, and a regulatory framework that encourages competition.

"In the next five years, if we pursue these policies, we can look forward to growth of up to six per cent per annum, provided that both non-traditional exports and tourism grow at about 9-10 per cent per year. We are hoping that our imports of capital goods and raw materials will grow at a similar pace, to finance expansion in both the traditional and the new export-oriented sector," Kamikamica said.

The key to all this? "If we are to achieve the accelerated growth rates we are looking for, we need very substantial additional investment." □



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For the future? I fright man

New Zealand-born David Ashby, 53, is a chartered accountant who has been involved in businesses including garments, timber, furniture, food processing, can making, chemicals, duty free and manufacturing soap, biscuits and plastics, in New Zealand, Western Samoa and Fiji. Now a Fiji citizen, he runs Ashby and Company — chartered accountants and business consultants. The following is an edited version of his speech at the recent Fiji-Australia Australia-Fiji Business Councils Meeting in Fiji.

FIJI manufacturing has become polarised into two sectors: Tax-Free Factories, producing substantially for export and enjoying considerable advantages; and Import Substitution Factories, producing substantially for the domestic market and considerably beleaguered.

For the former I see many opportunities in the next five years. For the latter, as we say in Fiji: "I fright, man."

Let us concentrate initially on the latter — the older established Import



Ashby: Time for the Government to act

Substitution Factories who were encouraged to start up in Fiji under previous Governments.

Since early 1988 the current Interim Government has been signalling their intention to push Fiji down the road of export-led competitiveness — but in my opinion, in some crucial areas they have failed to deliver, or have got their signals blurred and mixed.

For example:

- Where is the promised Quality Control and Anti-Dumping Legislation?
- Where is the promised Fair Trades Practices Act?
- Where is the promised Tax Free Zone Legislation and true "One Stop Shopping" for investors?

The opportunity (and note, I wish to be positive and optimistic and stress opportunities) — is there for Government to deliver now if they want the manufacturers and investors to keep delivering the goods, and the jobs.

In the light of the forthcoming elections, the resultant change in ministers and perhaps policies, the opportunity is there to act now, or I'm afraid it will be too late — especially for those existing Import Substitution Factories.

The opportunity exists for Government to tell the manufacturing industry now:

- How far deregulation (in the form of Tariff reductions) will go.
- Whether it is to be selective/adhoc/ shareholder-dependant protection as in cement, petroleum and canned fish — or is it to be a level playing field?
- When can existing manufacturers expect protection from "dumping" or selective pricing policies by multi-

nationals trying to put them out of business?

Investors (those left after the economic downturn in most of our neighbouring countries) are cautious men — and the familiar phrases of "Well let's delay the decision on Fiji until after: the election; we see who the new Minister is; the legislation is enacted/decreed"; are well known. These are the words currently being heard from potential investors and those perhaps thinking of turning their existing Fiji factory into an import warehouse operation, rather than re-machining it.

Deregulation was meant to allow consumers a greater and more affordable choice of quality international products. Unfortunately with no Quality Standards Legislation the reality has been a flood of cheap, poor quality items. Brand names and labels change with bewildering speed — no contents description, address of manufacturer, or control of banned additives, are shown on these products.

Should the Fiji manufacturer, hurt by these products, try to export similar items in return, he will be met with Health, Labelling and Quality Assurance controls in Japan, Korea and China that make tariff protection unnecessary.

Where is the level playing field for our manufacturers? The opportunity exists now for Government to bring down the

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decrees they have promised, to alleviate the nervousness and uncertainty. As quite a percentage of our existing Import Substitution Factories have Australian shareholders then time is running out.

What can be done? The Customs Department should be moved from Finance into the Ministry of Trade and Commerce. Our Government must start using tariffs as an instrument of development rather than as a source of revenue. I recommend that 40 per cent nett protection across the board be the norm: duty on raw materials 10 per cent, excise duty on finished goods 10 per cent, nett protection 40 per cent, duty on competitive imports 60 per cent.

Why? With all the world trying madly to export and all our Pacific Rim neighbours having economies of scale, what chance does a small manufacturer, 1500 kilometres into the wide blue Pacific, with a domestic buying population of a medium size Australian town, have to offer against them? But if he had Customs on his side, what a boost.

Let's level up the teams and the playing field. With Customs reporting to the Minister of Trade and Commerce there would be much more consultation with manufacturers before tariffs were set (or reduced). Our Minister could surely be counted on to "blow the whistle" on the professional fowls — the dumping and the standards avoidance, the "exporters at any price" to get foreign exchange.

Five years ahead of our Import Substitution Factories, without a halt to tariff reductions until the Fair Trade

Practices Act and Quality Assurance/Consumers Rights Legislation is in place, I don't like what I see! That said for import substitution factories what do I see five years ahead for manufacturing?

I see concern for political stability and for continuation of previously announced economic policies to which manufacturers are now slowly starting to adopt. I see rising wage costs fuelled by demands for better living standards, rising social welfare costs with staffing costs rising in concert with those of Australia, rising energy costs, rising freight costs and clearance charges, and the current freight war leaving fewer players.

I see increased competition from leaner, hungrier manufacturers in Australia and New Zealand and from imports from our Asian neighbours as shipping routes open to follow the political desire for less dependence on Australia and New Zealand.

But (and I leave the most optimistic for last), I see more use made of Australian raw materials converted and shipped back, as an alternative to fully made-up imports from Asia. I see increased opportunities for progressively higher technologies to use our educated labour pool and our export advantages under LOME into the European Community and GSP into the United States.

This is where Fiji manufacturing must go over the next five years, with opportunities for Government to stop prevaricating and implement the tax free zone legislation, to make the FTIB truly a one-stop shop, to get one clear message to incoming investors — "We want you

and your money, and we will make it very easy for you to start your new business here".

The contradictory messages from Customs, Reserve Bank, and Immigration at present are making Trade and Commerce a joke in trying to encourage investment in manufacturing in Fiji. Deregulation — today. With Reserve Bank of Fiji regulations, Customs, Statistics and Inland Revenue Department Regulations the Manufacturing investor finds that Fiji has one of the most regulated business environments in the region. There is more form filling, monetary returns and exchange controls than in the Colonial era "hay-day".

Opportunities exist and will expand for manufacturing in jewellery, fashion accessory and leisure equipment: anything with fast changing styles, fads or fashions; anything requiring small runs, quick delivery, personal selection/supervision from Australia; anybody requiring low inventory, fast stock turns, flexible production scheduling. Downstream products of the sugar industry — pharmaceutical as well as alcohol based. The furniture and fashion hardwood products industry, after a hesitant start is just beginning to settle down. Peripherals of the sewing industry: sails, towels, leather goods, sports goods all are just beginning!

In the terminology of the sports minded: "Government, after preparing the pitch, setting the boundaries and appointing a fair referee, should stand back and let the game flow — with the ticket collector letting the players in free — for the overall benefit of the spectators." □



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BUSINESS



Garments: Another growth industry for Fiji

Fitted for a big future

By Martin Tiffany

ASK Mark Halabe what the past two years have been like and he claims, with a smile, that in 1989, he didn't have a grey hair.

It was in September of that year that he opened a garment manufacturing firm, Mark One Apparel, in Fiji. He has had to overcome a few problems, to

which he jokingly attributes his change of hair colour, but he is happy with the result.

He shows you around his Suva factory and points out with obvious pride the specialised machines, the airy working conditions, the staff canteen area and the finished product.

Halabe is typical of the new breed of investors who have come to Fiji since

1987 because of the Tax Free Factories, cheap labour and preferential access to Australia and New Zealand under SPARTECA.

Before coming to Fiji Halabe owned and ran two clothing manufacturing companies in Sydney. He streamlined operations, merged the two and left his younger brother in charge.

"The Australian government decided to reduce the protection in the industry. Faced with mounting wage increases, deregulation — that is cheaper imports — we realised in the short term it was going to be impossible for us to manufacture in Australia economically."

So he looked at alternatives including China, Indonesia, Thailand and the South Pacific. For personal as much as economic reasons he chose Fiji — it offered his family security, an attractive lifestyle and no language barriers.

Halabe's highly automated factory specialises in men's and boys' shirts and exports 80 per cent of its output to New Zealand and 20 per cent to Australia.

According to Halabe the largest single problem he faces is the efficiency of the factory.

"My Australian company employs 90 people and produces 100 per cent more than we produce here where I employ 160 to 170 persons. Here we produce around 5500 shirts a week whereas in Australia we produce 7000 to 8000 shirts per week and the type and amount of machinery is duplicated," Halabe said.

But he is quick to point out that his Australian workers have an average of 20 years experience, and that Fiji workers

The decline of Sparteca ... a veiled blessing

THE gradual erosion of the benefits of the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (Sparteca) could be a blessing in disguise for Fiji.

Both Australia and New Zealand are opening up to world trade by reducing general import tariffs, and this will narrow Fiji's advantage.

"Rather than mourning the demise of our Sparteca preferential access we should begin to eradicate the barriers to trade that still exist between our two countries (Fiji and Australia) and to build a freer trading environment," said Berenado Vunibobo, Fiji's Minister for Trade and Commerce.

Speaking at September's Fiji-Australia/Australia-Fiji Business Councils (FABC/AFBC) meeting in Fiji he

predicted: "Trade patterns will be based more closely upon relative areas of competitiveness and Australia may become a less important trading partner for Fiji than at present."

He suggested that the Fiji-Australia trade relationship long-term may become part of a wider regional free trade bloc encompassing Fiji, Australia and New Zealand, and later other Pacific islands. Sparteca covers Australia and New Zealand and the Forum Island countries — Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

Sparteca has given Fiji manufacturers opportunity to test their products in an overseas market, build up business contacts, and learn from international competition. Largely due to the Tax Free Factory Scheme, Fiji also has a manufacturing sector capable of taking advantage of Sparteca — a drawcard for many investors to Fiji.

However, Fiji's Finance and Economic Planning Minister Josevata Kamikamica

said in a recent interview with *PIM* that he too expected Sparteca's influence on trade development to diminish.

Australia, Fiji's main trading partner under Sparteca, introduced the Australia Industry Plan in March. It will reduce the tariff levels on most imports into Australia to five per cent by 1996, and therefore the value of the duty free access that Fiji goods receive in Australia. It signals the end to most of the trade advantages currently enjoyed by Fiji under Sparteca. It could reduce the importance of Australia as a export market for Fiji, and signal a beginning for Fiji to diversify their export market. Certainly Vunibobo and Kamikamica are eager to see this happen.

Vunibobo said the country needed to look now at steps to facilitate the move toward freer trade, for example removal of the non-tariff barriers.

Fiji wants to diversify its sources of supply, broaden its range of import providers and look further afield for markets. It still enjoys preferential access to Australia and New Zealand, but it is looking at the future — now. □

BUSINESS

already are expanding their experience with time. The Fiji government also has established a garment training school in Suva to upgrade skills.

Halabe also faced problems from unexpected quarters. He said after being asked to come to Fiji to invest, the Fiji government did its best to ensure everything went smoothly but three departments gave him problems.

"Customs don't like Tax Free Factories because they've lost income from them and they give a lot more work to them with no real benefit. It's also hard to convince Customs that things have to be done quickly — samples passed, spare parts handled — as any delay in manufacturing causes us to be less efficient.

"As far as the Immigration Department is concerned, we were promised we would be allowed to bring in our own expats we feel are required. What we weren't told is we had to advertise locally first, prove there was nobody available locally then apply for somebody overseas and leave it up to their discretion to give us a work visa.

"I also found it very hard to convince the Reserve Bank of Fiji I was not a carpet-bagger and was here not only to improve my business but the garment industry in Fiji."

Halabe said he now has developed a

better rapport with the departments.

He, like other investors, also pointed out too that the Fiji Trade and Investment Board (FTIB) are helpful but limited.

Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Josevata Kamikamica, acknowledges that there are some problems. "Incentives for investors have been significantly improved in recent years and the procedures by which the incentives are granted have been simplified. However, we have to acknowledge that there remain bottlenecks and inefficiencies in the investment approvals process. We need to review the situation to establish what is going wrong and what needs to be done."

However, despite a few blemishes the garment industry in Fiji looks healthy. For the first six months of this year garment export from Tax Free Factories (TFF) is F\$80 million. For the year it is estimated to be about F\$180 million. Most of the garments exported are from the TFF sector. Last year the TFF garment sector had exports worth F\$159.4 million compared to F\$100.7 million in 1989 and F\$30.1 million in 1988. Numbers employed have increased with 3022 employed in 1988, 6434 in 1989 and 7829 last year.

Padam Lala, the president of the Fiji Garment Manufacturers Association,

predicts that the garment industry will employ 25,000 people and its exports will be worth F\$500 million in four or five years. Predictions for the year 2000 are exports of F\$1000 million.

To date there are about 115 garment factories operating — about 13 are wholly foreign owned. As of June this year, 81 of these enjoyed Tax Free Factory status.

The garment sector continues to dominate the TFF sector in terms of employment generation. It increased its share in the total TFF employment from 71.8 per cent in 1988 to 81.1 per cent in 1989 to 82.4 per cent last year. Of the 9503 people employed by the TFF sector at the end of last year, 7829 were employed in the garment industry.

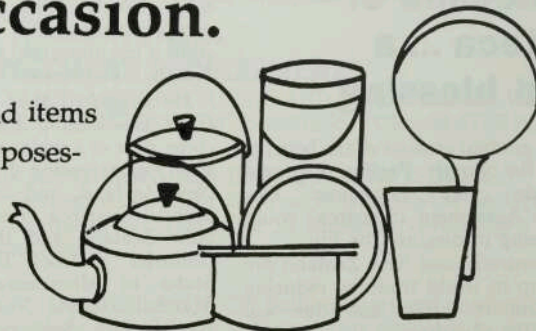
Exports to Australia and New Zealand have fallen off with the recession, but they will pick up. Current figures show New Zealand as the largest market taking 50 per cent of output, the United States takes 24 per cent goes, Australia 22 per cent, Britain two per cent and the remaining two per cent is shared between Pacific Islands. Some manufacturers are looking to Europe, but to avoid duty they must buy expensive European cloth.

The future looks bright. The Australian Industry Plan, which will see removal of import quotas into Australia from next year, is expected to produce a boom for Fiji manufacturers. □

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A taste of paradise ... sweeteners added

By Rupak Saha

"A TROPICAL paradise of sun-drenched islands — what nicer than such a physical location for your enterprise?" asks the Fiji Trade and Investment Board in their brochure *An Investor's Guide to Fiji*. However, for a hard-nosed investor a "tropical paradise" may not be attractive enough, so Fiji has offered some economic candies for overseas entrepreneurs.

A limited domestic market and a substantial annual import bill has forced Fiji to gear its economy towards continued export growth. The Government has realised that sale of sugar to restricted overseas markets sheltered by trade bloc memberships will not by itself sustain an effective export growth, so it has provided a package of tax incentives to encourage exports of local value added products and services.

Tax Free Factory (TFF)/Tax Free Zone (TFZ) Scheme

In the forefront of the Government incentives has been the TFF/TFZ

scheme established to stimulate the country's export of "value added" products. The types of enterprises which are considered for TFF/TFZ status are: manufacturing; mixing, blending and packaging; assembly; and certain exportable professional services.

Such enterprises exporting 95 per cent or more of their annual production can be designated as a TFF. The Government also is in the process of designating certain areas in Fiji as Tax Free Zones (TFZ) where qualifying industries would be established. Currently, the incentives available to TFF/TFZ enterprises are:

- Exemption from income tax for a period of 13 years,
- Waiver of import duties and excise taxes on certain materials and equipment,
- Exemption from withholding tax on various forms of remittances to non-residents,
- Ease of repatriation of capital and profit,
- Relaxation of immigration regulations for necessary employment of expatriates.

To provide the resultant downstream industries with a necessary boost, any enterprise providing 95 per cent or more of its output to a TFF also may be designated as a TFF.

Tax relief on exports

To encourage exporters who do not qualify for TFF status, the following income tax concession is granted to resident companies exporting certain approved products (the products which may be approved for this purpose range from manufacturing to agricultural processing and also include produce of commercial fishing):

Where the local value added of such a product is:

- at least 30 per cent, a rebate of one half of the tax on the export profits is granted;
- between 40 per cent and 50 per cent, a rebate of three quarters of the tax on the export profits is granted;
- more than 50 per cent, the full amount of tax on the export profits is exempt from tax.

Specific industry concessions

Tourism: Substantial efforts have expanded the country's export base, but the traditional foreign exchange earners like sugar and tourism still lead the way as contributors to the country's foreign exchange coffers. Tourism recently took the top spot as the country's major foreign exchange earner, surpassing sug-

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ar exports. To attract further investment in tourism, 55 per cent of capital expenditure incurred on construction or extension of a hotel, or on a tourist vessel or approved tourism support project, is allowed as a tax-deductible expense above the normal depreciation allowance. This can make a hotel's formative years tax-free.

Mining: Fiji has gold deposits in Vatukoula and gold mining is one of the major industries, along with tourism, sugar and garments. Gold production was 4221 kgs in 1989, as against 4272 kgs in 1988. To encourage further mineral exploration, mining ventures are granted accelerated depreciation on capital expenditure on acquisition and development of mines, or they can offset prospecting expenditure against other income. The Minister of Finance may exempt the company's income from tax or reduce the rate if he deems it economically beneficial.

Others: In the agricultural sector, a tax holiday for five years is available to companies in specified agricultural activities. Losses incurred by a group company in some prescribed agricultural ventures may be offset against profits derived by other companies in the same group.

Under the "Scheme for Pioneer Enterprises", a new company con-

sidered important to economic development may be granted, on application, a restricted tax exemption limited to a percentage of its total fixed capital investment (the percentage depends on the numbers of people it employs).

Apart from income tax exemptions or reductions, accelerated write-offs (normally over five years) of capital expenditures are permitted in certain cases e.g. when expenditure is aimed at economising fuel consumption and promoting alternative sources of energy.

Other concessions

In addition to direct tax concessions, import tariff concessions are provided in appropriate instances through duty drawbacks, exemptions and reductions. On appropriate payments of withholding taxes, profits can be repatriated overseas subject to exchange control approval from the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

The tax concessions are designed to promote Fiji as a viable investment alternative to Asia and other traditional exporters. To achieve this, the Government of the country is increasingly shifting towards a market economy, removing import licensing and other protectionist devices. In the process it hopes to attract more foreign investment and accelerate Fiji's progress in the industrial development race.

Rupak Saha is Taxation Manager for Price Waterhouse chartered accountants in Suva, Fiji

TFF scheme, it's part of a winning hand

By Martin Tiffany

THEIR ace up their sleeve, their wild card, their winning hand — call it what you like Fiji's Tax Free Factory (TFF) scheme is proving it's no joker.

Just over three and a half years have passed since the scheme was introduced but it has risen to become one of the major generators of employment and foreign exchange earnings.

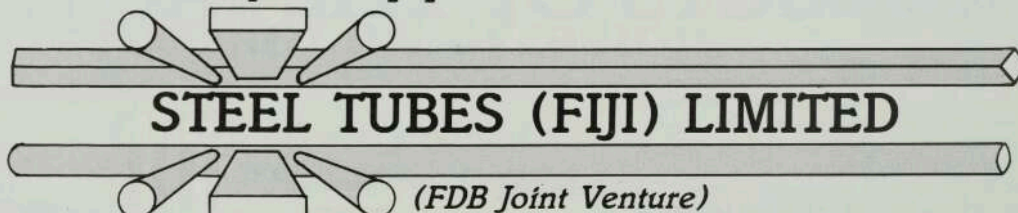
Since it was introduced in 1988 the scheme has progressed in leaps and bounds. To date 313 projects have been approved for Tax Free Factory Status - 87 in 1988, 115 in 1989, 71 in 1990 and 40 in the first six months of this year.

It has been remarkably successful in attracting new export industries, even to the extent of creating a whole new industry — the garment industry — in a very short space of time.

At the end of last year the TFF sector employed 9503 and its exports totalled F\$231.1 million. This compares with

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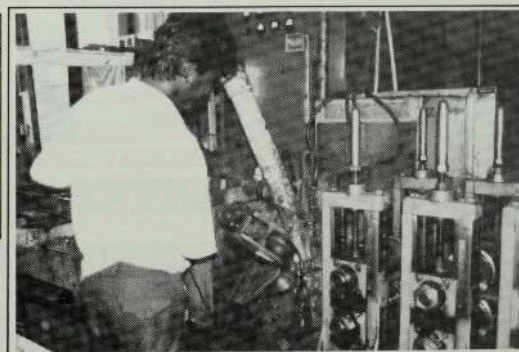
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7935 employed in 1989 and exports totalling F\$160.8 million.

Total investment in the sector was F\$13.7 million in 1988 rising to F\$34.3 million in 1989, an increase of 157 per cent. Last year total investment increased by 55.4 per cent to F\$53.3 million.

The TFF scheme was one of several measures implemented by the interim government to develop export industries. The devaluation of the Fiji dollar by 33 per cent in 1987 provided the initial stimulus to the TFF sector and in particular to the garment industry.

Last year the garment sector employed 7829 people or 82.4 per cent of total TFF employment and exported F\$159.4 million of the total TFF exports of F\$231.1 million.

Other industries which developed under the scheme are wood related industries, in particular furniture, footwear, buttons, food processing and other miscellaneous industries such as plastics, fibreglass boats, sails, computer software and cans.

However, according to the Fiji Trade and Investment Board (FTIB), these sectors are small and have a lot of capacity for expansion especially in the areas of wood related industries, leather and footwear and food processing.

Fiji's deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Josevata Kamikamica, says the government continue to monitor the impact of the TFF/Tax Free Zone (TFZ) scheme, both from the point of view of its attraction of investment and its cost to government in foregone revenue.

"At the moment, the priority is the get a Tax Free Zone established and work is going ahead on this. To date all concessions have been in relation to Tax Free Factories.

"Those who have invested under the scheme need have no concern but that they will continue to benefit from the agreed concessions. But they are likely to be modifications to the scheme as circumstance change," said Kamikamica.

Earlier this year there was some concern by foreign firms that the Fiji government was reneging on TFF promises made in 1988 - these included a 13-year tax holiday, cheap electricity and freedom to bring in specialised expatriate staff.

To counter this and stress that it would honour all promised incentives to foreign investors, the government took out a press advertisement in New Zealand.

Kamikamica described the scheme as "remarkably successfully" and said it emphasised also the commitment of the interim government to the pursuit of

export orientation - a major break with previous economic policy.

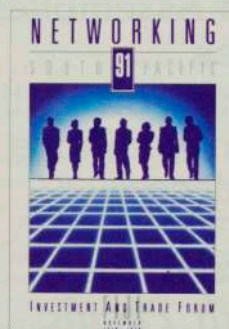
"The TFF/TFZ scheme has also been remarkable successful in creating employment. Much of the growth in employment that has been achieved over the last three years has been in manufacturing and directly related to the operation of the TFF/TFZ scheme," said Kamikamica.

In the TFF sector local firms dominate in terms of equity participation. 58 firms out of 114 are locally owned with 20 firms in joint-venture with foreign companies. This gives a total of 78 firms or 68.4 per cent of the firms with local interest.

On the other hand 36 or 31.6 per cent of the firms were wholly foreign owned. The breakdown of the 36 are: New Zealand 16, Australia 13, Singapore 3, Malaysia 2, Taiwan 1 and the United Kingdom 1.

While the TFF scheme has seen many successes there have also been some failures.

Twelve firms ceased operation last year which makes a total of 23 firms that have closed since the scheme was introduced. However, the loss in foreign exchange earnings and employment



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have been more than compensated for by expansion of existing TFFs and establishment of new ones.

For example, at the end of June this year 113 TFF projects were in operation which compares with 114 projects in operation last year.

Of this 114, 12 projects closed operations during the latter part of 1990 and in early 1991. But 11 new projects were implemented in the first six months of this year to give a total of 113 projects in operation.

According to the FTIB two major reasons which are inter-linked have been responsible for a number of firms closing down. These are markets and availability of finance.

Almost all the firms which closed down were small firms with less than 50 employees. They were involved in garments, furniture and other miscellaneous industries.

These small firms with weak market links (small orders on ad hoc basis, exporting to one country and one company) were greatly affected by current recessions in export markets.

Lack of export orders created cash flow problems leading to financial crisis which forced close downs. The difficulty to raise local finance compounded the problem.

A button factory closed down due to difficulty in procuring raw material (trochus shells). The shells are sold to Japanese and Koreans at prices higher than local firms can afford.

Another factory closed down simply because the factory to which it was supplying also ceased operation.

For the future new locations around the country are being examined to meet the expected future demand of TFFs.

Future progress includes the development of industrial sites, greater inter-departmental co-ordination and clear cut policies and guidelines which will further enhance the industrialisation efforts under the TFF scheme.

Which ever way you look at it the cards certainly seem to be falling in Fiji's favour. □



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Reshaping the investment climate

A TRADE and investment forum of the quality and scope of "Networking South Pacific" takes a great deal of detailed planning and organisation to put together, but no matter how good that is, an investment forum will achieve little if the country it is promoting lacks one essential element — a favourable investment climate.

Such a forum may bring potential investors face to face with a thousand opportunities, but they will not take them up if closer investigation suggests problems with land titles, restrictive labour requirements and industrial procedures, taxes or repatriation of capital and dividends, to name a few of the more important considerations.

Nor are potential investors going to waste too much of their time if they can't get firm, quick answers to their questions, or they are hedged about with promises — are told, for example, that legislation that would resolve some of their doubts "is on the drawing board."

Serious investors looking for opportunities to expand need to know not just what a government is offering, but to feel that the offer is secure before they develop time and expense on the finer details.

Investors looking at Fiji have no such difficulties. In my view, no island country has worked harder than Fiji to establish a favourable investment climate. It welcomes investment and has long recognised that no investor can be expected to allocate serious money unless the rules are spelt out. As a result, I predict that "Networking South Pacific" will be a positive boost to investment, which since 1988 has already seen a significant revival in Fiji.

The major investor in Fiji has been Australia and Fiji's major industries have all benefited from extensive Australian investment. But Fiji has made up its mind to penetrate world markets on many fronts and develop a wide range of competitive products. It is seeking to attract and develop the entrepreneurial and manufacturing skills that will enable it to expand in this direction, and that means investment from many places.

Fiji has a long track record of officially encouraging investment. It began along that path even before independence in 1970. Because of it, the country has built up a comparatively broad industrial base. In the past two or three years its investment policies have been strengthened, with the government implementing strategies aimed at promoting exports and bringing domestic prices more into line with world prices (which will help manufacturers who want to set up in Fiji). Its more recent policies have included trade reforms export promotion, and reforms in the public sector, tax structure and labour market.

Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Josevata Kamikamica, told a joint meeting of Fiji-Australia and Australia-Fiji business councils in September that these efforts had already begun to pay off. After the difficulties of 1987, growth recovered in 1989 and 1990, employment rose and government revenues have been buoyant.

He gave this message: "Primary product prices are likely to remain depressed. However, the demand for manufacturing and for tourism is likely to be strong. If we are to benefit from his environment, new investment will be needed, especially in manufacturing and tourism, but also in forestry and fisheries.

TRADE



**BILL
McCABE**

"To achieve sustained economic growth there must be corresponding long-term investment. Given our relatively limited domestic resources and ability to borrow, much of that investment must, by definition, come from overseas.

"It therefore follows that private sector investment is the key to our future economic policies that provide appropriate incentives to encourage the private sector to invest and develop."

This month's Networking South Pacific forum is of course only one promotional effort designed to attract trade and investment. New initiatives are going on all the time. Fiji expects to benefit from Expo 92, which opens in Seville, Spain in April. For the entire six months of the Expo, a South Pacific village, exhibitions and cultural groups will promote South Pacific tourism, trade and investment

opportunities, and this should certainly help tap into the great pool of European investors. In Sydney in September 1992 the Fiji Trade and Investment Board and the Fiji and Australian business councils will be presenting "Lako Mai Fiji", another significant trade, tourism and investment expo.

Nevertheless, despite the practical foundations for investors that Fiji has already laid, and tested, a wide range of new investment and joint partnerships can't be attracted in five minutes. This is because there are sure to be some potential investments that are too big for Fiji's infrastructure, no matter how keen their promoters might be to set up in Fiji.

Tourism is one of the few areas that can attract and absorb millions quickly (the tourism development now well under way on Denarau Island is worth more than F\$400 million). Fiji is very familiar with the tourist market and its many requirements. The economy, the workforce and the service industries are geared to handle it and are able to keep up with its expansion, which will be dramatic. Fiji has the roads, waters, power, telecommunications, ports and airports, excellent transport and skilled workers. Under the Hotel Aids Act, profits of a hotel can be exempted from income tax to the extent of 55 per cent of the capital expenditure incurred in the hotel's construction or extension.

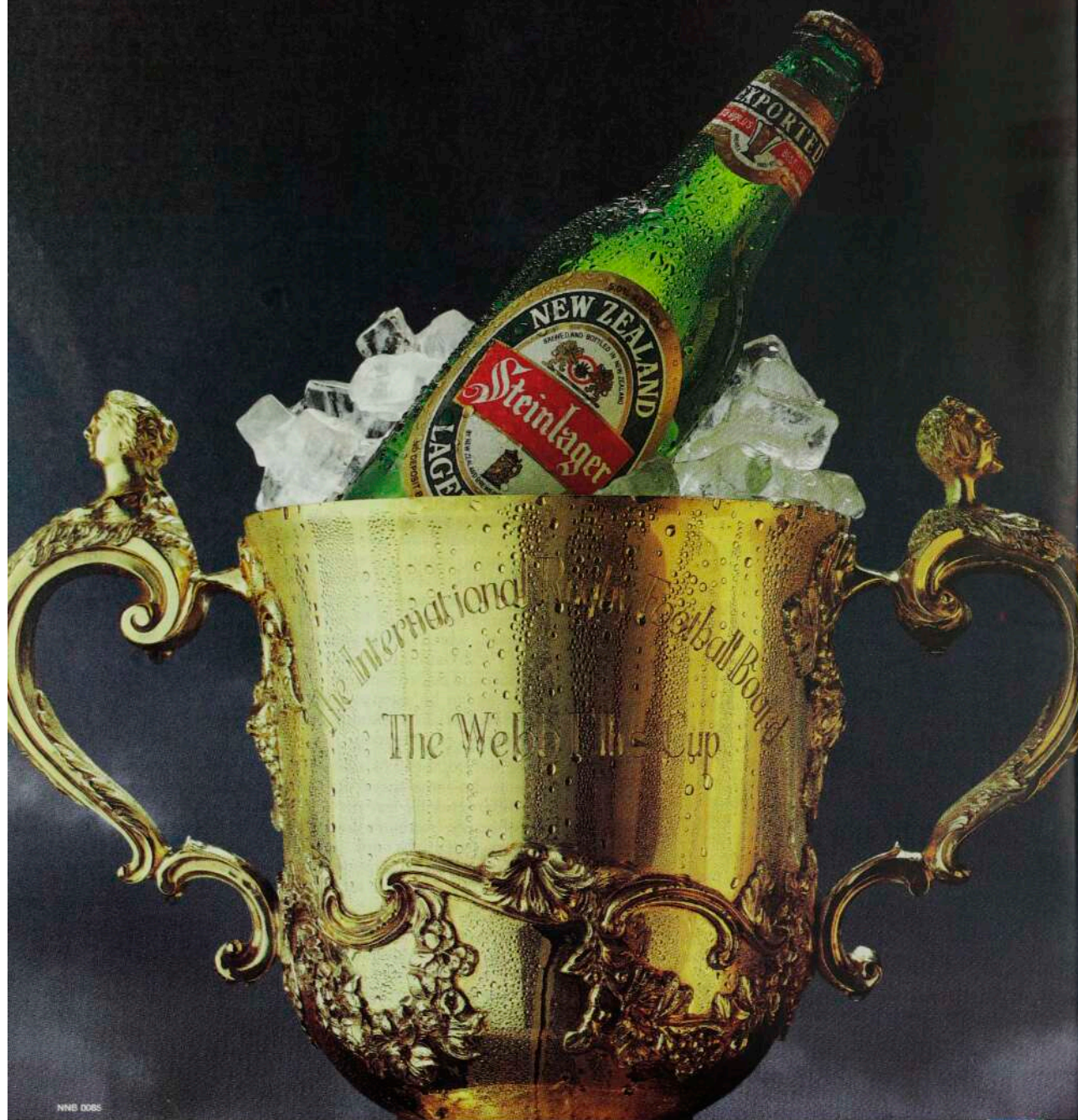
The development of many other, new industries may not move at the same speed, for factories may need a workforce with different skills, but yet be untrained for them, and for the kind of heavy transport that is not yet available, and perhaps for port extensions not yet contemplated. An American industrialist used to large-scale production, prepared to invest millions, may find that an island infrastructure is simply not big enough to cope with it and go elsewhere.

But those opportunities will not continually be lost if planning for investment is ongoing. As Fiji is aware, no government can simply pass an Act of parliament and sit back and wait. Investment policy needs frequent reappraisal to take advantage of trade opportunities as they appear and to mould infrastructures to meet the new demands. "Networking South Pacific" will give a great number of potential investors the opportunity to see for themselves that Fiji really does know about business.

Bill McCabe is the Senior Trade Commissioner with the Sydney-based South Pacific Trade Commission

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"IT'S been a helluva party but it's all over now." Even with tears in his eyes as he said it, it was still an understatement

WORLD CUP



**LOVENI
ENARI**



from All Black great Bryan Williams, the technical advisor to the Western Samoan Rugby side.

His side had just bowed out to Scotland in the

quarterfinals of the rugby union World Cup, but for the Samoans the whole tournament had been a raging party of which they'd possibly been the life and soul.

Much of

the early play in the competition had been like champagne in paper cups — still drinkable but somewhat lifeless as all the pre-tournament favourites fired blanks. The champion All Blacks looked ring-rusty, the English had lost, the French were split by internal ructions and the Fijians, usually a safe bet to provide some pizzazz, looked out of their depth.

To top it off the referees went whistle-happy, driving everyone to the edge with frustration. But a spark was needed to ignite those preliminary rounds and to win over Wales in their first game.

The Samoans were it.

Leading into the tournament they were dubbed the "minnows", the dark horses with potential to surprise though no-one expected them to surprise as much as they did. Nor were they expected to capture the imaginations of the British public as much as they did.

It was their tackling against the Welsh that did it at first and then it was their ability to run with the ball. Next it was



On attack: Western Samoa plays Fiji in the Hong Kong sevens. In the World Cup they were sensational.

their out and out enjoyment of the game and finally it was their graciousness in defeat.

Whatever it was, they were never far from the headlines.

Journalists, pushed by editors to find a different "angle" on the South Seas visitors, came up with the "sexiest men in the World Cup".

Outside their team hotels, television crews camped, waiting for the chance for an interview and, like birthday boys at a surprise party, one, or more often 10, Samoans were willing to oblige.

"This is the one single event in the history of the world to attract this kind of attention to our country," said manager Tate Simi. Judging from the number of maps in newspapers explaining exactly where Western Samoa is in relation to New Zealand and Australia, Simi was probably right.

As the only Samoan journalist following the tournament, the memories are

many. Certainly the Games themselves; the first ever Samoan victory over Wales; the close loss to the Australians; the win over Argentina sealing a place in the quarterfinals; and the subsequent loss to Scotland in front of 60,000 people as the stadium reverberated to the tune of *Flower of Scotland*.

Glorious achievements all of them — but three events outside the field of play stand out.

The sight of the most senior player in the side, full-back Anitelea Aiolupo leading his side in their war dance, *Manu*, before the Welsh game is one of them. In the middle of the famous Cardiff Arms Park, surrounded by 40,000 of the 'enemy' it seemed an exercise

in futility as 15 men prepared to take on the might of the whole nation.

But you couldn't have told that to Aiolupo, such was the ferocity with which he challenged the Welsh. He'd previously lost twice to the 'Red Dragons', and from the way he slapped his body and glared at the opponents he knew it wasn't going to be three in a row. Looking so small but so proud and defiant he warmed the heart.

That was at the start of their campaign. The second highlight came a few days later at St Albans Primary School in Cardiff. Sure, the children loved it, they never stopped yelling while tugging at the players' jackets insisting on "another autograph, please sir". The delight was obvious and infectious, but the surprise came from the players' reactions.

After all the media attention they'd received and the pressure of their next game upon them, they might easily have brushed the school visit off as just another

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one in the long line and "let's get back to the hotel".

But there was Palemia Lilomiava, the big no-nonsense prop, sitting amidst a group of youngsters explaining what palusami was and the fact that raw fish with coconut cream is actually quite nice to eat.

Then there was Filipo Saena, who delighted in leading the kids in a private chant he'd invented for them.

"Who's going to win the World Cup?" he'd ask.

"Western Samoa!" they'd scream back.

"Who's the best player in the World Cup?"

"Phillip!" they'd shout back, as he rewarded those who yelled loudest by not only autographing their books but their bags as well.

It was a trip that was supposed to only last an hour but stretched to nearly two, and not one of the players regretted the delay.

Finally it was the by-now famous farewell. The Samoan players and Scottish crowd bade each other at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. Samoa's dream run had ended, and as the referee brought the curtain down with his whistle, skipper Peter Fatiafola pulled his players together to begin their "non-victory lap" as he called it.

They ran to each corner of the pitch waving to the crowd, which responded in kind with a standing ovation. And when the Manu was performed for the last time, the hordes accompanied it with rhythmic hand-clapping.

"It was one of the nicest touches imaginable," said Scottish coach Ian McGeechan. "Western Samoa gave a lot to the competition and what they did at the end was the nicest finish to a match you could hope for. It left everyone with a warm feeling."

For a Rugby-mad country which has long awaited its moment of recognition on the international stage, Western Samoa couldn't have hoped for a better end to the party.

Here's to many more. □

One try and Fiji's going home

Fiji left France for home last month blaming their excellence at sevens for their rugby World Cup white-wash. Seeded fifth after their impressive performance in the first tournament four years ago, they were a severe disappointment, managing only one try in their three games.

George Simpkin, the New Zealander who advises Fiji on coaching, commented: "They're all so disappointed to have finished the World Cup with nothing, but their game is still too sevens-orientated." Simpkin's compatriot, Ross

Cooper, who occupies a similar post with the Romanians, was in a happier mood after his side's entertaining 17-15 win over Fiji on October 12.

He said: "They deserved something from this after what they've achieved struggling against enormous odds. I just couldn't believe the appalling conditions they had to endure preparing for this tournament. It's amazing they're able to perform at the level they do. It wasn't a glorious victory, but it was a World Cup win and I feel it's going to help them develop their game." □

Tonga tours

THE tongan national team will play five matches in new zealand next year, the New Zealand Rugby Union announced last month.

The proposed itinerary:

June 27 v Horowhenua.

July 1 v King Country.

July 4 v Taranaki.

July 8 v Thames Valley.

July 12 v North Harbour.

The tour is the start of Tonga's bid for a place in the 1995 World Cup. □

Soccer win

The Fiji Under-23 soccer side beat Vanuatu 1-0 in Lautoka on the first match of Vanuatu's their three-game tour of Fiji. Vanuatu coach Terry O'Donnell protested the goal was scored after Fiji had handled the ball.

Fiji's soccer technical adviser, Danny McLenan, said the host country is beginning to play a lot of "good, technical football". Fiji is building up its soccer team for the Olympic Games qualifying rounds against New Zealand and Australia beginning on the 7th of this month in Fiji.

Fiji soccer is having a successful season with wins including the gold medal at the South Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea in September. □

BUSINESS**Shipping
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Far-East - Fiji - New Zealand Service

New Zealand Unit Express (NZUE) operates a monthly service accepting containerised and breakbulk cargoes from Manila, Keelung, Kaoshiung, Hong Kong, Lae to Suva, Lautoka (via Suva) and thence to New Zealand ports. Contact Carpenters Shipping Suva, Fiji, tel (679) 312244, fax (679) 301572. New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customs House Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington. Tel 727865, Cables Enzue Man, Wellington, Tlx NZ31340 Nedlly or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney, Tel 20522.

Japan - South Pacific Service

Same as Burns Philp

Japan - South Pacific Service - Kyowa Shipping Co Ltd

Kyowa Shipping, Shipping Co Ltd provides a monthly containerised service from Hong Kong to main ports of Japan, Saipan, Guam, Island ports, Lautoka, Suva via Nukualofa to Pago Pago and Apia. Contact Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 floor, Tofuaa Street, Walu Bay, Suva. Tel 312244, Fax 301572, Tlx FJ2199.

Europe - Pacific Service

Nedlloyd offers cargo services from Continental Ports to Papeete, Fiji, New Caledonia and Doniambo on slot basis with Bank line. Contact Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, Spring Street, Sydney, Tel 273801. Carpenters Shipping, Suva, tel 312244, Tlx FJ2199, Fax 301572. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka, Tel 63988, Tlx FJ5215, Fax 64896.

South East Asia - Fiji Service

Nedlloyd Lines (NZEAS) Service operates regular fast cargo service from Jakarta, Pt Keelang,

Singapore, Bangkok, Surabaya via Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Contact Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel 312244, Tlx FJ2199, Fax 301572. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka Tel 63988, Tlx FJ5215, Fax 63988

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Far East - Mid South Pacific

China Navigations New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container and breakbulk — heavy lift service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara. Cargo from the same eastern ports to the South Pacific Ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pagopago, Apia, Nukualofa, Rarotonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai Service. Contact Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby, PO Box 634, Tel 220283 or 220289.

Australia - New Caledonia - Fiji - Samoas - Tonga

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Sydney. Cargo centralised from Adelaide and Melbourne. 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 operates a RoRo/container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transshipment to the Samoas and Tonga.

New Zealand - Australia - PNG - Solomon Islands

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro service from Lyttelton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then to New Zealand. Contact: Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping Port Moresby and Lae Sullivan Ltd, Honiara; Seabridge, Wellington.

NZ - Fiji

Translink Pacific Shipping sail twice a month to Fiji, with Polynesian Link and Coral Links which operate out of Tauranga and Auckland. Fiji Agents are: Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd, Ph 314189 Fax 300144 Suva; Ph 62231 Fax 62251 Lautoka. Auckland Agents: McKay Shipping Ph (9) 390229 Fax (9) 303293. Tauranga Agents, searade agencies Ph (75) 754989 Fax (75) 758380.

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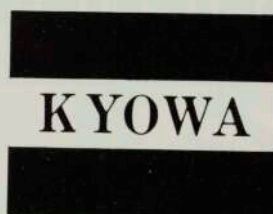
Translink Pacific Shipping operate a monthly sailing with Polynesian Link, which carries Dry Container, reefers and breakbulk cargoes. NZ Agents McKay Shipping Shipping AKLD Ph 390229, Fax 3032931. Fiji Agents Campbells Shipping Agency & Ltd Ph 314189 Fax 300144

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BUSINESS**West Coast of North America - Fiji - New Zealand**

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Australia - Fiji Service

Chief container services under Australia Pacific Island Line Unitize Sofrano and PFL vessels to provide a twice monthly service from Australia. Fiji Agents — Campbells Shippings Agency Ltd Ph 314189 Fax 300144. System Agents Nedlloyd Swire Ph (2) 2512699. Melbourne Yarra Shipping Ph (3) 6936300. Brisbane, Medlloyd Swire, ph (7) 8321551.

Australia - Fiji - Noumea - Vila - Santa

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Australia - New Caledonia - Fiji - Hawaii - North America

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Japan - South Pacific Service

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Europe - Pacific Service

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Sitar Cruises operates a year round cruise programme for Sydney to Vanuatu, Fiji. The programme also includes a number of calls to a number of islands such as Dravuni, Yasawa-i-Rara, Rotuma, Mystery Island, etc.

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YACHTING



Gone with the wind: Sally Andrew and Foster Goodfellow

Sally Andrew and Foster Goodfellow have, between them, been yachting for 25 years. Originally from Canada, the two have sailed through places including Mexico, Alaska, the Caribbean and, more recently, the Pacific Islands. They travel on and live aboard their 33-foot Yamaha sailboat, **Goodfellow**. This month, **Pacific Islands Monthly** begins the first of a regular column by Sally, telling of the couple's adventures and the experiences of other yachtees they have met cruising the South Pacific.

Tales from the Fellowship

Sally Andrew begins her yachting yarns of the Pacific with a stop on Fanning Island in Kiribati

THE sights and sounds of coconut palms swaying on a tropical atoll, the peace of secluded anchorages, the beauty of lush islands and placid lagoons... these enhance the romantic vision of cruising the South Pacific.

But, when people ask us why we are visiting their islands, we explain that we are here to meet new people, visit their villages and cities, and to learn about their culture and families. These are the real rewards of our Pacific wanderings.

Our first landfall south of Hawaii was Tabuaeran in the Line Island Group. Tabuaeran — or Fanning Island, a name

still used by many of the islanders — is located 1200 miles south of Honolulu. We departed on the tail end of a Kona storm and had a pleasant run south for the first four days.

Suddenly, huge waves like pyramids attacked us, beam on, and our perfect sail turned into a roller coaster ride. We double-reefed the main, hanked on our storm jib and flew close to six knots.

At 1800 on the seventh day out we had 188 miles to go. GPS positioning allowed us to press on more sail and to close on the island without fear of running up on the reef. The strong currents in this neck of the ocean can run east or west up



The people you meet: Fanning Islanders with smiles a mile wide

Sally Andrew

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YACHTING

currents in this neck of the ocean can run east or west up to two plus knots!

Landfall on Fanning was exciting and sudden. Because an atoll only rises a few feet above sea level, the island is virtually invisible. But from about 13 miles out we spotted the "loom" of the island in the sky — the green glow which is a reflection of the lagoon. The Micronesian navigators recognised this more than 1000 years ago and kept it in their bag of navigational tricks.

At seven miles out we sighted the tops of the palms at Whaler's Anchorage. We knew we were in the right place when we spotted the Gilbertese fishermen in their outrigger canoes. "Mauri!" we called.

Fanning Island belongs to Kiribati and in recent years many I-Kiribati families have relocated to Fanning and Washington Islands in a program to relieve population pressures on the main island group near Tarawa, 1800 miles west. When we first visited Fanning in 1978, only 400 Gilbertese copra workers (with their families) lived there as Burns Philp employees, until BP sold the island to Kiribati. Today, nearly 1400 I-Kiribati live on Fanning. Most arrived in the last 18 months but, despite the rapid influx, the island is well-run. Anticipated population is 5000!

The life of the village centres around the traditional *maneaba*, or community meeting place. On our first day ashore, we were invited in. Inside men sat cross-legged around the perimeter of the barn-like structure. We were treated to a cup of hot sweet tea and welcomed.

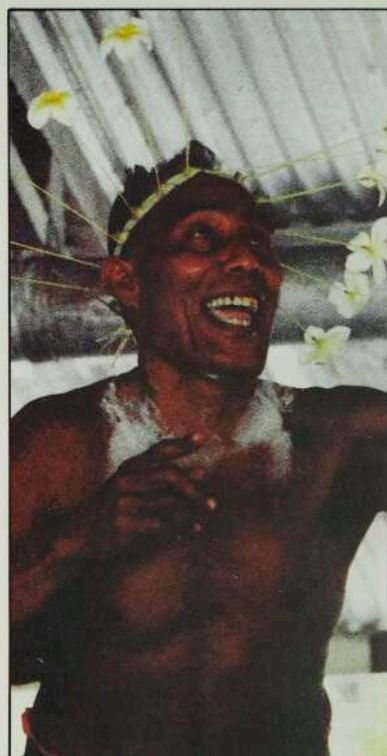
We sat on pandanus mats beside the

Protestant pastor, Wanikaie; and the island treasurer, Tiare (Charlie) translated our answers about who we were and why we were visiting the island.

We sat through speeches and pauses filled with idle talking. After a while, we wondered if the festivities had been cancelled. But haste has no place here. Eventually one of the older men stood up and declared that he could no longer wait for the dancing. Groups of men began singing, dancing and stamping until the women and young people appeared, adorned with fancy skirts, headdresses and arm decorations. Their dance emphasised hands, head and eyes and was rewarded by the customary sprinkling of "Holiday on Ice" talcum powder and "Impulse" perfume on all performers.

The Gilbertese are men of the sea, and their traditions include making and sailing outriggers. One afternoon in the newest village, Kimarimari, we watched master canoe builder Taririr and his helper Ibeamatang fitting thin hull planks and "sewing" them together. The men use their canoes to fish inside and outside the lagoon. We admired their sailing skills, since the current in the entrance runs up to five knots and the next island to leeward is 1800 miles west!

Living off the land and sea is a full-time occupation. There is often no food to buy because the remoteness of the atoll precludes regular shipping. It is difficult to establish a base for a reliable cash economy — copra prices are depressed and successful marketing of island fish, produce, and arts and crafts would



Sally Andrew

Dancing: sometimes you just can't wait

require organisation, regular shipping and entrepreneurial desire.

We were told that money has been allocated by the government for fixing the airstrip and initiating an air service, but a reliable boat service between the Line Islands would be more effective.

The Gilbertese people, like other Pacific Islanders, are warm and generous. They are happy to share everything they have, including their time. We soon discovered that if we verbally admired something, the owner would want to give it to us!

We learned to follow the custom of merely raising our eyebrows in admiration. The most memorable gift we received was two live chickens. We had no idea how to kill or care for the feathered beasts, so we left them with the island clerk Ubaitoi, and his wife Meraina.

Fanning islanders have strong ties to their families and Micronesian culture. Their concern over our "getting lonely" because we had no children and were far from family and friends was touching. Certainly, apart from a storm at sea, our biggest hardship is being away from our families.

But I will long remember the people of Fanning Island, the remoteness and meagreness of their life, and the vibrant colours of their environment. Perhaps the winds will blow us back again! □

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BOOKS

Little new in New World Order

THE so-called New World Order ushered in by the Gulf War has little to offer the Pacific. In fact, there is barely any difference from the Old Order.

The liberation of Kuwait hasn't brought any fresh responses over East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesian colonial forces 15 years ago in a far more brutal manner than the Iraqi invasion. Bougainville is no closer to a long-term solution. The political stalemate which has hounded Palau since it adopted the world's first nuclear-free constitution in 1979 still remains.

In *Resisting the Serpent*, a Palauan now living in the United States proves remarkably symbolic of Western, particularly American, military and economic hegemony. Depicting the "Escape from the Sea Serpent of Oikuul", the cover illustration is fitting for both books as they narrate a tragic David and Goliath story "of disinheritance, a journey toward freedom, and a people's struggle with a 'serpent'."

Although Aldridge and Myers record a traditional people's commitment to preserve their islands against the "serpent" — the Pentagon and its plans for a strategic military base — they stress that it is far more than that. They believe it is a metaphor for the global struggle for survival against militarism, of which the Pacific islands have borne the brunt.

Aldridge and Myers criticise their countrymen for allowing the world's largest debtor nation to continue accepting and subsidising such huge levels of military spending. Militarism, they say, has "colonised our minds". And already they have had the predictable defensive response to their book from the US establishment.

In a nutshell, the events in Palau are bizarre: over 10 years the people have voted 10 times on the issue of whether or

Resisting the Serpent: Palau's Struggle for Self-Determination, Bob Aldridge and Ched Myers (Fortkamp Publishing Co, Baltimore, 1990); **Overreaching in Paradise: US Policy in Palau Since 1945**, Sue Rabbitt Roff (Dnali Press, 1991.)

Reviewed by David Robie

not they should ban nuclear substances from their islands. Under pressure from Washington, they twice voted to reaffirm their nuclear-free constitution. The US then proposed a Compact of Free Association which was incompatible with the constitution because it would allow nuclear substances into Palauan territory. Seven times since 1983 variations of the compact have been submitted to referendum as required in the constitution — and seven times the Palauan people have refused to override their nuclear-free clauses.

The UN Trusteeship Agreement governing Micronesia was terminated last December for the Federated States of Micronesia, Northern Marianas and Marshall Islands, leaving just Palau.

It is unlikely any comparison of Palau under the Japanese mandate before the Second World War and the US administration under the trusteeship would show that Washington has fulfilled its obligations. Why, for example, did the US after the war destroy many of the Japanese improvements to the islands and allow the rest to deteriorate? According to *Resisting the Serpent*, after 43 years of trusteeship, "there are currently only 16 miles of paved roads".

Both books are dedicated to the memory of Bedor Bins, the elderly father of anti-nuclear activists Roman Bedor and Bernie Keldermans, who was murdered on September 7, 1987. Bedor was gunned down at the Belau Pacific Centre where Roman has his law office. It is believed he was mistaken for Roman who was at the time helping 20 women elders who had filed a lawsuit challenging a

constitutional amendment neutralising the nuclear-free clauses.

All three authors have impeccable credentials in decolonisation issues. Australian-born Sue Rabbitt Roff worked with the Fretilin delegation from East Timor to the United Nations. She has been a freelance journalist specialising in decolonisation issues and has petitioned the Trusteeship Council and Decolonisation Committee on Micronesia.

Aldridge, a critical authority on US military strategic policy and author of three books on the theme, first visited Palau during the First World War. Myers is a Quaker activist and a freelance investigative journalist on Pacific issues. He served on the Nuclear-Free and Independent (NFIP) movement steering committee between 1980 and 1983.

Overreaching in Paradise is perhaps the more scholarly of the two books, and has an advantage in having an index. But *Resisting the Serpent* is probably more evocative.

As Rabbitt Roff points out, the process of self-determination in Palau has been marred by three violent deaths during the 1980s. Besides Bedor Bins, the first president, Haruo Remeliik, was assassinated in 1985, and the second president, Lazarus Sali, committed suicide in 1988. Tragic events for any community, but for the 15,000 Palauans they are a reminder of the pressures that have ravaged their island for more than a decade.

"It is to be hoped that in the 1990s there emerges a solution by consensus, a process that would be in the best traditions of both Palau and the US. The courage of those 2000 voters (who have defiantly stood by the nuclear-free clauses) and their leaders — and the fact that there are still no nuclear substances in Palau — is a beacon to all of us who want to work our way out of the global nuclear mindset." □



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ENVIRONMENT

SSSir, there's a stowaway aboard

By David North

THE US military wiped out the world's fourth-largest army in 100 hours in the Persian Gulf, but now it has been asked to tackle a really tough task — prevention of the spread of the Brown Tree Snake into snake-free Pacific islands.

US Senator Dan Akaka (D. — Hawaii) has introduced two bills which ask the Secretary of Defence (as well as the Secretary of Agriculture) to mount campaigns against the fertile snake which has spread havoc through Guam for the past 40 years.

Without natural enemies on the island, the Brown Tree Snake has killed off nine species of forest birds (including three unknown elsewhere in the world), has caused numerous power outages (they like to crawl up utility poles), and has bitten at least seven Guam children. The Brown Tree Snake, like the Mainland rattlesnake, is poisonous but, unlike the rattlesnake, its method of delivering venom is considerably less efficient, so no one on Guam has yet died of its bite.

There have been reports of Brown Tree Snake sightings, many of them confirmed, on an array of Pacific islands, including Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas, Oahu in Hawaii, Kwajalein in the Marshalls, and Pohnpei in FSM. It is a good-sized snake; those found in Guam are typically three to four feet long, but the really mature ones grow to eight to 10 feet in length.

Senator Akaka's choice of the Secretary of Defense as a potential ally is a logical one, for it is generally believed that it was the US military that brought the Brown Tree Snake to Guam, and there have been military connections to many of the other sightings.

During World War II the US built a number of large military bases throughout the Pacific, one of the largest of these was on PNG's Manus Island. According to Tom Fritts, America's leading expert on the snakes, the Brown Tree Snake is common on Manus, but controlled to some extent by its natural enemies. One or more of the Manus snakes, perhaps seeking to avoid those enemies, crawled into some military cargo containers which were on their way to Guam, and that's apparently how they reached

Guam during or just after World War II.

The US military may continue, unwittingly, to help spread the snake around the Pacific. For example, the one sighting on Kwajalein was of a Brown Tree Snake that had crawled out of the landing gear assembly of a military cargo plane. Similarly, there have been four sightings on Oahu, three of them on or near Hickman Air Force Base. In one case a dead Brown Tree Snake was identified near a C-141 cargo plane.

The snakes seen on Saipan probably hitched rides on planes or ships from



Brown tree snake: a fertile traveller which feeds on mice, has its sights set on the islands

Guam, Fritts explained. One was found dead in an air cargo container that had just arrived from Guam, that was last November. Earlier this year there were two more sightings, one near the Charley Dock on Saipan, and the other a mile or so from the airport.

While Senator Akaka wants a law passed mandating the Department of Defense to defend Hawaii from the snakes, another Department, Interior, is doing something about it. Fritts, a herpetologist (snake expert) by training, heads a major effort within the US Fish and Wildlife Service to cope with the pesky snakes. Further, Stella Guerra, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Insular and International Affairs, has just announced a \$147,000 grant to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands so that CNMI can mount its own anti-Brown Tree Snake campaign.

What can you do to control these slithery creatures?, PIM asked Fritts, who has lectured on the subject on 14 different Pacific islands. It is not easy. They can and do crawl into things, particularly shipments of food (hence the interest in the Secretary of Agriculture) that move from island to island. Once in a new environment they hide, and their fertility is legendary.

"How about poisoning them?," he was asked. This is at least a possibility with the Brown Tree Snake, unlike other kinds of snakes which only eat living creatures, like mice. (It is hard to put

snake-killing poison in a mouse without killing the mouse.)

"The Brown Tree Snake will eat things other than living animals," Fritts said, "they eat balls of hamburger in zoos, for instance; they also eat things that have been smeared with blood."

The problem is that there is no way yet known to poison the Brown Tree Snakes without endangering the environment — threatening order, harmless animals, or small children. Fritts and his staff, however, are working on it.

One of the reasons why the CNMI Government and Senator Akaka are so concerned about the Brown Tree Snake is because their islands are snake-free.

"The only indigenous snake on most Pacific islands is the Blind Snake," Fritts explains, "and most people would not think of it as a snake. It is about as thin as the lead in your pencil, and about as long." It eats insects and generally stays away from humans, who often do not know that it is there.

What should people in the islands do about these snakes?

"First, don't panic; there is a danger, but the snakes have yet to kill any humans," Fritts replied. But he said that if a suspected Brown Tree Snake is sighted, it should be reported to the authorities.

If possible, capture the snake, alive or dead, and give it someone who can identify it. Information is valuable. If that is not possible, a photo of it might help.

Fritts' final advice, came with the sigh of an experienced public servant, as he said "support quarantine procedures".

Quarantine procedures may, for example, require that incoming shipments of lumber must be kept at the dock for a week, to make sure that no snakes are hiding there. The lumber merchant or builder may want his shipment of wood right away, and complain about government-imposed delays on his getting his hands on his property.

Further, the future of the Port of Guam may be adversely affected by the snake scare. Businessmen in Saipan may not want to receive goods shipped through Guam if the goods are more likely — even though the chances are slim — to have Brown Tree Snakes than goods shipped directly to Saipan.

Apparently there is no easy way to control snakes, which is why Senator Akaka wants as powerful allies as he can muster in this battle. □

PACIFIC WOMEN

Childbirth, without frills

By Eileen Tugum

COLD, frightened, and writhing in pain Mary died in the jungle in a remote part of Papua New Guinea.

Alone, exhausted, in desperate need of help, she clung to a sapling and died with her unborn baby stuck between her legs.

Her family buried her without ceremony the next day. Her sin: she had got pregnant outside of marriage. Shunned by the village, ashamed, and fearful, she had tried to deliver her baby herself.

In the same area another woman also died in childbirth. She had complained of pain and confided to women relatives of stench and discharges. But in a society that doesn't talk about these things the problem was not brought to health workers' attention. She died.

Even if it could have been talked about, the nearest health centre was a day's walk through rugged country.

A trainee health extension officer on leave delivered the child. It had been dead for some time. The infant's skin was peeling off. The woman's family had to put on a big party to compensate the man who had broken tradition and cultural taboos to deliver the child.

Over 1000 women in Papua New Guinea are reported to die annually from problems related to childbirth — but only about one in 10 maternal deaths are estimated to be reported.

Some studies say the most immediate cause is lack of care. However, they say social and cultural factors usually underlie biological and physical reasons. These include poverty, ignorance, isolation, poor nutrition, overwork or heavy workload, no family planning (many pregnancies, or closely spaced children), violence based on lack of respect between partners, inaccessibility of health services, cultural food taboos, and cultural attitudes to women and their role and childbearing. Studies say many of these are related to low status of women.

The good news is that the health and welfare of PNG women has finally gained a national focus, as at the 19th Waigani Seminar in June in Port Moresby. About 100 men and women representing women's leaders, health workers, policy

makers, project planners and educators attended the one-day meeting — the culmination of a four-year project focusing on the status of women's health.

The meeting looked at the issue under the sub-topics of education, social and cultural issues, health services and generic issues which were seen as contributing to women's health. The aim was identifying major barriers and developing strategies and projects.

For education and literacy there was a call to carry out a mass campaign to change community attitudes to women and their role, including sensitising men on women's issue and educating them to share responsibilities. There was a call to set up village reading programs and village resource centres, and for efforts to improve the status of women at the national level through lobbying and boosting their role in decision-making.

There was a call for updating health worker curriculum, training more female workers, strengthening women's organis-

ations on the local level, as well as the Women's Division which would be made its own Ministry.

Participants stressed that women's health was very important — it was the key to the health of her children and family.

Group discussions revealed that despite a shortage of resources in specific areas such as health services, there are general financial and human resources available. What is missing is coordination of efforts and integration of programs within existing projects. They said a coordinating body should be established to ensure ideas are implemented, not put in a document and forgotten.

The Departments of Health, Home Affairs and Youth, Education, Finance and Planning and donor agencies at the meeting gave their commitment to making the ideas a reality.

A meeting will be organised to follow through the call to establish a coordinating body and set up future directions.

The Prime Minister's wife and Patron of the 19th Waigani Seminar, Margaret Nakikus, in her address said the current health situation of women is "unacceptable and must change".

She said the country had seen some major improvements in some health indicators, for example infant and child mortality rates have been decreasing, but the same cannot be said for women's health. "In fact there are indications that the situation is worsening," she said.

She pointed out that:

- Papua New Guinea women today make up 47 per cent of the country's population;

- 43 per cent of them are in the child-bearing years of 15-44; and on average each will bear 5.4 children;

- each stands a lifetime chance of one in 26 of dying during a pregnancies;

- access to family planning is limited and less than 3 per cent are using it.

According to Acting Secretary for Home Affairs and Youth Clant Alok: "What we need is commitment to the overall status of women. We need not only to identify factors affecting the health of women and develop strategies and projects to address these barriers, but to give human and financial support."

Otherwise the bright ideas will just remain bright ideas, and the status of women's health will not improve. □



Women in remote areas: bearing children in geographical, often cultural isolation

Bishop in a coat of many colours

By Ian Williams

THE survival of indigenous peoples and the welfare of the South Pacific are two of Sir Paul Reeves's big priorities. This happy juncture of interests is not too surprising, since he was the first Maori to become Archbishop of New Zealand, and then the first to become the country's Governor General. This year he has become the Anglican Church's first observer at the United Nations, which he hopes will give him an opportunity to do something about his interests.

He told *Pacific Islands Monthly*: "My grandmother was a Maori so my roots and associations are as well. The Maoris in New Zealand are relatively strong so perhaps it wasn't surprising that I became Archbishop and Governor General. But merely by going somewhere, you make a statement".

How did you get into the church?

"It just sort of happened — there was no great Damascus experience. I went to University and felt that being a priest was a means of attaching myself to the hopes and aspirations of my people".

How did you move from the Church to State? "I became Archbishop at the age of 45, and then David Lange put the idea of being Governor General to me. I considered whether it would be consistent with what I was doing, and decided that I could relate to the country as a whole. I always regarded privilege as being a means of access."

What access did you gain? "To other Pacific peoples in New Zealand. As Governor General I would attend their functions, and visited the islands themselves. My official responsibilities for those five years ranged from the South Pole to Tokelau in the North."

"One gets confused. For most of the world, Asia-Pacific means Taiwan or Japan, or the Pacific Rim. But for me, the Pacific is tiny isolated nations, small groups of people with rudimentary technology surrounded by ocean. They are struggling to survive in a world which doesn't especially want their goods and services, except tourism. And tourism can be fickle — and devastating as well".

Why the United Nations? "It's where the world comes to do its business. In fact it is not the only place."

He is deeply concerned that vital economic and social matters are decided elsewhere, usually by rich industrialised countries, while the relevant UN committees are only attended by the second string diplomats.

From the UN he reports to the Anglican Consultative Council, whose President is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Living in a nearby seminary, he is now in premises provided by the American Episcopal Church, a short walk from the UN Building in New York. His modest two-person office, sporting the "alternative" New Zealand flag, is next to that of the Bishop for the US Armed Forces. However, Sir Paul is a different sort of church militant.

"My first job is to try to represent this global network of people, the Anglican

the problems of refugees, and children, must all be considered."

He points out that 1993 is the UN's "Year of Indigenous Peoples".

"They are the people who were originally present in a land and found themselves swamped by colonists, and are now a minority in their own land," he explained, drawing upon his own personal background. "The Anglican Church contains many indigenous people, in the South Pacific, in South Africa, and even among Palestinians."

Having identified the problems, and met many of the people who may help a solution — what do he and the Anglican Church propose to do about it?

"It's the time-honoured thing of working out a strategy with an advisory group. I might be able to provide a



Always at home: Sir Paul Reeves, centre, in traditional Maori cape, with Dr William Vendeley, Secretary General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace at the United Nations, and Rev. Austin Cooper Sr, Anglican Consultative Council member of the Episcopal Church

church, to see if I can form and influence UN activity. And, of course, to see how the UN can help us".

He began by knocking on doors, starting with the heads of missions. "I went to the Pacific Missions first — it's my territory, after all. I found to my pleasant surprise that they knew of me — as Governor-General I had travelled around the region. In the amorphous stew of the UN, it's good to come from somewhere. After that I went to the Frontline African Ambassadors".

But what was he going to do with these contacts? "I have identified areas of concern for us: the environment — I am involved in drawing up an Earth Charter; secondly human rights — monitoring the debate about South Africa and Apartheid, the Palestinian/Israeli issue,

neutral place. Someone who seeks to inform rather than coerce."

As one example, he points out, while many people see religion as one of the problems in the Middle East. "Some possibilities are beginning to arise that religious leaders might be encouraged to talk together."

But then his secretary interrupts with a parcel that has just been delivered. The interview, with *PIM* finishes, as it began, in the South Pacific. The parcel contains a facsimile copy of the Treaty of Waitangi between the British and the Maoris. He unfolds it, and scrutinises it and explains the marks of the chiefs, for a few minutes transported 12,000 miles from the concrete Megapolis in the Northern Hemisphere to the green hills of home. □



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Spectacles, Contact Lenses, Sunglasses, See JEKISHAN & JEKISHAN, Epworth House, G.P.O. Box 285, Suva, Fiji. Ph 311002 Fax: (679) 411898.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Top quality four colour printing, brochures, posters, packaging, product labels, fabric labels, billboards, books, magazines, stickers, books. Export quality. Contact Fiji's most experienced Commercial Printers. FIJI TIMES COMMERCIAL PRINTING, P.O. Box 1167, Suva, Fiji. Phone: 304111 Fax: 301521.

SELF ADHESIVE LABELS

FORUM LABELS (FIJI) LTD
P.O. Box 1167, Suva, Fiji. Phone: 304111
We print self-adhesive labels in rolls, multi-coloured labels with hot foil, and die cut to shape, tickets and tags in rolls. We also supply labelling machines and fabric labels.

AUCTION

GOLD MINING PLANT

On site Wau – Morobe Province
Papua New Guinea
THURSDAY 21st NOVEMBER 11am



Under Instructions from
RGC (Papua New Guinea) Pty Limited.
Due to cessation of mining at Wau.

INSPECTION
Wednesday 20th November 9am-4pm.

COLLIERS
INTERNATIONAL
PLANT & APPRAISALS

PRIOR OFFERS INVITED

MODERN 500,000 TPA CIP PLANT.
Incl. Feeders, Conveyors, **Marcy** 5' x 12' 6" SAG Mill, **Vickers Ruwolt** 10' x 14' Ball Mill, **Warman** Pumps, (5) 450M³ Leach Tanks, (6) 110m³ CIP Tanks, **Zadra** 3 Ton Stripping Circuit, Gold Room, Reagent & Electrical Equip.
To be offered firstly as a whole then major component lots.

MOBILE CRANES

Grove RT58B 15T Rough Terrain Crane.
BHB TC38 8T Yard Crane.

WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT

Incl. Lathes, Drills, Mills, Welders, Compressors, Tools, Woodworking, Stores & Spares.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

Workshop 30M x 36M x 6M. **CIP** 22M x 11M x 12M with 1T OHT Crane. **Electrical** 14M x 8M x 4M.

SUNDRY PLANT

Incl. Piping, Steel, Elec. Cable, Office Equip etc.

409 FRANCIS STREET,
BROOKLYN, VIC. 3025, AUSTRALIA.
Fax: (61-3) 314 6943 Ph: (61-3) 315 1555

Designed to be Driven.



Proven in Every Corner of the World.

Stylish elegance and luxurious detail are the first things you'll notice about the new Galant. So you might be surprised to learn that Galants have driven to victory in more than 10 major rally raid events—from the snowy slopes of Sweden, to the African savannah. And you'll be pleased to know that the same performance features keeping those rally cars competitive on the course are also what make your Galant one of the best performance saloons on the road today.

For years, Mitsubishi engineers have known that motorsports are an ideal place for testing new and improved technologies. The hard, fast driving required to win a rally strains every part of a car—generating pressures that exceed the demands of

normal driving. Here, as drivers push their cars to the limit, the rigidity and strength of new space-age constructions can be checked and proven reliable.

The new Galant's advanced triple-link torsion axle rear suspension is a good example. It is the result of many small yet critical refinements, ultimately designed to grip the road for safer, more comfortable control when changing lanes and cornering.

The severe demands of international motorsport competition: just further proof of how far Mitsubishi will go to build the best cars for you.

MITSUBISHI GALANT

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