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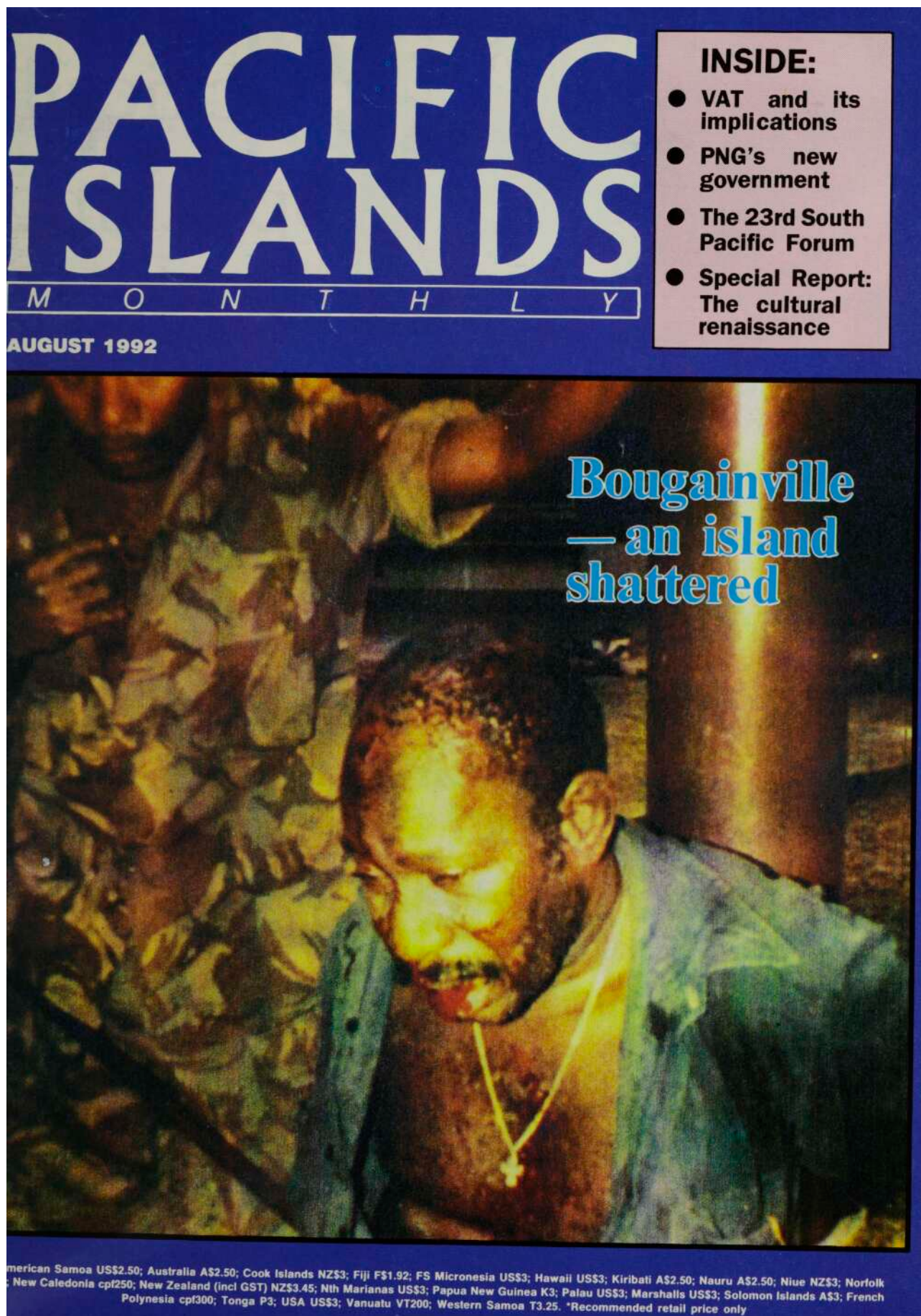
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M O N T H L Y

Vol 62 No. 8

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AUGUST 1992

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COVER: Aloysius Minangton, a Bougainvillean environmentalist, held captive by the PNG defence force troops in 1989. Minangton, who was researching the effects of Bougainville Copper Ltd, later died while still in captivity. Official cause of his death was pneumonia.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Coming to grips with Bougainville

Last month's South Pacific Forum meeting in Honiara in the Solomon Islands was a resounding success in terms of being cordial, non-controversial and discussing all the 'right' issues. There were resolutions made on trade, economic advancement, environment, regional law enforcement, and so on. But the burning issue in the region, the Bougainville dilemma, did not so much as even rate a mention.

Not only did it not even make it on the meeting agenda, the whole Bougainville question was cleanly swept under the carpet as if it did not exist. Despite being the hottest story in Honiara as far as the media was concerned, the regional leaders did not see it fit to discuss the issue, let alone make a resolution on it.

And that is not for a want of trying by the people of Bougainville. There was a formidable contingent from the island - including Bishop Zale and Mike Forster - and there was also Rosemary Gillespie's account, backed by what she said were signed statements of the horrors the people of Bougainville suffered at the hands of the Papua New Guinea defence force troops.

Gillespie, a lawyer fighting for human rights, spent time on the island and was, by all accounts, giving an independent assessment of the situation there. But our leaders preferred to refer to the whole Bougainville saga as an internal matter for PNG to sort out.

Given PNG has a point in not wanting to give in to the secessionist demands. Once a precedent is set, there is no telling



Gillespie: told of horrors on Bougainville

where it will end. But it cannot be denied that there are claims of gross abuse of human rights coming from Bougainville. PNG, of course, denies there is any truth in these claims. Bougainville people insist they are true.

So, on humanitarian grounds, wouldn't it have made sense for the

Forum leaders to call for an independent observer mission to be sent to Bougainville to decide once and for all how much truth there is in the stories? Wouldn't it have made sense, on humanitarian grounds, to find to what extent the people of Bougainville are affected by the blockade imposed by PNG.

It does not take much imagination to work out what could happen to the island's people without medical supplies and personnel; without basic essentials of education for the children now growing up there; and without links to the outside world.

From accounts *Pacific Islands Monthly* has received, people are surviving on a subsistence level only and relying on make-shift measures to cope with their problems. There are tales of people dying of curable diseases and minor infections because they do not have the medical back-up. They have, according to one account, gone back a hundred years in time - from a once prosperous area with a bright future to a ghost town with no hope in sight.

What has surprised most people is the non-reaction the problem received at the Forum meeting. The situation, on our very own door-step and with no signs of abating, needs to be addressed. And what better forum to get an objective, independent hearing than the South Pacific Forum meeting last month. □

HEADLINES

Solomons

Diplomat dies

The United Nations flag flew at half mast in New York when word reached the Secretariat of the fatal heart attack suffered by Francis Bugotu, the Ambassador of the Solomon Islands of the United Nations, the USA, and Canada. He was attending the South Pacific Forum in Honiara.

Born in Guadalcanal in 1937, he was educated in New Zealand, Scotland and England. An active Anglican church member, he began his working life as a teacher and then later graduated to become permanent secretary of Education. Then he started a new career as practically the prototype Pacific diplomat. In 1976 he carried out post-graduate studies and diplomatic training in Queensland and Canberra. From 1978 to 1982 he was the Solomons' secretary for Foreign Affairs and the ambassador to the rest of the world. From 1982 to 1986 he was secretary general of the South Pacific Commission.

He became the Solomons' ambassador to the United Nations in 1990. His concern for the welfare of the peoples of the South Pacific was reflected in his ventilation of their problems at the UN, and his colleagues were united in their shock at the news and in their appreciation of a diplomat whose unassuming politeness was combined with real ability and sensitivity.



Bugotu: always an innovator

Medical debts settled

A scare in the Solomon Islands that the country would soon run out of medical supplies has eased. The Controller of Government supplies, Jim Katovai, said medical authorities in the country can now place orders for medical supplies through purchasing agents in Britain and Australia.

The earlier concern stemmed from the government not paying outstanding accounts with overseas agents. Katovai said the government's account with British Crown Agents had been settled. He said new orders may be placed soon when the Solomon Islands government and the Crown Agents agreed on a \$US110,000 advance facility proposed by the company.

He said the accounts with Kerr Brothers of Australia also had been re-opened after outstanding accounts were settled. Katovai said his division was giving priority to orders for medical supplies over all other general supplies.

Vanuatu

Strained relations

Australia has cancelled a naval visit to Vanuatu in protest at the expulsion of its acting high commissioner in Port Vila. *HMAS Jervis Bay* and *HMAS Darwin* were due to visit Vanuatu from July 9 to 12, but Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said it would not be appropriate to proceed with the visit in light of the Vanuatu government's actions.

Vanuatu has accused the diplomat, James Pearson, of interference in the state's internal affairs and gave him 24 hours to leave the country. Senator Evans spoke with Vanuatu's Prime Minister, Maxime Carlot, but failed to convince him to rescind the decision which Australia claims was unjustified. But Carlot did agree to give Pearson an extra day for his departure.

Diplomatic relations between Port Vila and Canberra froze over Australia's reaction to the Business Licence Act amendments. Vanuatu described the reaction as "hasty" and an interference in its internal affairs.

The amendment gave Vanuatu's Finance Minister powers to refuse or revoke business licences without giving reasons and without having his decision challenged in court. Pearson was reported to have said its impact on the Vanuatu economy could affect Australian aid to the country.

In reply, Vanuatu's deputy Prime Minister, Gethy Regenvanu, said policy matters to do with the country's economy remained solely with the Vanuatu government, exercising its internal, sovereign and constitutional rights.

He said he did not need "gratuitous explanations" on the internationally accepted diplomatic practices under which Australia's concerns were channelled.

Easter Islands

Mineral deposits

A team of scientists from Chile and Germany is to search the sea-bed off Chile's Easter Island for deposits of iron, copper and other minerals which are known to exist there. The deposits have been created by undersea volcanic activity and were discovered 10 years ago by a team from the German Institute of Geological Sciences and Natural Resources.

Some of the samples taken at the time were almost pure. The new survey will be to map out deposits which could be of commercial significance. A spokesman for the institute said many governments were eager to engage in deep-sea mining. He said requests for mineral concessions elsewhere in the Pacific had already been made by France, Germany, Russia and Japan.

HAWAII

Hawaii

Tourism decline



Hawaii's Waikiki beach: a major tourist attraction

Hawaii's embattled tourism industry experienced more than a seven per cent decline in visitors in May, compared with May 1991. The decline came entirely from the US Mainland, from where visitor arrivals plummeted over 17 per cent in comparison with the previous year.

But vacationers travelling to Hawaii from other points — including Pacific and Asian areas, Europe and Canada — all increased significantly. Compared with a year ago, visitors from New Zealand grew almost five per cent, while those from Australia increased more than 27 per cent.

Total visitor arrivals for May this year was 552,000, compared to 513,000 the previous year. Hawaii tourism officials attribute part of the decline from the US to bargain airfares in effect throughout continental United States. As a result, they say, vacationers are travelling to other US and North American destinations instead of to Hawaii.

Other analysts suggest, however, that Hawaii might be pricing itself out of the mass tourist market, as costs of having a holiday there continue to rise. The decline in visitor numbers has also resulted in a decline in the number of airline seats available between Honolulu and US trans-Pacific gateways such as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Independence protest

Native Hawaiians marked American Independence Day celebrations with a demonstration to demand Hawaii's independence from the United States. The rally took place in front of the 'Iolani Palace in Honolulu. Hundreds of protestors demanded the return of Hawaiian sovereignty, culture and land rights. Hawaiian militant Dennis Kanahale said the demonstrators were seeking to reverse history. Hawaii was proclaimed a republic under the protection of the United States in 1894 and later became a state of the US.

Fiji

Record production

Fiji's crucial sugar harvest has got off to a smooth start with all four sugar mills crushing as planned. The Fiji Sugar Corporation is predicting a record sugar production of 384,000 tonnes from 3.4 million tonnes of cane. It's the first time in several years that the cane harvest has begun without threats of a boycott or strike. Sugar has been Fiji's main export earner for most of this century but tourism has overtaken it in the last couple of years.

Parliamentary happenings

The 70-member Fiji House of Representatives sat for the first time on June 29, after the president of the country, Ratu Sir Penania Ganilau, formally opened the session.

Former Health Minister and defeated candidate in the elections, Dr Apenisa Kuruisaqla, was appointed speaker of the house on June 26.

A junior minister in the Fiji government has warned that if non-Christians did not observe and respect Sundays, the Hindu celebration of Diwali and the Muslim's Prophet Mohammed's birthday should be scrapped. The two celebrations are marked by public holidays in Fiji.

The Minister of State for Health, Solomon Naivalu, told parliament he also supported amendments to the constitution which would declare Fiji a Christian state. Naivalu said the practice of the indigenous Fijian people's Christian faith and beliefs would merely become lip-service if they did not observe and protect Sunday and ensure that non-Christians respect that day every week. Naivalu said he was not trying to impose Sunday observance on others but asking others to appreciate, understand and accept Christian values as part of the indigenous system.

The Speaker of Fiji's House of Representatives has rejected questions filed in parliament relating to the office of the country's two vice-presidents. The 14 questions were filed by the Fijian Nationalist United Front (FNUF). FNUF leader Sakeasi Butadroka said he was not satisfied with the speaker's ruling as the questions related to public funds. He wanted to know under what authority public funds were being used to set up an office for one of the vice-presidents, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who was the country's former prime minister. Butadroka asked why Mara's new office was staffed by civil servants and why he had "commandeered" two government vehicles. He also wanted to know when Mara would vacate the official prime minister's residence to allow the new prime minister, Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, to move in.

HEADLINES

Australia

ACTU's concern

Australia's umbrella trade union organisation, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, says the federal government's Broadcasting Services Bill threatens investigative journalism. The ACTU president, Martin Ferguson, has written to all members of the Federal Parliamentary Labour Caucus calling on them to amend the proposed legislation. Ferguson says the bill gives the proposed Australian Broadcasting Authority unprecedented power to demand that journalists reveal their sources. In a letter, Ferguson goes on to describe the authority's powers as draconian and unparalleled. He says he is far from assured by Communications Minister Bob Collins, who has said the authority will take a prudent and reasonable approach in using its powers.

Indigenous rights

The descendants of South Sea islanders taken to Australia as indentured labourers last century are taking their grievances to the United Nations. The estimated 20,000 islanders want formal recognition as a black minority.

The islanders' spokesman, Nasuven Enares, has been invited to speak at July's session of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva. Enares said she would tell the UN the Australian government had ignored her people since they were taken there a century ago as virtual slaves.

She said islanders had suffered the same discrimination as the Aborigines but without the benefits of recognition as a black minority. Enares will ask the UN to pressure Australia to accord islanders the same access to education, housing and welfare.

El Nino dissipating

Scientists at Australia's National Climate Centre say the drought which has ravaged crops and cost hundreds of millions of dollars in the Asia and South Pacific region appears to be over. They said it was because the climatic phenomenon known as El Nino was dissipating. The scientists said the world was now seeing the declining phase of El Nino which has been affecting global weather patterns since early last year. They said Australia could expect a quick recovery from drought conditions.

Democrats' move

The Australian Democrats will move to refer an investigation into the matters arising from the Marshall Islands affair to a joint parliamentary working group on political ethics.

The proposal, approved at a Democrats meeting, would result in a code of conduct and was likely to meet with the approval of the Keating government which is keen to limit further political damage from the Marshall Islands affair.

Under Democrat leader John Coulter's proposal the ethics working group would report on its findings during the first sitting of 1993.

Western Samoa

Fire legislation

NEW legislation by which the Western Samoan government is seeking to protect itself from lawsuits resulting from the negligence of its own fire brigade has met with strong criticism. Opposition MP Leseisuiuo Palemene said the government was deserting its duty.

The fire brigade, which falls under the responsibility of the prime minister's department, lacks money and resources and suffers from poor infrastructural support, including a lack of necessary water pressure in most parts of the capital, Apia, to put out fires.

The poor state of the fire brigade is potentially dangerous as many of the old buildings in the city are made of wood. Prime minister Tofilau Eti Alesena defended the legislation say-



Tofilau Eti Alesena

ing the protection was needed against the possibility of major fire related payouts due to the action or inaction of firemen.

Tofilau said the government would be in difficulty if it ended up with multi-million tala claims. One of the country's biggest damage awards was made in an out-of-court settlement which cost the government and Mobil Oil \$320,000.

New Zealand

Foreign aid to be cut

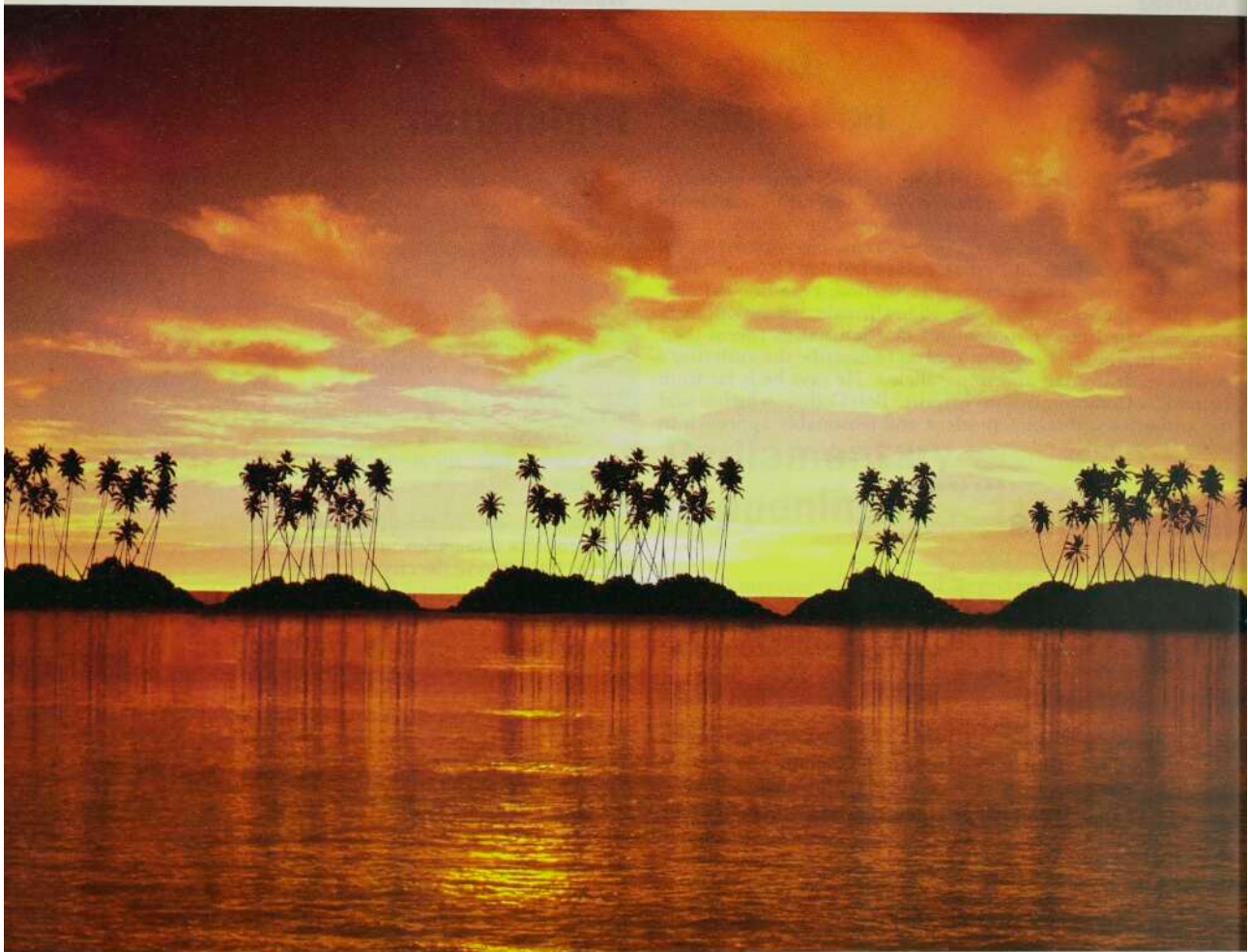
New Zealand's foreign aid is to be cut by three per cent in the 1992-93 financial year. The total value of New Zealand aid will be \$US77.4 million. More than 60 per cent of the aid will go to South Pacific countries, and the bulk of that to countries which New Zealand had constitutional or treaty obligations with. These are Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau and Western Samoa. Foreign minister Don McKinnon said New Zealand would also be doing more in Asia with an increase in allocation for China, and to double the allocation for Cambodia and Vietnam.

Power crisis

The electricity shortage in New Zealand is being tipped to slow the country's recovery from economic recession. A private forecasting group, Infometrics, predicts the power crisis will mean a net 0.17 per cent loss of gross domestic product during the year to March 1993.

Infometrics said this would slow growth from the 3.5 per cent rate which it had been predicting before. However, the group also sees a worst-case scenario of power conservation measures trimming electricity use by 15 per cent.

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POLITICS

PNG's new government

Over 2.3 million Papua New Guineans went to the polls on June 13 to elect its fourth post-independence parliament. When the results were declared on July 13, the country had voted out the majority of sitting members of parliament. **Frank Kolma** reports on the elections and the challenges facing the new government.

PAIAS WINGTI was re-elected prime minister on the casting vote of the speaker when Papua New Guinea's fourth post-independence parliament met on July 17. For the first time parliament was tied 54-54 in the selection for prime minister. Earlier, speaker Bill Skate himself had won only narrowly — 55 votes to 54.

A senior public servant said soon afterwards: "Fifty-four is no working majority". The passage of important bills will be difficult. Wingti's first test is only four months away when he will need to pass his budget.

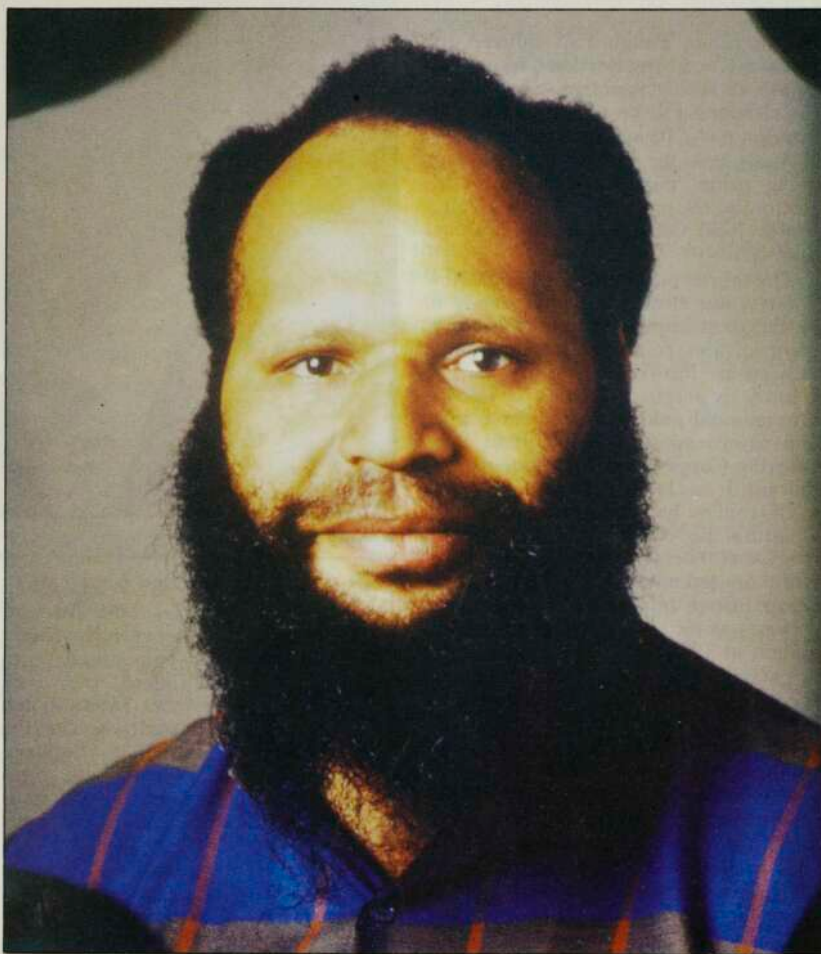
When he announces his ministry and under-secretaries on August 3, many disgruntled members of parliament will already be thinking of switching sides to the opposition and preparing a vote of no confidence in 18 months.

This is Wingti's third term as prime minister, having first won government on November 21, 1985. He later gained government after the 1987 elections and then lost in a motion of no confidence to out-going prime minister Rabbie Namaliu.

Announcing a caretaker ministry comprising party leaders in his camp, Wingti promised his team would manage the country in an "open and honest way". The full ministry will be announced on August 3. He said: "Let me assure all of PNG that we have a cohesive team, a team that has governed before and will govern this country for the next five years. This is nothing new to me. The last time I lost was not through the people but the floor of parliament in a motion of no confidence because I fought corruption."

Outgoing prime minister Namaliu said after his defeat, he would consider his leadership of the Pangu Pati. "It's a decision I will have to consider over the next few days. I said yesterday that my family will obviously be a major consideration."

Namaliu accused Wingti of using heavy-handed tactics, denying elected members freedom of speech and keeping them under guard. In the lead-up to the



Palas Wingti: returns, but only with a slim majority

formation of the government, coalition members comprising Pangu Pati, People's Action Party, Melanesian Alliance and independents led by former finance and planning minister Paul Pora camped in Madang on the northcoast.

The former opposition, comprising Wingti's People's Democratic Movement, People's Progress Party, government defector, League for National

Advancement and a collection of independents camped in the Mine Bay province on the eastern tip of the mainland.

There was speculation both Namaliu and Wingti's leaderships were challenged at the camps, mainly from within their own parties. The close contest for the prime minister's post again indicated the severe attrition among members.

POLITICS

A record 59 sitting members, more than half of the 109 parliamentarians have lost their seats, compared to 45 in the 1987 elections. Fifteen ministers, more than half of the 28-member Cabinet and including former deputy prime minister Akoka Doi, also were casualties to the power of the people.

The People's Progress Party performed exceptionally well. The party bounced back from a humiliating loss in the last election to win six new members this time. In a significant victory, the party took all three electorates in the New Ireland province, returning leader Sir Julius Chan and dethroning Pangu Pati minister Michael Sinan in the process.

The ruling Pangu Pati suffered the worst defeat in the elections, losing half of the 30 sitting members who entered the elections. Fifteen retained their seats and the party picked up four new ones.

Apart from the narrow victory of outgoing prime minister Namaliu in his electorate, the party lost its joint deputy leader John Giheno and four Cabinet ministers.

The fourth parliament of Papua New Guinea, just elected is said by many to be the most important for the country. Most of the country's large resource projects are just coming on stream. The country is set to becoming a leading international gold producer. Its copper and silver exports, even without Bougainville Copper's contribution, are significant. It has known petroleum reserves of 200 million barrels and vast quantities of natural gas, commercial production of which is still being debated. By 1993 and 1994, an estimated K2 billion will be earned from minerals and petroleum exports alone, compared with K636 million in 1990.

Yet it is feared much of this money will not benefit the majority of the people of Papua New Guinea. In the countryside access to drinking water, energy, transport and other facilities is limited.

Education and health facilities are totally inadequate and declining in quality throughout the country. Buildings, roads and bridges, much of them from pre-independence days, are in need of maintenance.

These problems have been compounded by the growth of a large government sector which took over and has expanded a web of regulations, the predominant effect of which has been to bog down investment and economic activity.

Good economic policies of the new government and particularly its ability to implement these policies will decide whether much of the windfall money from the resource developments can be channelled into the right areas to create longer term employment opportunities.



Rabble Namallu: reconsidering Pangu Pati leadership

PNG may have, in the Wingti/Chan partnership, a good deal. Their first and second terms in office between November 1985 and July 1988 emphasised economic development. Indeed, they took over an economy the International Monetary Fund reported was "on the brink of collapse" in 1985. Eighteen months later the World Bank commended government economic policies as being on track to provide a sound basis for development.

But the resource developers are more inclined to view the new administration with suspicion. In election campaigns, Wingti promised radical changes and reviews of current agreements with a view to processing much of PNG's raw materials on-shore.

He said log exports would be banned, the feasibility of gold and oil refineries would be seriously studied and copper smelters considered.

Wingti has promised much of the money from resource development would be diverted to agricultural development, towards free education and rural infrastructure.

Bougainville sticks out like a sore

thumb. Although on the eve of the formation of the new government the Bougainville Republican Army threw its support behind Wingti, it may live to regret that.

Wingti has also stated his government would review the situation on Bougainville and discuss the various options carefully. Once an option is selected, he would order every government agency to direct its energies towards implementing the plan.

His options are to ask for and continue dialogue and continue the present very slow filtration of restoration programs; to send in the troops to attempt a military solution; or give the island independence from Papua New Guinea. With the first having failed and the last option fairly remote, a military solution looms dangerously attractive.

The irony is that getting the approval of parliament will perhaps be the new prime minister's biggest test. With the margin he has, he will need to talk to the opposition closely and compromise a lot or try to attract several defectors from that camp in order to be able to perform his task well. □

POLITICS

The man who is PM

By Frank Kolma

NEW PNG prime minister Paias Wingti is four years younger than his predecessor Rabbie Namaliu. But for the two former Pangu Pati colleagues, leadership styles are very different.

Namaliu is a committee man, always ready to compromise and reach a consensus. Wingti is more decisive, choosing to deal with a problem with the minimum of consultation very quickly. Wingti conducts the consultation before he is faced with a problem.

During his short term as prime minister, Wingti banned overseas trips for all his ministers except the finance and foreign affairs ministers. But he travelled extensively to every part of the country talking to everybody who shook hands with him.

"What's happening here? Have you heard about me? What are the major problems around here?" These were typical questions he would ask people.

He hated and shied away from the Port Moresby cocktail parties. He said lobbyists and self-interested and pompous individuals with very little concern for the country frequented these parties.

But he was interested, none-the-less, in what went on. An officer would be sent along to more important gatherings. Journalists would find themselves being interviewed about public opinion or reaction to a government decision. Church leaders and selected business leaders were consulted.

In March 1985, when Wingti broke ranks with the Pangu Pati with 19 others, the International Monetary Fund reported PNG's economy was on the brink of collapse.

Wingti regained government on November 21, the same year, after moving a motion of no confidence in former leader and political mentor, Sir Michael Somare.

He made economic development the top priority of his government and paid particular emphasis on agriculture. He divided departments and ministries into economic, infrastructure and social ministries, and gave them attention in that order.

Wingti chose one of the country's most able and experienced finance ministers, Sir Julius Chan, to be his deputy and to head his economic drive. Eighteen months later, the World Bank reported PNG's economic policies were sound and on track to form the basis of rapid economic growth.

Due to Bougainville and low commodity prices the two institutions were back in 1989, bailing out the country and proposing massive restructuring, the results of which will not be known until 1995. Both Wingti and Chan abhorred the overseas borrowings. Loan repayment was the single biggest expenditure item of each of their three budgets.

Wingti kept telling people on his village travels: "The money is in the land. Turn to the land. If you want

something, you contribute 50 per cent in hard work and the government will contribute 50 per cent in infrastructure." The message worked. And he kept his word. When coffee rust was discovered in the highlands, he called a state of emergency and poured millions of kina into the coffee industry to combat and rehabilitate small growers' plantations. The operation was successful in most respects but the establishment of the Coffee Development Agency and its political overtones in the 1987 elections caused concern and the Namaliu government amalgamated the independent agency under the new Coffee Industry Corporation.

Wingti banned overseas travel and demanded performance from his ministers to the point of being absurd. He instructed ministers once not to go to discos and not to get drunk in public. He demanded equal performance from public servants, choosing to direct rather than be guided by advice from them.

In foreign policy, Wingti chose to deal with close neighbours first and then with the outside. He told Australia the loose arrangements between various agencies of the two governments should be brought together under one umbrella. It resulted in the Joint Declaration of Principles.

The same was applied to Indonesia with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Friendship.

Wingti initiated the Melanesian Spearhead Group among Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG, now under threat by the spill-over effect of Bougainville troubles into the Solomons.

But the Wingti of 1985 may not be the same as the Wingti of 1992. He seems to have lost much of the enthusiasm, spending a lot of time with his businesses. But he has not lost his appeal with the people. The charismatic appeal the bearded highlander has had continues to hold his listeners' attention at any forum he chooses to address.

Wingti is one of 18 brothers and sisters born of the many wives his Western Highlands Jiga chieftan Wingti Wimpai had. He entered the University of Papua New Guinea to study "a bit of everything" from politics, arts to economics. Wingti left after three years and tried his hand at peanut planting before he contested elections in 1977 for the Hagen Open seat. He scored 2900 votes to defeat his nearest rival by 300 votes. He stood on a Pangu ticket in 1982 and won again by 2000 votes.

He was made Pangu Party deputy leader and headed several ministries. Wingti headed a number of radical elements in the Pangu camp in the likes of Nahau Rooney and Gabriel Ramoi. But he judged there was far too much competition for Somare's job. He had to get out if he had any hope of leading a party.

A clever strategist, he bided his time until discontent was high in Pangu, before making the break. He succeeded.

In 1987 he switched from Hagen Open to Western Highlands regional. A province that had returned him with an overwhelming majority.

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BUSINESS

Fiji's new tax proposal, and what it means

Fiji implemented its Value Added Tax scheme in July, but the fight against it continues

By Asha Lakhan

A GENERAL consumption tax hit the stores of Fiji last month despite heavy pressure on the new Rabuka government to at least defer its implementation, if not scrap it altogether. Known as the Value Added Tax, it imposes a levy on almost all goods and services in the country, with a few exemptions. It came into effect after a year of government publicity describing it as "good for you, me and Fiji".

With the implementation of VAT, Fiji swallows yet another dose of the International Monetary Fund/World Bank prescription for Third World countries in financial problems.

Critics of VAT claim the Fiji government was under severe financial constraints to introduce VAT. It took over power to find the national treasury virtually bankrupt and unable to service its overseas debts. It had little option but to bow to World Bank pressure, making further loans dependent on a continuation of IMF/World Bank recommended structural adjustment programs, including VAT. The program, SAP as it is becoming known, is the standard panacea recommended by these two financial institutions for ailing Third World economies. It entails a "liberalisation" policy aimed at export oriented growth and

involving trade and market deregulation, tax reforms, cutbacks in government expenditure and privatisation.

The overall theme of VAT is to reduce the anti-export bias and it entails a move away from a direct to an indirect tax base. It shifts the indirect tax base from imports to domestic consumption. Before VAT, direct taxes accounted for 43 per cent and indirect taxes 57 per cent of Fiji's tax revenue. Individual income taxes made up 26 per cent of total tax income for government and corporate tax 15 per cent. In indirect taxes, import duty contributed nearly one-third (34 per cent) of the revenue.

VAT, according to the Fiji government, will be revenue neutral; it replaces the 10 per cent customs duty, excise duty and the hotel turnover and miscellaneous turnover taxes. In 1990 these four taxes contributed just over \$295 million in government revenue. Although the government has not said how much VAT is expected to collect, if it is to be revenue neutral it will have to raise at least \$295 million. In truth, however, the sums raised will have to be more than this if the tax is to make up for loss of additional government revenue from a 7.5 per cent reduction in company tax (from 37.5 to 30 per cent) in line with the income tax reduction (from 40 to 30 per cent).

Critics of VAT in Fiji see it as a highly

regressive form of taxation which shifts the tax burden from those most able to pay to those least able to do so. To use a standard cliché, the argument is VAT will "make the poor poorer and the rich richer".

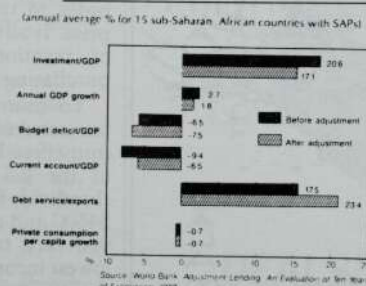
A close look at concessions granted by the former minister of finance in Fiji's previous interim government, Josevata Kamikmaica, shows the largest beneficiaries of tax concessions which came in line with VAT are those in the higher income brackets. People earning at the threshold level of \$4500 gain 0.5 per cent from the reduction — in monetary terms this means an addition of about 47 cents in the weekly pay packet.

Fiji's average income is between \$6000 to \$7000 a year — this group benefits to the tune of 4.7 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively, while those earning \$15,000 and over get more than a 10-per-cent reduction in tax, with increases in the pay packet ranging from \$23 a week to \$105 for those earning up to \$83,000 a year.

Fiji trade unionist and Fiji Labour Party leader Mahendra Chaudhry, speaking in parliament during an Opposition motion to defer VAT until it could be debated in parliament, pointed out that a person earning more than \$45,000 would have to buy \$30,000 worth of goods a year before he began to feel the pinch of VAT, after a \$3000 a year tax concession. In comparison, a person earning \$3500 a year, or on a weekly pay of \$70, would spend an extra \$300 a year because of VAT, making him worse off by \$25 a week.

Before and After Adjustment

The following chart based on one of the World Bank's own studies (1988) "Adjustment Lending: An Evaluation of Ten Years of Experience" illustrates that the structural adjustment programmes undertaken by 15 sub-Saharan African countries failed in at least five areas:



1. The share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) devoted to investment fell, rather than rising as intended;
2. Annual economic growth declined;
3. Budget deficits as a share of GDP increased;
4. The proportion of export earnings that had to be devoted to debt payment increased; and
5. The decline in per capita consumption continued unabated.

BUSINESS

A person earning \$5200 or \$100 a week would get a tax concession of \$115 a year but would spend \$8 a week or \$400 a year more because of VAT. He will be out of pocket by about \$300 a year.

Besides, government's tax concessions must be viewed against the scrapping of a lot of previous allowances such as the \$255 personal rebate, dependent allowance of \$100 for a parent and \$150 for brother or sister, the \$750 allowance for

people over 55, \$500 home purchase on interests and the \$500 cyclone reserve cover, among others.

The most vehement criticism of VAT arises from the premise that the poor, or those in low income groups spend a greater proportion of their income on food and other essentials of life compared to those in the higher income brackets. Says Father Kevin Barr of the Fiji Forum for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of

Creation, and one of Fiji's most outspoken critics of VAT : "A consumption tax as a share of income falls sharply as income rises. Poor people have to spend all the money they have on the necessities of life. Middle income people spend most of what they earn. But the rich people have plenty of money left over after they have purchased all the goods and services they want.

"This then creates vertical inequity, that is, the gap between the rich and the poor increases; as well as horizontal inequity, those with more people to support pay more tax than those on the same income with less people to support."

The regressivity of VAT is borne out also through statistics provided by the report of the former interim government's task force on poverty last year. The report found the poor, 10 per cent of households with the lowest incomes, spend 66 per cent of their weekly income on food, beverages and tobacco. While the 10 per cent of the top income group spend only 43 per cent of their income on essential items.

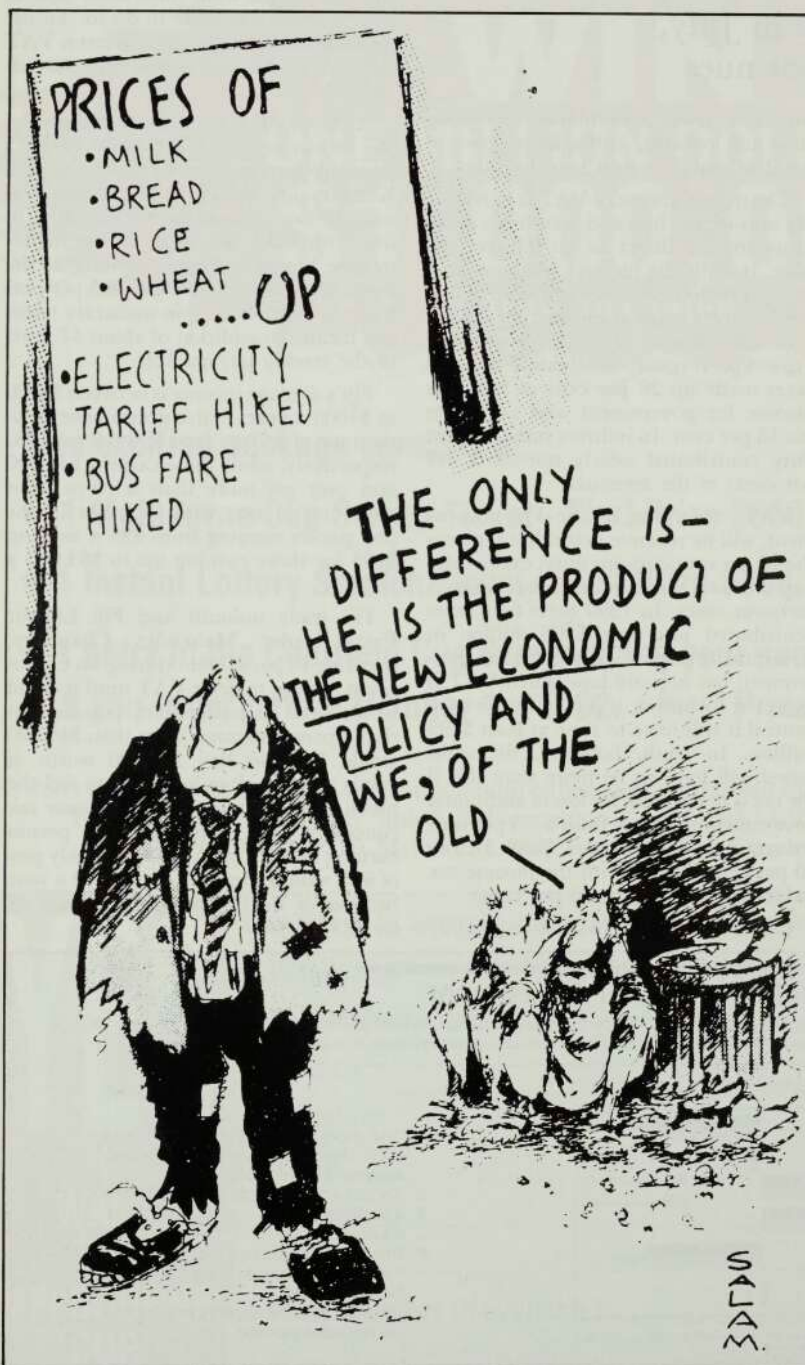
The report established the poverty line at \$5000 a year. According to 1989 Fiji income statistics, this places about 23 per cent of Fiji's workers living at or below the poverty line. It had recommended research be undertaken on the impact of VAT on the poor.

Statistics from Canada, which introduced a seven-per-cent general sales tax in 1991, show families earning below \$15,000 spend almost seven per cent of their income on GST. At the same time those earning above \$300,000 spend only two per cent of their incomes.

Understandably the most vocal opposition to VAT is from trade unions, church groups and non-government social welfare organisations. Critics feel the greatest impact of VAT will be on households earning less than \$15,000 a year — this makes up just over 81 per cent of Fiji's population (based on 1989 statistics). They feel VAT will stunt economic growth by reducing the purchasing power of consumers.

The government counters critics by arguing that VAT is essential for the promotion of economic growth and to reduce the burden of direct taxation in order to reward hard work and enterprise. It admits VAT is a regressive form of taxation and that it will erode purchasing power.

To counteract the latter it provided tax concessions to simultaneously come into effect from July 1 — the scrapping of the 2.5 basic tax, raising the tax threshold from the previous \$3000 to \$4500 and an overall reduction in pay as you earn tax from 0.5 per cent for the lowest income groups to 11.3 per cent for those earning \$100,000 a year.



BUSINESS

To further cushion the impact of VAT on the poor, it has made certain items VAT-free — such as fresh farm produce or unprocessed local foods, including fish and fresh poultry, school fees and general school-related items such as text books, uniforms, etc. Prescription medicine and bus fares are also exempted items.

In addition, it has allocated a \$7-million grant to non-government organisations for distribution to the poor.

Government argues that because of the neutralising effects of scrapping the 10 per cent customs and excise duties, the actual overall impact of VAT on the Consumer Price Index will be a minimal two to three per cent. A survey of supermarket shelves, however, shows prices of most essential everyday household items have risen more than five per cent since July 1. In a few cases price increases have escalated as much as 28 to 30 per cent.

Opponents of VAT argue the initial price increase will be as high as seven to eight per cent and, despite government propaganda, even the cost of VAT-exempted items, such as market produce and bus fares will rise because of the hike in cost of transporting goods, the cost of inputs such as petrol, spare parts, tyres, etc.

Petrol prices have gone up by five cents a litre — a close to seven-per-cent increase — as a result of VAT. Critics see a second tier of price increases after about a year of VAT with escalating wage demands forced by higher cost of living and increased cost of input in production.

Trade unions see increased wage demands being met by a spate of union pushing tactics from both government and employers.

The government's price monitoring is being done by the Prices and Incomes Board. Board secretary Vishnu Baldeo in his office carries out spot-checks on items at will. Traders have to submit all pricing documentation for inspection. He says most small traders had opted to absorb the 10 per cent increase from July on items such as apparel, shoes and other non-essential general merchandise to skip the hassle and paperwork connected to VAT.

The government's \$7 million allocation for the poor has already prompted criticism at the manner in which it is being implemented, or not implemented. In such, no criteria have been announced for identifying the poor and the body who would qualify to benefit from the fund.

The Canadian example has shown

that such schemes do not really counter the regressivity of a consumption tax. The Canadian government has introduced a "refundable sales tax credit" scheme which allows low income families to apply for a refund of part of the sales tax paid.

But experience has shown at least 15 per cent of low income families will get no benefits from such a scheme because they will not apply for it. Secondly, they expect inflation to erode the value at which the threshold begins to phase out.

The Canadian National Council of Welfare estimates within two years the credit will be lost to 100,000 families and by the fifth year, 500,000 families.

The wisdom of such schemes to compensate the poor is best summed up by one of Canada's foremost anti-consumption activists, Neil Brooks: "It makes no sense to impose a tax on low income families and then try to relieve its regressive effects by giving them a cash refund. For one thing, this adds substantially to complexity of the tax system for families that can least afford to deal with the compliance costs of correctly filling out forms, sending in notices and then trying to reconcile their tax bill with refunds that they might have received."

Opponents of VAT in Fiji point out that if in countries like Canada and New Zealand, which have pretty advanced social welfare programs, a general sales and services tax has such profound impact on the poor, the situation will be worse in Fiji where there is no social welfare scheme to cushion the low income family from the adverse effects of VAT. No scheme, that is, apart from the government's pathetic destitute allowance.

Although the Fiji government implemented VAT from July 1, the anti-VAT groups have not abandoned their fight to have the unpopular tax scrapped. An attempt to have the tax deferred until it could be at least debated in parliament failed when the government side closed ranks and voted *en bloc* in favour of the tax.

The success or failure of the fight against VAT will no doubt have profound effects on the entire "liberalisation" program Fiji is now putting into action.

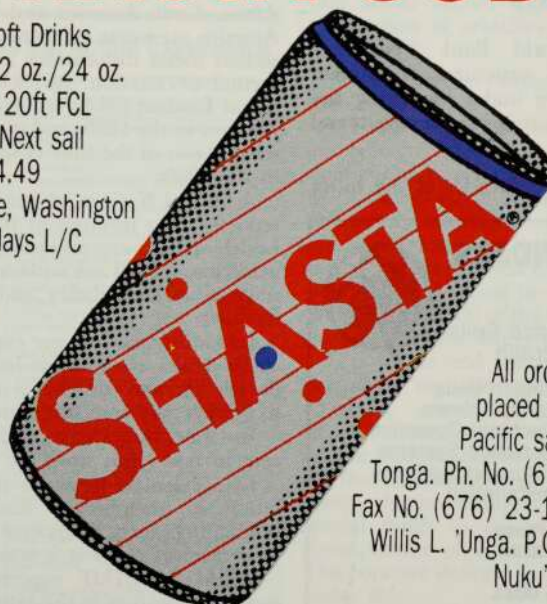
When more than 70 countries worldwide have already succumbed to the World Bank/IMF pressure for stringent reforms — what chance does little Fiji have of warding them off?

□

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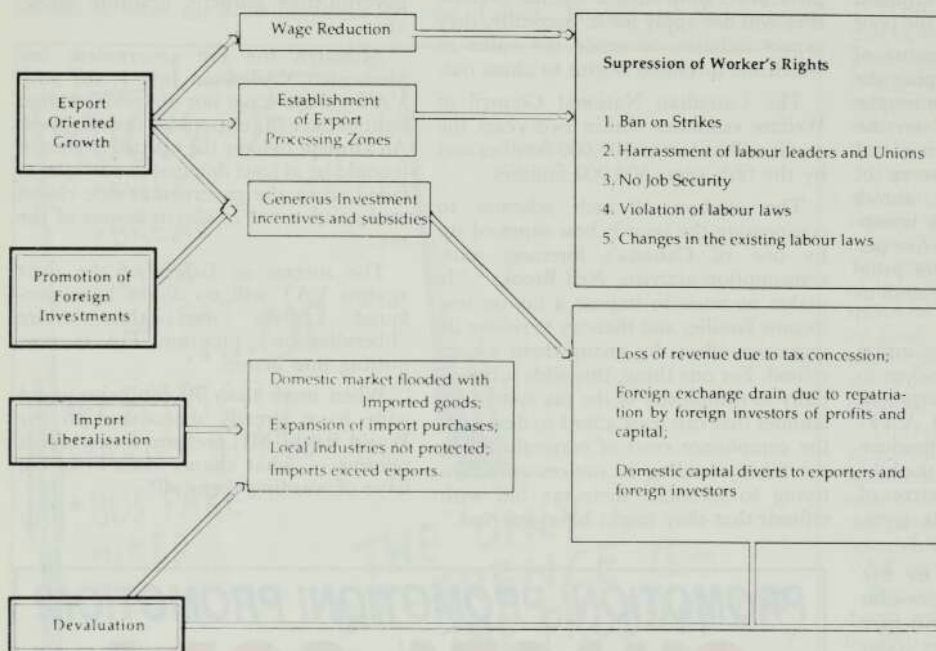
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BUSINESS

Swallowing the

How the SAPs affect us?

The following scheme presents an analysis of the effects on the people of the SAPs undertaken to reduce balance of payment deficits.



By Asha Lakhan

THE IMF/World Bank "panacea" known as the structural adjustment policy is coming under increasing fire from concerned groups of economists and academics.

After almost two decades of the bitter

medicine, reports show countries of Africa, Latin America and the Central America are worse off economically with serious social dislocations and environmental devastation. Africa's Gross National Product fell by an average of 2.2 per cent in the 1980s and is now back to what it was at the time of independence in the 1960s.

A United Nations advisory group has reported that throughout the continent health systems are collapsing for lack of medicine, schools are without books and universities lack library and laboratory facilities.

In Latin America, per capita income in 1990 was at the same level it was a decade ago and rural areas are reported to be suffering from severe malnutrition.

In Chile, wages have declined 40 per cent in real terms since the early '70s.

In Mexico 50 per cent of the population is unemployed and the real purchasing power is reported to be down to two-thirds of what it was in 1970.

World Bank/IMF experts view this social devastation as the bitter medicine that southern countries have to swallow

to regain economic health, says Walden Bello, executive director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy.

He contends the structural adjustment policies were never intended "as a transition to prosperity but as a permanent condition of economic suffering to ensure the South would never rises again to challenge the North".

Bello says the policy emerged after the 1975 Conference on International Economic Co-operation in Paris when there was a real threat of Southern governments, including the OPEC countries, aligning against the North in a New International Economic Order.

The threat didn't eventuate "because OPEC did not deliver but even the near emergence of a unified Southern economic bloc controlling strategic commodities gave the Northern countries a bad scare".

The event contributed to the Reagan election victory in the United States with his coming to power on the agenda to discipline the Third World.

"While the US military adventures against radical Third World movements

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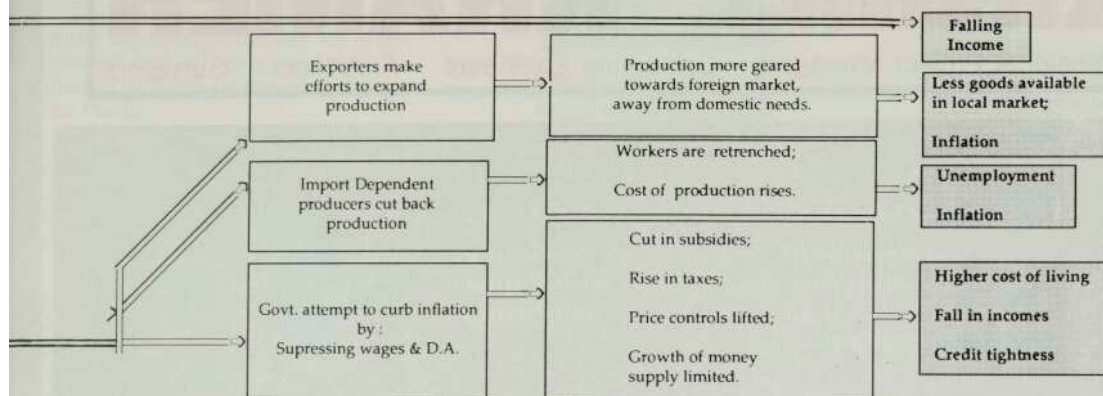
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Bitter pill of reform



and governments dominated the news, perhaps more lethal was the economic warfare the US unleashed against the South on a global level," he argues in a paper for *Christianity and Crisis*.

The US-dominated World Bank spearheaded the effort and the main weapon used was aid. The World Bank, the IMF and even Northern commercial banks pinned loans on the agreement to carry out the economic restructuring.

The Third World countries are today heavily in debt to the North... the repayment of these loans has resulted in a massive flight of capital from the South to the North and triggered the virtual collapse of Third World economies.

Between 1984 and 1990 a staggering \$150 billion was transferred from the South to the North and Bello believes this owed its roots to the deliberate policy of Northern states and economic institutions under the leadership of the Reagan administration.

Structural adjustment programs are today being implemented in over 70 Third World and East European countries according to critics "with devastating results."

"The 1980s will be remembered as the decade of global impoverishment linked to this IMF and World Bank infamous medicine," says the Public Interest Research Group of India which has done considerable research on the topic.

The structural adjustment programs are carried out in two phases: the short term national stabilisation phase followed by the implementation of a structural reforms phase.

In the early 1980s the IMF policies focused on reducing the account deficit but as the debt crisis deepened the US Treasury secretary, James Baker, came up with a strategy to solve the crisis. This came to be known as the Baker Plan and involved the rigorous structural adjustment policies.

The stabilisation program involves a devaluation of the currency and the curtailment of government expenditure resulting in cutbacks in the civil service and social sector spending, and the elimination of subsidies and price controls.

The structural adjustment program involves the —

- liberalisation of trade and the removal of protective barriers to make the domestic industry more competitive;
- financial deregulation;
- privatisation of state controlled enterprises (in many countries this involves the sale of these assets to foreign capital with minimal actual investment);
- the withdrawal of the state from social sector programs like education, health and nutrition and privatisation of these programs on the principles of cost recovery;
- tax reforms leading to greater burden on the middle income groups;
- the development of poverty alleviation schemes through the creation of special funds to deal with the social consequences of structural adjustment. The poor are defined as "target groups" under this.

□

Structural Adjustment Programmes : Official Aims Vs. Actual Experience

The Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) do vary from country to country, but the main policies demanded by both the IMF and the World Bank are the same.

POLICIES	OFFICIAL AIMS	ACTUAL EXPERIENCE
1. Currency Devaluation	increase exports reduce imports	U.N. survey of 12 SAPs found little improvement in export earnings; commodity prices fall as more exporters compete for same markets; damages import-dependent economies.
2. Export Promotion	earn foreign exchange for debt repayment	replaces food crops with export crops, "a recipe for starvation"; increases dependence on foreign markets; damages ecology through pesticides used in export agriculture and cutting of forests; earnings go to debt payments instead of investment in development; displaces rural people and damages environment by building large dams, irrigation projects, mining, five-star hotels and nuclear power projects
3. Government Spending Cuts	reduce "excessive" demand	means cutbacks in education, health services, sanitation, water & irrigation, electric power, supply, roads & transportation
4. Privatization	make enterprises more efficient	turning over utilities to private sector, where profitability overrides social welfare; exclude the poor from electricity, transportation & communication services; subsidizes private investors.
5. Unrestrictive Imports	increase international competitiveness; improve efficiency	undermines local industries; discourages food self-reliance; encourages luxury imports, while poor can't afford basic necessities.
6. High Interest Rates	allocate investment to "most efficient investors"	discourages investment in production for home market; encourages speculations; reduces small farmers and small manufacturers access to credit; fuels inflation.
7. Restricted Money Supply	control inflation	depresses economy; raises unemployment; infrastructure deteriorates; U.N. survey of 12 SAPs found only half lowered inflation.

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A combination of factors is expanding worldwide tourism. Rising standards of living in many countries and cheaper airfares mean more people can afford to travel. Overcrowding and pollution in their own countries make our part of the world, which remains comparatively free of some of the worst environmental degradation of modern-day life, an increasingly attractive destination.

But the more tourists there are to admire the natural wonders of the Pacific and its clean and green environment, the greater the risk that their very numbers will ruin what they have come to see.

Maintaining a balance to preserve the region's natural state for today's tourists and future generations is the challenge for all of us.

It is a challenge that poses its own dilemma, especially for the indigenous peoples of the Pacific — how to cash in on a tourist boom and enhance their economic positions while preserving a traditional way of life and conserving the natural resources that are integral to it.

No race understands this dilemma better than New Zealand's Maori. The number of overseas tourists visiting New Zealand has now topped one million a year. The Tourism Board has set a target of three million visitors annually by the year 2000 — that means an extra 158,000 visitors every day in the peak season.

Board research in overseas markets shows that apart from New Zealand's mountains, parks, rivers, lakes and beaches, the unique culture of the Maori is a major drawcard for foreign tourists. Yet apart from Rotorua, Maori have traditionally had very little involvement in tourism, mainly because they lacked business expertise.

This is changing. As Maori strive to develop a commercial aspect to lift their role in the economy, they are moving into hotels and other tourist areas. The Aotearoa Maori Tourism Federation has acquired 140 members and is trying to co-ordinate a national network of Maori tourist operators.

"Overseas tourists want to experience New Zealand's unique indigenous culture rather than just whizz by in a bus," says the federation's general manager Arihia Carrington.

Pakeha New Zealanders have never been slow to exploit this indigenous culture in promotion and advertising — often in ways that drew Maori disapproval. There was a time when foreigners could have been excused for thinking, by the posters and videos they saw, that New Zealand existed solely

WELLINGTON



DAVID
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of flax-skirted Maori jumping in and out of steaming pools.

We have matured somewhat since then, and our promotion efforts are more sophisticated. But Maori still have difficulty agreeing on just how they fit into the tourism environment beyond providing the basic concert party entertainment which remains their primary involvement.

There is a cultural divide which hampers the development of a Maori role. Tourism, tramping and the like are pakeha, not Maori, pursuits. "Maori, for example," one explained, "do not go to the beach to lie on the sand and sunbathe. We go there to get seafood."

As more and more visitors want to experience adventure tourism, in the form of wilderness tramping, white-water rafting, hunting and fishing, conservation issues are of growing importance.

It is increasingly vital to protect the land and this requires conservation controls that often conflict with Maori practice and belief. (Maori tend to look askance at pakeha claims to be the conservationists when they are the *tangata whenua*, or people of the land, and it was not them who began clearing the bush in the last century to introduce pasture farming.)

The bush, the mountains, rivers, lakes and the coast, which pakeha profess to be so concerned about preserving, are at the heart of Maoritanga, and conservation highlights a fundamental conflict between the two cultures.

This is summed up by one Maori as: "The pakeha attitude is that the land belongs to you. But to Maori, you belong to the land. Your identity as a Maori over many generations is written on the landscape and will be there for a long time after you are gone."

As a result, Maori find it difficult to accept conservation measures that, for instance, require them to get passes to walk on their tribal lands which have become national parks. An added irony is that in some cases the parks were donated to the nation by Maori.

Piri Sciascia, an assistant director-general with the Department of Conservation, tells another story which illustrates the kind of cultural differences that hinder full Maori involvement in tourist development.

The department gives a commercial concession allowing skiing at Whakapapa in the Urewa National Park in the central North Island. But in Maori eyes, the mountain belongs to the Ngati tu Wharetoa people and Maori tradition says you do not visit another tribe's land without an invitation.

Sciascia says he was middle-aged before he could bring himself to take his family skiing on the mountain. "I was waiting to be invited and in the end I had to become a pakeha to go there without an invitation."

A Samoan in Kazakhstan

WHEN a delegation of US Republican Party activists visited the Republic of Kazakhstan in the former Soviet Union recently, one of its members especially captured the local limelight.

Wearing a traditional Samoan *puleetasi*, Amata Radewagen, a member of the US Republican National Committee, was besieged by questions. "Are you American or Samoan? How can you be both? How can you retain your culture if you're part of America?" they asked her.

"They were fascinated with American Samoa because ethnicity is so big in their countries now, and it has caused so much violence," said Radewagen.

After decades of communist repression, Kazakhstan, like many other recently liberated chunks of the former Soviet empire, is struggling to find its identity.

Amata Radewagen and seven other representatives of the US Republican Party spent eight days in the sprawling republic in central Asia to spread the gospel of democracy.

"The point of our delegation was to teach the basis of democracy and party-building to political activists from central Asia," she said.

Despite the "astounding beauty" of the far-flung city of Alma-Ata, nestled in a valley surrounded by snow-capped mountains, Radewagen (whose husband, Fred Radewagen, runs the Pacific island office in Washington), says she was constantly aware of "an air of tension".

There had been violent clashes in Kazakhstan and many large demonstrations. "It was a very volatile and fluid situation," she said.

More than 200 people came from more than six of the newly independent republics for three days of workshops with the Americans.

But as her delegation, which included a top Republican pollster and a Georgia state representative, tried to expound the value of a peaceful democratic transition, Radewagen found herself the focus of attention. The central Asian audience wanted to know how she had maintained her cultural integrity while enjoying political union with a powerful nation like the United States.

"They were so proud of their ethnicity that they saw it almost to the exclusion of everyone else. I told them how we in American Samoa had set up a government which blended American and Samoan traditions," she said.

"It was three days of constant questions. They were amazed when I showed them a copy of the Samoan Republican Party platform which says we are proud to be part of the United States."

WASHINGTON



MARGOT O'NEILL

So great was their fear of again disappearing into a greater Russian political system, that they also pressed Radewagen about the plight of African and native Americans.

"They wanted to know how they fit into the (US) system, and how they differed from Samoans. I told them we were content whereas black Americans had been taken from their land and native Americans had had their lands taken from them."

She explained how American Samoa had determined its own pace of political development. For example, political parties were

only a "recent phenomenon. We twice voted not to elect our governor. But after we started electing a governor and a member of congress, the next logical step was to form a political party. We were ready."

Poisoned by years of communist rule, most of the central Asians at the workshop mistook her references to political parties as meaning only its high ranking officials.

"They thought the American party system was like the one in the Soviet Union. They wanted to know how much property the Republican Party had in the United States. I told them it wasn't like that," she said.

"And they were amazed when I told them that because I'm a member of the Republican National Committee, I'm forbidden from working for the federal government.

"They found it hard to believe that the most important thing about a political party was its grass roots support. It is the individual that counts."

Amata Radewagen said that despite the vast distance between the South Pacific and the former Soviet republics, she found she had many cultural similarities with the central Asians. Like Samoa, "the populations are divided into clans and depend on the extended family system. Their families play a large part in their politics."

Which may explain why she was the star attraction of the three-day workshops. And why she says she'll stay in touch with some of her insistent inquisitors.

□

WOMEN

Creating an awareness of women's changing role

By Eileen Tugum-Kolma

MOST South Pacific island nations have in their constitution a mention of the need to involve women in the development process. But in reality this does not happen.

Very few women are involved in making decisions regarding development projects. And governments continue to treat women as a special issue, and plan for them separately, instead of including them in the major plans for countries, or in mainstream development as many development workers are calling it today.

Josephine Gena, Assistant Secretary for the Women's Division says, "Women are being treated as a relatively unimportant sector rather than as half the population requiring attention from all sectors and with the potential to contribute productively to the country's development.

"Programs to increase

women's participation and productivity are organised separately from mainstream programs."

That is why women and development workers in the region are mounting pressure on their governments and planners to change this. Firms steps are being taken to facilitate this change.

Responding to calls by women to address this issue, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the Australian Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) have given money for a regional project called Pacific Women in Mainstreaming Development.

Four countries are testing the project

— Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands.

It aims to:

- create an awareness of the role of women in the country's development and the need to incorporate women's concerns into mainstream development planning;
- examine how policies are made and why they are necessary;
- review information on status of women in each country and;
- discuss how women can become better negotiators to assist in getting women off the special list and onto the mainstream



Women's roles: changing the prejudices and attitudes

political, social and economical life of a nation.

In Papua New Guinea where traditional attitudes are hard to break, the task of sensitising the population to this issue seems daunting. But the positive response to gender workshops and from workshop participants hold some hope.

Paul Baglame, a staff development and training officer with the Department of Home Affairs and Youth which is responsible for women's affairs in Papua New Guinea was overwhelmed: "This workshop has just been an eye-opener for me. It has helped me see my own prejudices and attitudes towards men and women. I see that many of these prejudices and attitudes oppress our

women and we must change them."

He wanted more men to attend similar workshops.

"I was so blind. I needed someone, something like this to help me solve my problem. And my problem is just my attitude which is conditioned by my culture and my customs. And I see that many of our attitudes oppress women and we must change them."

While the Pacific Mainstreaming Project workshops in Papua New Guinea were completed in April this year, gender sensitising will not end there.

Both the participants and the women's

movement intend to keep the momentum going. While participants have been talking about it and trying in their own little ways to sensitise others, in their homes, at coffee shops, on the streets, the Women's Division is organising four regional workshops on gender sensitising for provincial planners and women's leaders in August and September.

Co-ordinator= Margaret Ratu Misso said: "Our planners are the ones who need to be sensitised most. It is their lack of awareness of women's needs that continues to exclude women in mainstream development planning."

There is also scheduled to be a gender sensitising program for politicians and bureaucrats in July as a lead-up to the launching of the National Women's Policy.

Misso said: "It's a long battle to change men's attitude but we will change it.

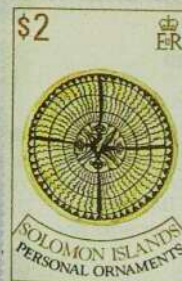
"We just have to keep thinking and talking about the multiple roles of women." □

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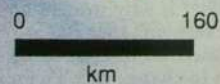
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BOUGAINVILLE

POLITICS or HUMANITY?

While regional leaders refuse to discuss Bougainville, **Martin Tiffany** writes that reports of human rights abuse continue to pour out of the area.

THE CRACKLE of the radio filters through the night air and breaks through the murmur of voices. Conversation ceases as all ears strain to listen to the announcer. "The Bishop has crossed the boarder," smiles Martin Miriori as he looks up from beside the radio. There were smiles all around for the small victory. Such small victories keep the people of Bougainville going.

Bishop John Zale of the United Church of the Bougainville region has made it through the Papua New Guinea security forces patrols around Bougainville and is on his way to the Solomon Islands. With him he is bringing a little more hope, another possibility to bring the plight of his people to the attention of the world.

He is on his way to Honiara where the heads of 15 regional countries are meeting for the annual South Pacific Forum. Perhaps they can help.

The voice of Radio Free Bougainville crackles again as the announcer dedicates his next song — *Evil Ways* — to the Papua New Guinea security forces. This breaks a few faces into smiles.

The smiles belie the seriousness of the cause Bishop Zale and Miriori, secretary of state and human rights co-ordinator, are fighting for. They represent the self-styled Bougainville interim government which wants independence for the copper-rich island from PNG.

Traditionally and culturally Bougainville is part of the Solomon Islands. It is only boundaries drawn by

colonialists in recent times that have made it part of PNG. The interim-government says they represent the majority of the people and they want to break from PNG. PNG says about two-thirds of the Bougainvilleans want to remain with them.

Who do you believe?

"Why not allow the people to decide

for themselves," asks Mike Forster, Bougainville's United Nations representative. "Give us self-determination and the people can decide what they want, just stop the violence and the killing." The PNG government has imposed a blockade on Bougainville stopping supplies of food and medicine going in. The interim-government says thousands have died because of a lack of medicine and accuses the PNG security forces of terrorising and killing innocent people.

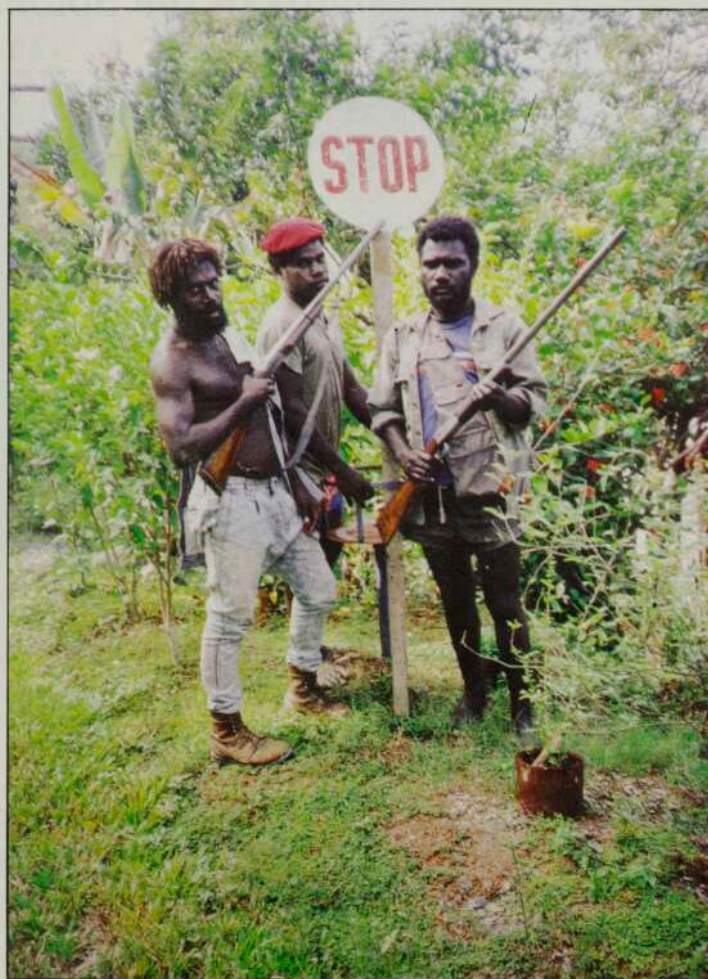
PNG says its forces only attack members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). They say the Bougainvilleans are being terrorised by the BRA and they are protecting the people. The interim-government says the BRA is a necessary evil which protects the people.

Who do you believe?

Bishop Zale made it safely to Honiara but the regional heads of government could see no good reason to discuss the matter. The two-day 23rd South Pacific Forum meeting ended on July 9 with no official mention of Bougainville. It was perhaps the biggest news in Honiara but it never made the meeting agenda.

It wasn't for the want of trying by the interim-government. Well before the Forum started it was lobbying for Bougainville to be put on the agenda. Bishop Zale, Forster, Miriori and Moses Havini, Bougainville interim-government representative in Australia, held press conferences, wrote letters and lobbied to get the Bougainville issue on the agenda and discussed at this Forum. They were politely told it was an internal matter for PNG.

Even though PNG defence patrol boats have crossed the



Bougainville Revolutionary Army: a necessary evil?

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BOUGAINVILLE

boarder into the Solomon Islands and attacked villagers, it was an internal matter. Although the Solomon government has been sympathetic to the cause of Bougainville, granting Miriori a two-year residential permit, it — perhaps diplomatically — avoided the issue. But relations between PNG and the Solomon Islands have been strained in recent months.

The finger has more than once pointed at Australia for supplying weapons, ammunition and helicopters to PNG who in turn use these against civilians on Bougainville.

Asked if he had any concerns about the situation in Bougainville, Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, replied he was concerned there was an armed secessionist movement on Bougainville.

'I have witnessed their atrocities, I have heard their lies, and they have been proved to be lies.'

— Bishop Zale

"It's a matter of concern to us, to the neighbourhood, but I think the Forum regard it as an internal problem for Papua New Guinea, as we did," Keating said.

Forster laughs sarcastically at this. "Before the second world war the League of Nations said the Jews in Germany were an internal matter, in the 1960s Australia said South Africa's racial problems were an internal matter, now they say Bougainville is an internal matter," Forster said shaking his head.

"When will people realise that it is no longer an internal matter, no longer a political matter, but a matter of humanity."

Keating was asked if he thought there will come a point when it will stop being an internal situation.

"We're hoping that a political settlement can be arrived at, and in my discussions with prime minister Mamaloni I urged that the quicker dialogue be re-established between the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, the better," replied Keating.

He said if it were to be proved that Australian-supplied Iroquois helicopters were being used as gun-ships in a "defensive manner" this would be contrary to the conditions under which they were given to PNG, and Australia would suggest to the PNG government they be withdrawn from the service area.

However, Keating said Australia could not take them back.

Australian human rights lawyer Rosemarie Gillespie, 51, ran PNG's blockade to reach central Bougainville and return in time for the Forum. She says she has proof the Iroquois helicopters are used as gun-ships and shoot at unarmed civilians.

In Honiara she produced statutory declarations which tell of the horror of the war on the Bougainvilleans by the defence forces. If they are true then the purpose of the South Pacific Forum should be questioned — is it anything more than a tight-knit group which meets annually for a bit of back-slapping and a good time?

One declaration from a Moses Tseraha Kukun tells of how "PNG armed forces poured petrol on Chief Joshua Sevo and burned him to death.... This year Stenis Latu was shot, tied to a log, taken up in a helicopter while still alive, and thrown to his death from the helicopter.... People are being tortured under interrogation, with knives and razor blades. Reports say they are cut ... bit by bit ... until the person bleeds to death. Two brothers, Lawrence and Michael Koal, and Tobias died that way."

Another declaration from Reverend John Wesley Ririan of Kieta says a PNG patrol boat flying the Red Cross flag shot at them while they were fishing.

Steven Lipa of Engoa Village writes he was with Gillespie on June 10, this year, in a banana boat travelling from Kariki to Engoa. He said when the boat was near Oema Island in Solomon waters a PNG army plane came from the north, circled over them, then swooped low,

firing at them.

Lipa said they had to jump out of the boat run over the reef and hide in the bush. Both he and Gillespie cut their feet badly on the reef.

The 30 or so other statutory declarations Gillespie produced tell of similar attacks by the PNG forces and of the atrocities they commit.

Fairy stories or fact?

According to PNG foreign secretary, Gabriel Dusava, Gillespie's declarations have no credibility as they are signed by people only known to her. He also accuses her of breaking PNG law by



Bishop Zale: slipped through PNG patrols

entering the country illegally.

Dusava said Gillespie would have been let into Bougainville had she requested the PNG government. The Bougainville claims in Honiara obviously worried PNG prime minister Rabbie Namaliu enough to issue a statement titled "More BRA Lies in Honiara" during the Forum meeting.

In it he urged the Australian and other regional governments not to respond to every allegation made by the BRA and its agenda in Honiara.

Namaliu said the BRA had a vested interest in undermining PNG's relations with its Pacific neighbours, including

BOUGAINVILLE

Australia. "If the security forces are so bad, why is it that thousands of villagers and their families have fled from the BRA and have sought the protection of the security forces and the administration?"

"The thousands of innocent men, women and children, living in our care centres, have a very different message."

The Bougainville delegation in Honiara replied to this by saying the "care centres" spoken of by PNG are no more than concentration camps of the PNG army created after the destruction of Bougainville villages. They ask why, if the people in the care centres are so happy, does PNG not let observers in to see for themselves.

The interim government says the failure of the Forum to address the Bougainville situation is filled with hypocrisy.

"There are precedents within the Forum member countries for the separation of Bougainville from PNG against the tide of colonialism. The ex-colony of Gilbert and Ellis Islands into Kiribati and Tuvalu is a case in point, the Federated States of Micronesia is another," they say.

Forster says all his group is asking for is an observer mission to come and see for itself.

Bishop Zale who slipped through PNG army patrols to reach the Forum says PNG has been lying to the world.

"I tell you this in all good conscience and in the sight of God the Father. I have witnessed their atrocities, I have heard their lies and they have been proved to be lies," said Bishop Zale. "The PNG government has lied to us so many times, and had lied to the world so many times, that they have no truth left in them. They have promised us many times that the blockade will be lifted and the medical supplies allowed in. They have promised us they will talk with us, they have promised us essential services, school supplies, cooking pots, clothing, tea and sugar, they have promised us they will cease using the gun to solve the issue. Nothing has come."

When Forster brought up their case at the UN he was told he should try and get it raised at a regional forum first. He and the others tried that and have failed.

The 23rd South Pacific Forum is over. Radio Free Bougainville buzzes into life again. It is Bougainville chiefs with desperation in their voices. They ask how the people of the Pacific, their brothers, can just ignore them.

The Pacific leaders don't hear the call. They are busy with their cocktail parties, their dinners and their speeches. Empty words that mean nothing to the children of Bougainville who die on a dirt floor as their mothers give birth to them under the light of a kerosene light.

Fact or fiction? □

'The enemy must leave'

"MOTHERS and children cannot go to the garden to get food. Many of them, particularly during June, had to hide in caves because of the threat from Papua New Guinea government who used helicopters to spray the people with chemicals. Even now many are in the bush hiding."

These are the words of Ruby Mirinka, 40, deputy matron at Arawa general Hospital, speaking in Honiara last month. A few days earlier she had arrived in the Solomon Islands after escaping from Bougainville.

She and her husband paddled out in a canoe at night to avoid being spotted by Papua New Guinea patrol boats and helicopters. She had to leave behind her three children to come to Honiara for medical treatment.

Because of the lack of medicine and medical facilities the hospital now only runs a basic out-patients service. There is no electricity, running water or other essential services on Bougainville. Sewerage tanks have not been emptied in four years.

"Little babies are suffering from colds and developing chest infections because they don't have clothes, this is the fourth year.

"New-born babies are not protected from illnesses because there is no immunisation. Many of the babies that are born, die...."

Children now no longer go to school on Bougainville. Previously the island had some of the best education facilities and one of the highest literacy rates in Papua New Guinea.

The lack of doctors further adds to the problems. "In south and central (Bougainville) there are only three doctors — two in Arawa itself. But even though doctors and a few nurses are available it is hopeless because we need things to work with such things as drugs. Basically the whole hospital is shut down. "The main thing which I see and we all see is that people can cope and start from scratch if there are no enemies around."

"We can survive on garden food which



Ruby Mirinka: hoping the madness ends

is much healthier but because the PNG soldiers are around and there is bombing from the air from helicopters, the environment is not safe for people to relax and be free to do as they like and help themselves."

"The enemy must leave and let the people be free."

Mirinka says despite the

hardships the people are far from giving up. She when the situation gets hard and there is bombing the people are even more determined to be free.

"When you have a mosquito around biting you want that mosquito to go away and that is the feeling the people have."

Mirinka says she sees the PNG defence force helicopter nearly every week and has witnessed the army aeroplane firing on the town of Arawa. She had to hide under the hospital to escape.

She said since defence force soldiers had left it was much quieter, there was more respect and it safe for women to walk alone at night.

"From my observation of BRAs they are doing their duty, protecting the island, not harassing or doing anything to us."

The only food the people on Bougainville have is what they grow in their gardens and this can sometimes become scarce when there is a change of season. There is no salt, no sugar, no infant formula, no tea, no coffee, no anything. Mirinka says it can become hard but somehow they survive.

She said those who lived on the coast used to go fishing but now they don't because they are scared of patrol boats. She said even if she had the chance to get her family off Bougainville she wouldn't as the island was her home. That feeling, she said, is shared by all Bougainvilleans.

She has no money to return with the much needed supplies. She goes back with little more than hope. Hope that some how, some way, the madness will end.

□

THE FORUM



The Forum: a line-up of the dignitaries who attended this year's South Pacific Forum meeting in Honiara.

What about the real issues?

By Martin Tiffany

"WON'T YOU take me to funky town," sang the band. Solomon Mamaloni smiled and twisted the night away. Mamaloni, the Solomon Islands prime minister, had every reason to be happy and celebrate. The 23rd South Pacific Forum meeting had ended that afternoon in his country and he felt he had done a good job as chairman. That night he invited the heads of the regional governments, their delegations, the hundred or so journalists, prominent Honiara businessmen, his friends and anyone who was someone to an island feast. Official functions in Honiara usually end at a respectable hour. This one went on until well after midnight. "Three happy cheers for Solomon Mamaloni," yelled the master of ceremonies. This cordial, or perhaps that should read 'nice', tone reflected the tone of the Forum.

A Forum which did doubts for Mamaloni whose credibility as a regional leader had been questioned because of his non-attendance at last year's Forum and other regional meetings.

Last month's Forum discussed 'nice' issues like the environment, economic and trade concerns, the state of Pacific children, and how the bigger Forum countries could help their smaller neighbours.

While these are laudable issues and important for the region, one of the

biggest problems facing the region was neatly side-stepped. Bougainville, the island which wants to break away from Papua New Guinea, never even rated a mention.

Forum members accept PNG's argument that it is trying to quell a small band of secessionists (Bougainville Revolutionary Army) and therefore is an internal matter. If it is so clear-cut, why has the conflict dragged on for four years? If it is such a minority of the island's 160,000 people who are against PNG, how come the PNG forces had to flee the island and resort to attacks by helicopter?

PNG has stopped any supplies reaching Bougainville — no food, no medicine, no clothes. Innocent children and adults die as a result and yet not one Forum country had the courage to ask what was happening. Perhaps frightened of being ostracized from their little club. The situation is still an internal matter despite PNG defence force soldiers crossing the border into Solomon Islands territory to cause destruction and to harass Solomon Islanders.

Solomon Islands minister of police and justice, Albert Laore, made calls before the Forum meeting for Bougainville to be on the agenda in order to find a lasting peace for the whole of the South Pacific region. But the 15 Forum countries did not think it worth bringing up at their meeting.

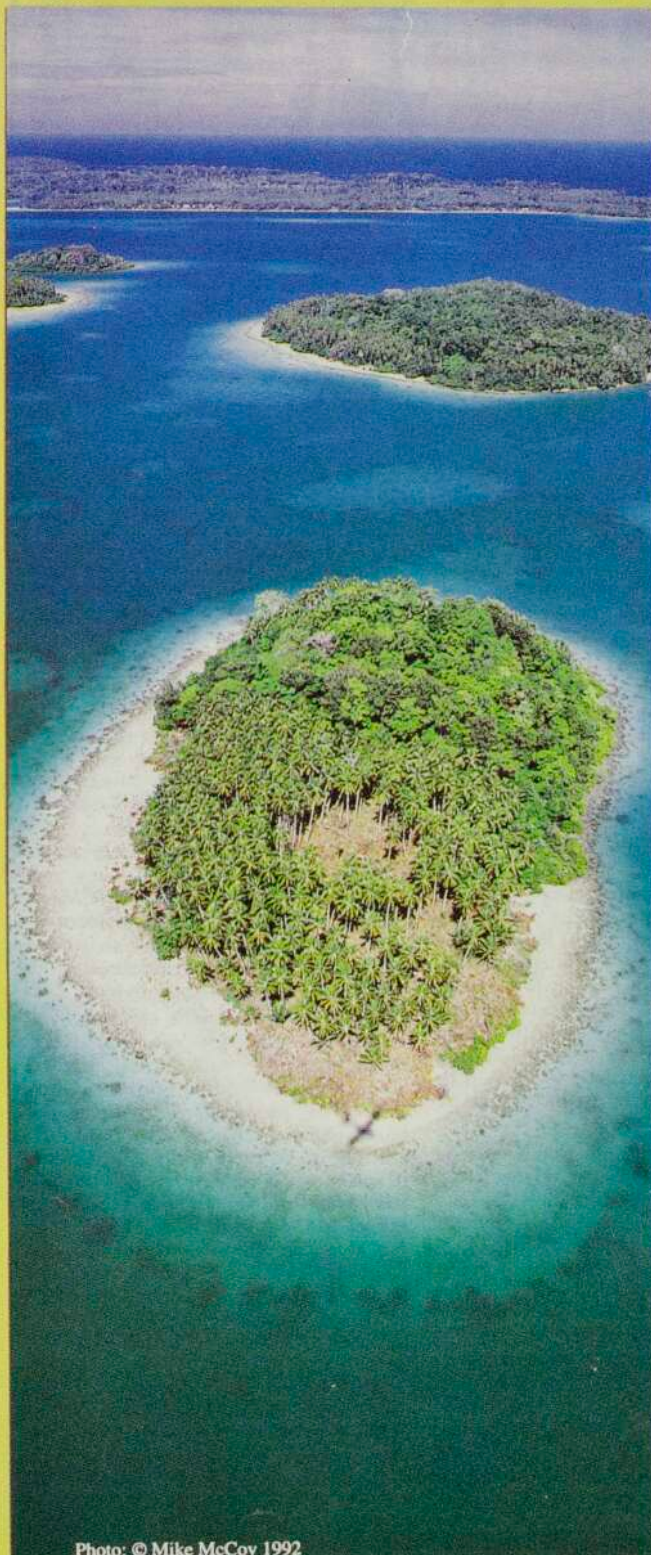
Instead they produced a communique after their two-day meeting which considered nine issues they had discussed —

- follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED);
- economic and trade concerns;
- the special needs of the smaller island states;
- the importance of enhancing linkages with the broader Asia-Pacific Region;
- a Declaration on Law Enforcement Co-operation;
- the Nue Treaty on Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement;
- the region's concerns on nuclear testing and hazardous materials;
- indigenous peoples; and
- the state of Pacific children.

The meeting also agreed that a mechanism for consultation between Taiwan and individual Forum countries should be proposed. The decision to participate in such consultation would be entirely up to the Forum countries and it was stressed that those who did take part would not be doing so as representatives of the Forum. The Forum meeting said the importance of Taiwan/Republic of China as an "economic presence in the region justified some form of formal consultative arrangement with those Forum countries which wished to participate."

The post-Forum dialogue takes place each year, after the annual Forum meeting, between representatives of the Forum and representatives of the seven post-Forum dialogue partners — Canada, the Peoples' Republic of China, the European Community, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

□



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The Honiara decisions

By Martin Tiffany

THE SMALLER member countries of the South Pacific Forum look set to gain from trade initiatives put forward at the recent Forum meeting. The Forum urged all other regional organisations to pay greater attention to the special needs of the small island states in their programs. The day before the two-day Forum meeting the five small nations of the Forum — Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, Nauru and Niue held their second economic summit.

The five agreed to work together to develop trade, their private sectors and marine resources. The Hawaii-based Pacific Islands Development Programme will fund a meeting of the private sector of the five in Rarotonga. Meanwhile Fiji outlined development assistance initiatives to assist the small nations by providing access to their education facilities through a scholarship scheme. **Trade and the economy** were high up on the agenda. The meeting stressed the importance of putting in place domestic economic policies in light of the private sector's role in ensuring economic growth.

The meeting stressed the importance of establishing more effective international links, in particular with the countries of the Asia/ Pacific Rim.

In another move the heads of government sent a letter to the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations meeting at an economic summit in Munich at the time. The letter urged the G7 leaders to "take the necessary political decisions to break the impasse in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral trade negotiations. The Forum noted the "sustainable development would only be realised in full if developing countries, were able to benefit from responsible management of their resources through more open and fairer trading conditions."

In its communique the 15 Forum Island countries reaffirmed their commitment towards many of the **environmental issues**. They also recognised global warming and sea level rise as the most serious threat facing the Pacific — especially the low-lying atolls — and urged early negotiations of protocols to strengthen the climate change convention.

The meeting urged concrete measures be taken to develop technology for renewable energy sources, including solar, wind and hydro and energy efficient technologies. It said this would help make less severe the adverse impacts of climate change.

Indefinite extension of the French

cessation of nuclear tests was welcomed by the Forum. The Forum leaders sent an urgent letter to the President of the French Republic, urging him to suspend French nuclear testing indefinitely.

Plans by the Japanese government to ship plutonium from Europe to Japan via the Pacific caused concern. The meeting noted the risks inherent in such shipments from surface accidents and from possible loss of cargo at sea.

The Forum asked that the shipments be made in accordance with the highest international safety and security standards and urged Japan to consult fully with Forum countries regarding the proposed shipments.

The Forum considered issues relating to regional co-operation in the law enforcement field and agreed to a declaration on **Law Enforcement Co-operation** which identifies priorities and establishes a framework within which further co-operation can be pursued.

1993 has been declared the International Year for Indigenous people of the World by the United Nations.

With this in mind the Forum meeting recognised the importance of these issues to the region and has agreed to hold a regional conference later this year. The conference will look at the broader concerns such as **indigenous rights**, the protection and preservation of culture including cultural property, approaches to resource and environmental management and the application of customary laws.

The Forum said these regional concerns could then be encompassed in the United States Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and also be incorporated into considerations at the United Nations on a possible follow-up program of action within the region.

Most of the South Pacific Forum countries and member states of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) signed the **Niue Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement Co-operation Treaty** in Honiara last month.

Those who signed were the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Australia. Fiji, Kiribati and Tokelau did not sign but they said this was because the decision to sign had yet to go through their parliaments.

The Niue treaty provides for co-operation among the regional countries on surveillance of their fisheries resources to be co-ordinated from the FFA. It also provides for co-operation in law enforcement against drug trafficking and other

organised crimes.

On the **Joint Commercial Commission** proposed by President Bush, the Forum said it would go ahead in terms of the US private sector and Pacific private sector people meeting.

The question of a JCC secretariat is yet to be decided as the US has so far refused to fund a secretariat.

The Forum said it had a responsibility to **Pacific children** and their future.

The meeting said member governments must continue with adequate support for essential health and educational services for children, in particular for primary health care and education.

The Forum endorsed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and encouraged governments yet to sign to do so.

The Forum suggested the South Pacific Conference consider adopting "Pacific Children" as the theme of the 1993 South Pacific Conference.

On New Caledonia and the **Kanak people** the Forum was encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the Matignon Accords and reiterated its full support for the process being conducted under the Accords.

The Forum said it hoped French authorities and others would continue to expand their assistance for education and training opportunities for the Kanak population, to enable all New Caledonians to exercise their right of self determination under the best possible conditions.

The **European Commission** says Pacific island countries should look to the service industry to compensate for the depressed prices of traditional export commodities and to help enhance their economies.

Speaking at the post-Forum Dialogue Partners meeting the EC's Deputy Director General for Development, Philippe Soubestre, said although there was tough competition from other regions in the service industry, Pacific island countries had great potential for tourism. Soubestre said infrastructure for service industry developments in the Pacific ACP member countries could be obtained from the EC.

The post-Forum meeting is seen by Forum leaders as a means of seeking the understanding and support of the Forum's extra-regional partners for the Forum decisions.

All seven post-Forum dialogue partners basically gave similar assurances they would further help the Forum countries through closer ties and further co-operation for the further development of the region. □

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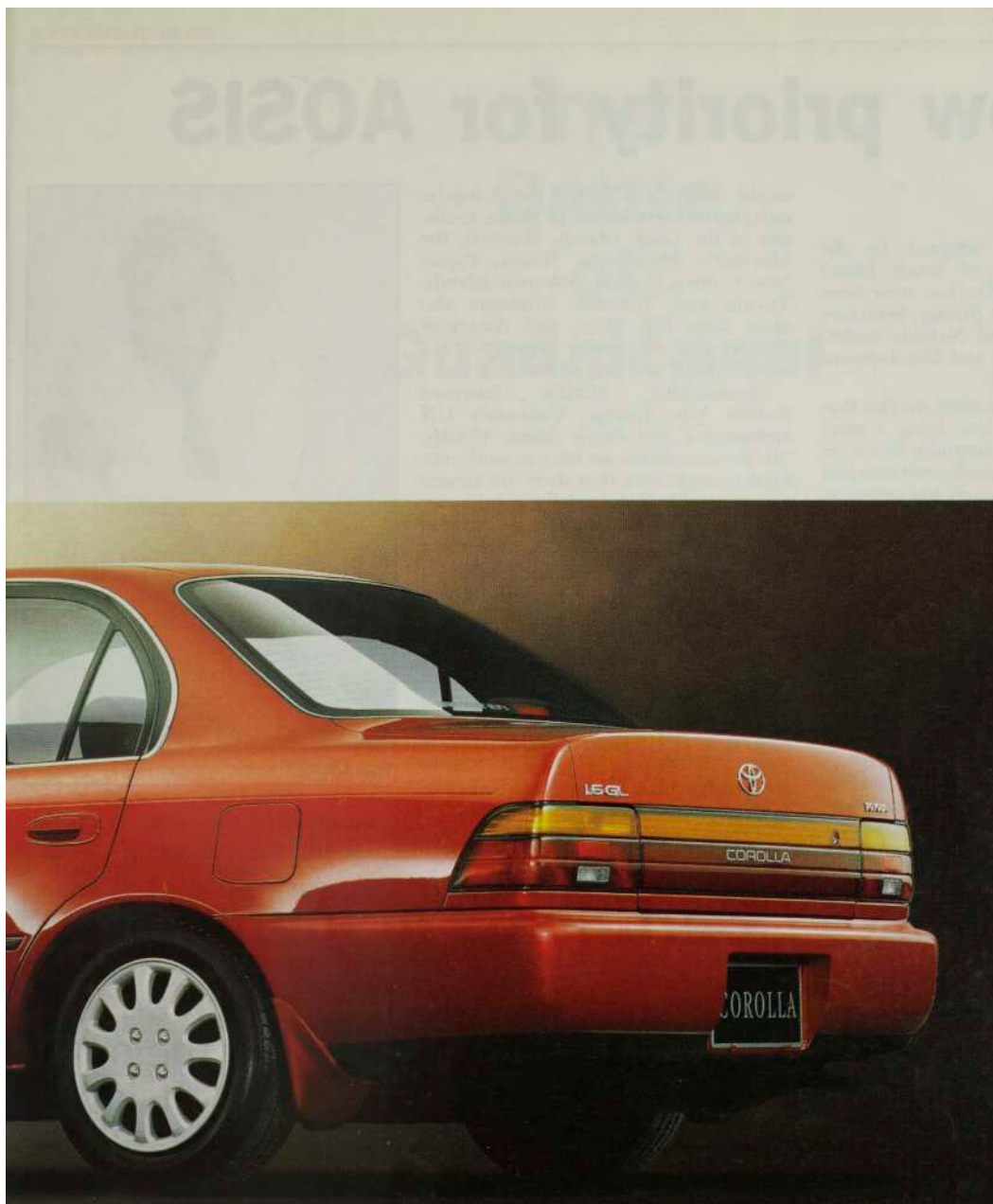
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ENVIRONMENT

Low priority for AOSIS

By Ian Williams

THE declaration adopted by the AOSIS (Association of Small Island States) Summit in Rio has now been submitted to Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the United Nations conference on Environment and Development — the Earth Summit.

The declaration lamented the fact that "Small island and low lying coastal developing countries continue to see, in a general sense, their needs, concerns and interests assigned relatively low priorities within the United Nations system", and pointed out that the constructive role AOSIS had played underlined the need for adequate representation of its members on the relevant international bodies. Most international bodies allocate seats on a regional basis, and while the AOSIS members together formed almost a quarter of members, when split into the different geographical regions, they become a small minority in every sense of the word.

It is often difficult to persuade the larger, majority, countries that they should abandon their positions to make way for a more vulnerable — but small — island state in their region.

So, without getting ecstatic about the results of the Earth Summit, the AOSIS members "reiterated the willingness of their governments to accept" it as "what was achievable at this particular stage", rather than "what was desirable from the perspective of AOSIS".

They urged that ratification of the Climate Change treaty be effected as soon as possible and that it should be strengthened to ensure that it "effectively addresses the problem of human induced climate change". It pushed for the development and promotion of new and renewable energy sources to help achieve those ends.

The declaration calls for the vulnerability assessments for the nations concerned and the development of coastal management plans — and financing of measures to adapt to climate change. The multi-billion dollar Global Environment Facility financed by UNDP and the World Bank will not finance such projects unless they have global environmental significance. So a project to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the middle of the Sahara Desert can qualify — but the protection of an atoll in the Pacific faced with submersion of climate change may not.

The meeting which framed the declaration was the most extensive yet with attendance from across the oceans of the

world. From the Pacific the delegates included the presidents or prime ministers of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshalls, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Ministers also came from Fiji, Niue, and American Samoa, and of course representatives from SPREP and the Forum.

Summarising, AOSIS Chairman Robert Van Lierop, Vanuatu's UN ambassador told *Pacific Islands Monthly*, "In the near future we have to work very hard to make sure that there are targets and timetables adopted for greenhouse gas emissions, particularly of carbon dioxide. We have also got to develop renewable energy sources. But immediately, vulnerability assessments for the islands are essential."

Van Lierop, whose dedication and energy did so much to help AOSIS get launched has expressed a wish to stand down from the chairmanship, perhaps in favour of a Caribbean diplomat. However, several UN sources report that a lobby is developing to persuade him to stay on. It remains to be seen whether he will succumb to their blandishments.



Van Lierop: asked to stay on

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ANNIVERSARY

The Battle of Guadalcanal

By Carole Bellacera

The marines had a nickname for it. Starvation Island. But that name hadn't yet been earned when the Americans caught their first glimpse of Guadalcanal.

Fifty years have passed since the Allied landing on Guadalcanal, one of the islands in the South Pacific Solomon chain. No one knew at the time that the invasion would turn out to be a pivotal point of the war in the Pacific.

America's forces in the Pacific had suffered one devastating loss after another since Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941. The Empire of the Rising Sun appeared to be invincible. But with the sinking of four major Japanese aircraft carriers and one cruiser in the Battle of Midway, the tide of war finally began to turn in the Allies' favour. For the first time since America entered the war, the Allied commanders

were ready to go on the offensive. In May of 1942, the Solomon Islands had been captured by the Japanese during the Battle of the Coral Sea. These islands were strategically important because of the shipping lanes between American ports and Australia. With the Japanese in control, it was nearly impossible to transport supplies and troops. The American commanders decided to plan an invasion of the islands of Little Florida, Tugali, Gavutu and Tanambogo. But when surveillance discovered the Japanese were building an airbase on the tiny island of Guadalcanal, it too, was added to the invasion plans.

On the early morning of August 7, American ships approached the islands. To many of the men aboard, the Solomon Islands probably looked like a tropical paradise with their fertile green rain forests and white beaches bordered by coconut trees. But what waited for them was a sweltering, energy-draining

climate and a swamp-land infested with mosquitoes, slugs, snakes, crocodiles and centipedes.

Strangely enough, as the marines landed on Guadalcanal, there was no resistance from the Japanese, known to still be on the island. It wasn't until the next day when the troops reached the nearly completed airfield near the Lunga River that sniper fire from the hidden enemy began. It quickly became obvious the Japanese would not give up the area without a fight. On the early morning of August 9, they hit back hard during a rain squall.

A Japanese fleet of five heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and a destroyer raced down "The Slot," a long strip of sea between the two rows of islands in the Solomon chain, and opened fire upon the Allied fleet. In a little more than an hour, the Japanese sank four cruisers and heavily damaged another cruiser and a destroyer. 1,270 American seamen were killed and 750 wounded.



The first boats of the raiders come ashore on the Island of Guadalcanal

US National Archives

ANNIVERSARY

Admiral Turner, commander of the cargo and transport ships to the Japanese and gave the order to withdraw from the area. The marines on the invaded islands could only watch with a sickening feeling of foreboding as their supply ships left "Ironbottom Sound" — the harbour's new name since that morning's fiasco. There was nothing for the Americans to do but grimly dig in and wait for whatever fate had in store for them. The Japanese commanders had managed to land fresh troops on the island in the dark of night. Fierce sporadic fighting broke out, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. In the lulls of battle, the marines had to deal with illness, near-starvation and the constant fear that lay upon them as thickly as the permeating stink of the jungle around them. In the days after the departure of the supply ships, a grim reality set in. What had looked like a lush oasis from the sea had turned out to be a breeding ground for diseases such as malaria, beriberi and a horrible fungus called "jungle rot" that caused painful sores over the body.

Yet, somehow, the marines held on to one dim ray of hope. From the first day of the landing, American engineers had set about finishing Henderson Field, the airfield that the Japanese had begun. Within a few weeks, it was operational. In spite of intervention by Allied fighter squadrons, the enemy managed to land 1500 fresh troops upon Guadalcanal in October, culminating in days of heavy fighting near Henderson Field. Again and again, the Americans held their own,

pushing back the determined Japanese who suffered catastrophic losses. On October 23, the most savage battle was fought when the Japanese swarmed out of the jungle to come again to try to take Henderson Field. They suffered a devastating loss of over 3500 men. The Japanese command, however, had been so certain of victory they'd sent a fleet of ships toward the Solomons for "mopping-up" action.

Unfortunately for them, the American task force, including two aircraft carriers, *The Hornet* and *The Enterprise*, were waiting. The Battle of Santa Cruz took place on the morning of October 26. It looked bad for the Americans for a while. Both *The Hornet* and a cruiser were sunk and *The Enterprise* and several other American ships were damaged. But the Japanese lost more than one hundred airplanes. They had too few left to make the air attacks needed to help the Japanese commander on Guadalcanal. As it turned out, General Hyakutaki and his troops were forced to retreat into the jungle, defeated.

The tenacious Japanese made several more attempts to recapture the island, but all were in vain. In the early morning darkness of February 7, the last Japanese troops boarded a ship and left the island for good.

After six long months of struggle, the Allies had won Guadalcanal.

Men Who Were There

By Carole Bellacera

Charles LaBerge, 5th Marines

CHARLES LaBerge was a 20-year-old actor/entertainer in California when he joined the marines after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. A member of the fifth Marines Division, he remembers the first days on Guadalcanal as among the most frightening of the war.

The first night on the island, the marines received very little, if any, sleep. Although there was no resistance from the Japanese, every moment was filled with anxiety.

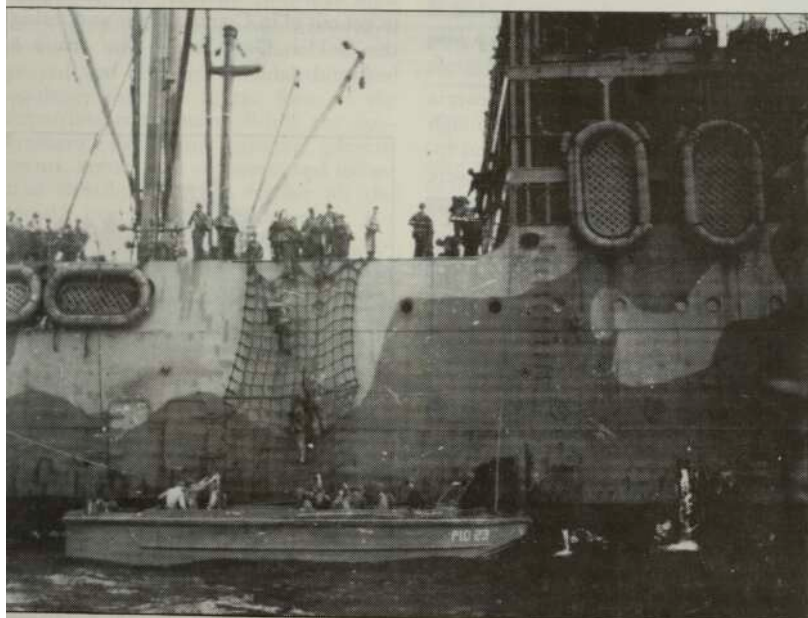
Surrounded by the dark menacing jungle, pelted by the warm rain that fell almost continuously and alarmed by the scurrying of nocturnal creatures in the bush, the uneasy quiet was punctured time and again by gunfire from nervous sentries who imagined danger in the dark.

In November, LaBerge was transferred to the Second Raider Battalion. As Christmas approached, he began travelling with a 14-piece band from one outfit to another to entertain the troops throughout the captured islands. His most memorable experience during this time was when he did a show for a hillside of troops that were about to be shipped out for a push towards Bougainville.

"I sang 'White Christmas,'" Chuck LaBerge says. "I don't think there was a dry eye in the place. That was the toughest performance I ever did in my life."

Today at age 70, Charles LaBerge lives in the historical town of Spotsylvania, Virginia, about 66 miles from Washington DC. Although disabled from a war wound he received in later fighting in the Pacific, he volunteers his services to the Marine Corp League, acting as head of the Capitol Marines, an organisation that sponsors awards ceremonies for deserving marines and other branches of the service. Recently, The Marine Corp League honoured Army General Colin Powell for his service during the Persian Gulf War.

Of the six months that he spent in



The first Marines ashore: facing the daunting possibility of fire from hidden Japanese

US National Archives

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Guadalcanal, Chuck says that after 50 years, the details are hazy in his mind. "And ..." he adds softly, "there are some things I don't want to remember."

Luther Wilson, 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army

If it weren't for a case of pneumonia, Luther Wilson may not have ended up in Guadalcanal. After being inducted into the army in January, 1943, the 27-year-old farmer from Russell Springs, Kentucky, was sent to Fort Belvoir, Virginia for basic training and was selected to attend a drafting school in Nashville. However, that was not to be. After days of marching in the cold wet winter typical of the Chesapeake Bay area, Luther became ill with bronchitis



LaBerge: sang 'White Christmas'

that eventually developed into pneumonia. By the time he recovered, his drafting school had already started. Instead, he was placed in a 10-week combat course and before long, was on board a ship headed for Guadalcanal with the 25th Infantry Division.

The Guadalcanal fighting had been prominent in the news, so Luther was well aware that he was on his way to a "hot spot". It was said, of course, that the island was in American hands, but upon his arrival, he realised immediately that it wasn't going to be a holiday. The Japanese still had airfields within easy raiding distance and most every night as the troops camped in the sprawling coconut grove owned by the Palmolive Company, the air would fill with the hum of low-flying Japanese fighters. Forewarned, the American fighters lost no time in getting airborne. Luther and the other marines often watched spectacular dog-fights just off the coast over Ironbottom Sound.

After several months on Guadalcanal, Luther's division was sent to make an invasion of nearby Kolombangara Island. "We were on the top deck of the LCT boat, our packs and rifles on our backs. We'd just pulled into the harbour when three Japanese planes came over with their guns blazing. I could see the pilots looking at us with big grins on their faces. The bullets were splattering all around. I made a dive under a jeep but couldn't get any further than my shoulders with my pack on. It only lasted a few seconds, but it seemed like a lifetime."

From there, it was on to New Georgia Island where the division met tough resistance from the Japanese in hand-to-hand jungle combat. The nights were

miserable as the American troops huddled in their fox-holes, deluged by heavy rains and suffering from ever-present hunger pains because of the shortage of food. Water, too, was scarce. Because most wells were filled with salt water, it was cause for celebration when a fresh-water well was found.

"On New Georgia, we ran the Japanese back from a 'good well,' Luther remembers. "During the night, they slipped back across the lines and threw a dead body into the well. The next morning, we had to get it out and move our water (purifying) system to the well. I and the others said we wouldn't drink that water, but before the night was over, we were drinking it as if nothing had happened."

In November 1943, Luther's division was sent to New Zealand for a much needed R & R. From there, he went to New Caledonia for more combat training and was eventually sent back to the states and medically discharged after becoming ill.

Today, Luther is 77 years old and lives in Russell Springs, Kentucky. Until his recent retirement, he was a cabinet-maker and the owner of a successful antiques business.

Like Chuck LaBerge, Luther admits there are things about the Guadalcanal experience he'd like to forget. "You really became attached to the men who were with you," he says. "We were glad to get out of it. Coming home and seeing the Golden Gate Bridge was really a beautiful sight."



Wilson: found dead body in the well



US National Archives
US Marines: checking out a possibly booby-trapped tunnel left by the Japanese on Guadalcanal

SPECIAL REPORT

The last few decades have seen the indigenous peoples of the South Pacific coming to terms with their own cultural identities and gaining a sense of pride in who they are. There has been a deliberate shedding of the old colonial mould with a move towards heightened consciousness of their own rights and culture. This transition has by no means been painless or without hurdles, but there is no doubt the cultural renaissance has begun.

The art of survival

By Liz Thompson

FOR THE last three decades there has been an artistic revolution taking place in Papua New Guinea. Traditionally creative expression was used for many purposes and always an integral part of existence. Art was never seen as separate to life in fact was never classified as 'art'. Instead ceremony, material artifacts, the embodiment of spiritual beliefs were often filled with moral messages which laid the foundations for social behaviour. Tradition is still very much alive in many parts of the country but Papua New Guinea has changed irrevocably over the last 50 years. The 20th century is taking its place. A Western parliamentary system tries to hold together a country of over 700 tribal groups, each with its own unique language. Cities have grown in response to the urban drift and search for employment. Law and order has broken down as people are displaced, unemployed and often resentful of the white opulence they see in the form of the expatriate community. While the government, like many western governments, argues that economic and industrial development will resolve all the social problems 'development' has brought with it, the problem is more complex.

Many of Papua New Guinea's contemporary artists argue that social problems, which essentially occur in urban areas, are the result of a loss of identity. Traditionally identity was never an issue; belonging was a part of life. People were tightly bound together in their own small communities on their own land and life had a sense of meaning. Contemporary artists argue that the development of contemporary cultural expression is fundamental to a healthier social situation in urban environments. That to isolate economic and industrial development as the answer to the trauma of radical transition is naive and simplistic. They



PNG art form: National Art School, Port Moresby

argue that if creative expression was traditionally used as a medium of education, why not utilise it now in exactly the same way. Today, it is more important than ever that the government finds ways in which it can more successfully communicate with its people.

Government attitudes and priorities are reflected in poorly funded cultural institutions. They are reflected in the preponderance of imported foreign television trash as opposed to the cultivation of a national film industry. They are reflected in a multitude of ways, but despite these setbacks many contemporary artists are passionately committed to the power of contemporary artistic expression. They continue to forge a creative path relevant to the country's new social experiences.

Some of the most interesting work has been taking place in the theatre. William Takaku is one of its most inspirational figures. A dark, blue-black

Bougainvillian with a gravely captivating voice, his ideas and visions are inspirational. Takaku is director of the National Theatre Company whose work is concerned with rural and urban developments. A recent performance *Prices of Urbanisation* looked at the uglier manifestations of development — alcoholism, prostitution, government and police corruption. It reflected what many people already know is going on but in a theatrical and entertaining form. It mirrored things that were relevant to modern society as opposed to reproducing traditional dances and performances. Takaku has however grown frustrated by the theatrical medium, largely because of the limited audience it reaches.

Warriors in Transit grew out of that frustration. Produced and directed by Takaku and film maker Albert Toro it is an eight-part television series. *Warriors* is the first film of this kind to be produced in Papua New Guinea. Quite slow and very theatrical in pace, it follows, says Takaku, a more Melanesian rhythm. A rhythm which is more appropriate to the people. He is critical of the rapid cutting of most imported products, the need to overstimulate, the explicit violence and sex displayed. This kind of influence, in a society undergoing chronic law and order problems is, in his opinion extremely counter-productive. He stresses the need for people to see Papua New Guinean heroes on their televisions, not to constantly be pressured into aspiring to white role models which usually rely on violent or macho stereotypes.

Currently MTV is the country's only television channel and it imports most of its films from Channel 9 in Australia. Despite an initial mandate which advocated they would try and show 50 per cent nationally produced material, the only local content is news and a brief mediation session in the evening. Largely because MTV insists that the people don't want to see locally produced material and that it isn't being produced

SPECIAL REPORT

anyway. Takaku and Toro are both convinced people are interested in seeing local material and responses to *Warriors* supports their view. They insist that if the government put more money into a national film school and industry there would be enough material produced to actually make a national television station viable. There is certainly no lack of talent and enthusiasm on the part of film-makers. It seems ironic that while the government bemoans crime, it endorses, through failing to fund its own industry, the continual displays of violence and crime perpetrated through foreign films.

Groun Bilong Yumi is another interesting film recently produced and funded by CUSO. It follows three separate theatre groups, SAY from the Solomons, One Small Bag from Vanuatu and Raun Isi from Papua New Guinea. It looks at how they are all using popular theatre to communicate important information in times of great change. It is a form of creative expression and a political tool which is fast developing in the Pacific Region.

Raun Isi theatre grup took a performance called *Pikinni Forest* to Gahom Village at the base of the Hunstein Ranges, up the April River. The Hunstein Ranges are a vast and unique virgin rainforest of some 2000 sq miles. The entire area is threatened by the April/Salumei Logging Concession, the biggest yet in Papua New Guinea. Involved in the writing and production of *Pikinni Forest* were Nigel Hughes and Richard Edmunds, the directors of Green Light Productions. Green Light is an environmentally concerned theatre company based in London and both Hughes and Edmunds have worked closely with William Takaku. Though it is a charity based organisation they have managed to fund theatre productions in remote regions of Papua New Guinea and are committed to helping develop alternative and viable sources of income for the villagers. The *Pikinni Forest* performance looked at the interests of both parties. On occasions the villagers were invited to participate, expressing their concerns and interests. Provoking discussion and consideration the performance is followed up by meetings between landowners who have already sold their land and landowners faced with the prospect. This is intended to provide a forum for sharing experiences.

Takaku, who was an integral part of the organisation of Papua New Guinea's involvement in *Groun Bilong Yumi* is looking to future productions having a broader element of environmental



Liz Thompson

Prices of Urbanisation: National Theatre company

awareness and an attempt to teach people in Papua New Guinea what is going on in the rest of the world and how their behaviour and practices have international repercussions. He believes nature is an integral part of culture and as we lose culture, so we lose our respect for nature. Obviously, if the government wishes to continue with extensive resource exploitation it is against its interests to fund groups like Raun Isi to inform villagers of the disadvantages of logging their land. But it is false economy. Current logging practices are atrocious with little or no reforestation and vast tracts of land being cleared. With current practices economic gain will be short-lived and soil degradation and silting of rivers will ensue. Logging practices need to be monitored and controlled, the government is increasingly aware of this, but villagers need to be aware if there is to be any real system of control.

In times of great change some form of cultural identity in urban environments is vital for people most affected by that change. For rural, more traditionally based communities, culture is a way of communicating and informing. With a large portion of the community still illiterate, theatre, television and radio are three of the most powerful mediums. Fortunately there are numerous artists committed to their development but they are constantly struggling to stay afloat financially. Hopefully the Papua New Guinean government will, sooner rather than later, stand true to the rhetoric which surrounded the independence celebrations in 1975. That is, that contemporary culture is crucial to a developing nation and that a contemporary identity must be nurtured. The sooner the government realises that a



Liz Thompson

William Takaku: committed to the cause

harnessing of cultural expression and an adequate funding of it will assist them in their cause, the better — that, contrary to popular western notions of economic rationalism, culture is integral to social order. That alongside economic and industrial development there must be a nurturing of creative expression which is relevant to the people if there is to be any richness and sense of purpose within the community. Figures like Takaku are guiding visionary lights in these times. Despite his and other artists' struggles their voices continue to be heard. The significant achievements of projects like *Pikinni Forest* and *Warriors in Transit* underline the importance and relevance of the role of contemporary culture in Papua New Guinea today. □

SPECIAL REPORT

Culture and Commerce

— the double-edged sword of the Maori fight-back

By Karen Mangnall

JOHN TAMIHERE is a renaissance man. He's in the vanguard of a Maori awakening. As the chief executive of West Auckland's Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust, John Tamihere, goes into battle clad in a natty business suit, wielding his law degree and the corporate plan. Local Maori are "clients" who achieve "successful outcomes" by "accessing" the trust's "outputs".

"For us to be around in five or 10 years, there's nothing better than talking back to the powers-that-be in their own language." Tamihere gives a saboteur's grin. "It excites them to see a clone." Tamihere admits his vocabulary is a shock to some Maori. "They're happy hiding on a mattress at a *hui* on a *marae*," he says. "But when they get around a conference table they're not up to it," Tamihere says. "We must always hold true to the traditions handed down by our ancestors... but have to learn the skills of the Pakeha."

Te Whanau o Waipareira is learning those skills so well, and training Maori so effectively, the trust is beginning to erode the monopoly of education and skills training held by state schools and polytechnics. So far 680 trainees have passed through Waipareira's vocational training programs ranging from agriculture, bone carving, catering and computers to telemarketing and panel beating.

"We say the polytechs are imposters," says Tamihere. "So started our own training. This year Waipareira filled half the 260 jobs created nationally from Maori ACCESS programs." Tamihere says Waipareira has an 85 per cent pass rate on its own vocational schemes compared to the massive attrition Maori students suffer at polytechnics. "We train people, not just Maori either, ranging from illiterates to those wanting to start their own businesses."

The trust has an above average success rate in its MANA venture capital fund. Of the 60 entrepreneurs put through small business training, 30 are now in business. They are kept under close monthly scrutiny by Waipareira's accountancy and legal units, plus an

advisory group of 15 successful retired business people from West Auckland.

"We are now the only Maori organisation in the country contracted by the Labour Department to provide this range and level of skills training," says Tamihere. Waipareira has taken the program one step further and now employs some of its graduates to provide contract services, like garbage collection, for local authorities and other agencies.

Waipareira and the nearby Hoani

In 1983, Aroha Sharples helped set up at Hoani Waititi Marae one of the first *kohanga reo*, or Maori pre-schools, in New Zealand. Aroha Sharples says initially *kohanga reo* graduates would get to a state primary school and be assessed as illiterate in English. "But because no-one measured their competency in Maori language, these children were considered to be completely illiterate. So we had parents refusing to send their five-year-olds to primary school. That's why we



A new beginning: trainees of the Kaiawhina/Kohanga Reo module

Waititi Marae are pan-tribal, reflecting the 85 per cent of Maori who now live in urban areas. John Tamihere says Waipareira is putting together the pieces of Maori social and economic structures shattered by decades of relocating Maori workers to manual labour in the cities, and by "pepper-potting" Maori families in Pakeha suburbs. The appalling statistics on health, unemployment, crime and imprisonment bear witness to the lost generations of Maori.

"Everybody calls them Maori, but do they know who they are? No," says Tamihere. "So we need to bridge that lack of self-esteem and language is the key component in that."

started the *kura kaupapa* in 1985."

The country's first Maori primary and intermediate school has enabled *kohanga reo* graduates to continue their education using Maori as the sole language of instruction and directly involving the children's extended families in their schooling. As *kura kaupapa* principal from 1988 to the end of 1991, Aroha Sharples says the benefits of the system are now evident as the first crop of graduates entered state secondary schools this year.

"I see those students being very confident about furthering their education at higher levels," she says. "All five graduates are in the third form but two of them are studying for School Certificate Maori and the other three are



SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

VACANCY — COASTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of Coastal Management Officer with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), based in Apia, Western Samoa.

SPREP is a regional organisation established by the governments and administrations of 22 Pacific Islands countries and territories and 4 developed countries. * Its aim is to assist the Island countries and territories to protect and improve their shared environment and to manage their resources so as to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. SPREP undertakes a wide range of environmental activities throughout the region, particularly in the areas of Conservation of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Environmental Planning and Management (Terrestrial), Coastal Planning and Management, Prevention of Pollution and Management of Pollution Emergencies, Environmental Information, Education and Training and Regional Environmental Concerns.

The SPREP Secretariat, which has been based in Apia since early this year, is responsible for executing the policies and directives of its members, for providing advice and assistance to those members (either directly or through consultants), for formulating and implementing projects under the SPREP Action Plan and for securing donor assistance. It is headed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director, and aided by a team of professional staff recruited from within and outside the region and support staff recruited in Western Samoa.

Coastal lands and nearshore waters are of great importance to Pacific Island peoples, cultures and economies. The coastal areas of all islands in the Pacific are the location of the majority of human habitation, the focus of subsistence and commercial agriculture and fisheries activities and the target of most economic development. Coastal management and planning problems are widespread in the region, and in some areas urgent as the potential for ecologically sustainable development and protection of coastal areas is being permanently lost or compromised. In addressing these problems, SPREP'S Action Plan calls for the promotion of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, integrated approach to the use and conservation of coastal areas, habitats and resources.

The Coastal Management Officer will be responsible to the Director, through the Deputy Director, for assisting the strengthening of national capabilities to formulate and implement coastal management and planning programmes through training activities, workshops and projects; for developing and implementing coastal management and planning programmes; for improving understanding and developing expertise within communities and private and government sectors regarding the benefits of coastal management and planning; for coordinating coastal management and planning activities in the region and for undertaking other coastal management and planning activities, including coastal resource surveys and management plan development. The position entails considerable travel.

Candidates must have appropriate tertiary qualifications from a recognised institution and at least five years' work experience in a field related to this position. Other essential requirements are the abilities to work as part of a small, inter-disciplinary team, to manage the work of consultants, to meet project deadlines (often under difficult circumstances) and to adapt to living in tropical island communities. Applicants with a demonstrated interest and involvement in economic and social issues affecting the region, particularly as they relate to the management of coastal resources, will be highly regarded.

Appointment will be at Project Officer level and will be for three years in the first instance, renewable for a further three years by mutual agreement. An attractive remuneration package, will be offered, with commencing salary dependant on qualifications, experience and current salary in country of recruitment, and will include return airfares from country of recruitment for the appointee and dependants, establishment grant, housing subsidy, leave fares, Provident Fund and child and education allowances where applicable. For non-Western Samoan citizens, salary and allowances will be tax-free in Western Samoa.

Applications must be accompanied by detailed curricula vitae containing full information on qualifications and experience for the position as well as names, addresses and telephone or fax contact numbers of three persons associated with the applicant professionally and who would be prepared to provide testimonials.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
P.O. Box 240
APIA
Western Samoa
Fax (685) 21 929 Telephone (685) 20 231

Further information, including a full duty statement and schedule of terms and conditions of appointment, can be obtained by contacting SPREP's Administrative Officer, Mr Ueligitone Sasagi, at these numbers.

Applications close on 31 August 1992.

* SPREP member countries and territories are: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa.

SPECIAL REPORT



John Tamihere: renaissance man

studying the language at University Entrance level. In a couple of years they'll be studying Maori at university. And Aroha Sharples says their success at Maori is rubbing off in overall academic excellence.

Aroha Sharples says these five graduates pose a huge challenge to the existing educational system. "State secondary schools have nothing more to teach these graduates regarding Maori language. Why should they have to waste five years until they can get to study Maori at university?" And perhaps more importantly, if the *kura kaupapa* graduates can achieve such excellence, why are state schools still failing Maori students in such huge numbers?

John Tamihere says for too long society has blamed poor Maori parenting for their children's failure at school. "But 85 per cent of our students at *kohanga reo* and *kura kaupapa* have domestic difficulties. But they are still performing above average in core curriculum areas."

Waipareira has just asked Education Minister Lockwood Smith for permission and funding for a *wharekura kaupapa Maori*, a full secondary school teaching the standard core curriculum, using a mixture of Maori language immersion and English. Aroha Sharples says by the third year, students would be receiving two-thirds of their education in subjects specific to their chosen vocations. It's a logical progression in Waipareira's philosophy of self-development. John Tamihere says while most New Zealanders focus on Waitangi Tribunal claims for land and assets, the proportion of assets returned to Maori is minimal. "What's exciting here is we can fund development ourselves," says Tamihere. "We can say to the government, 'Look at those imposters out there'. We've got this program that's working, so re-direct your funding to us." □

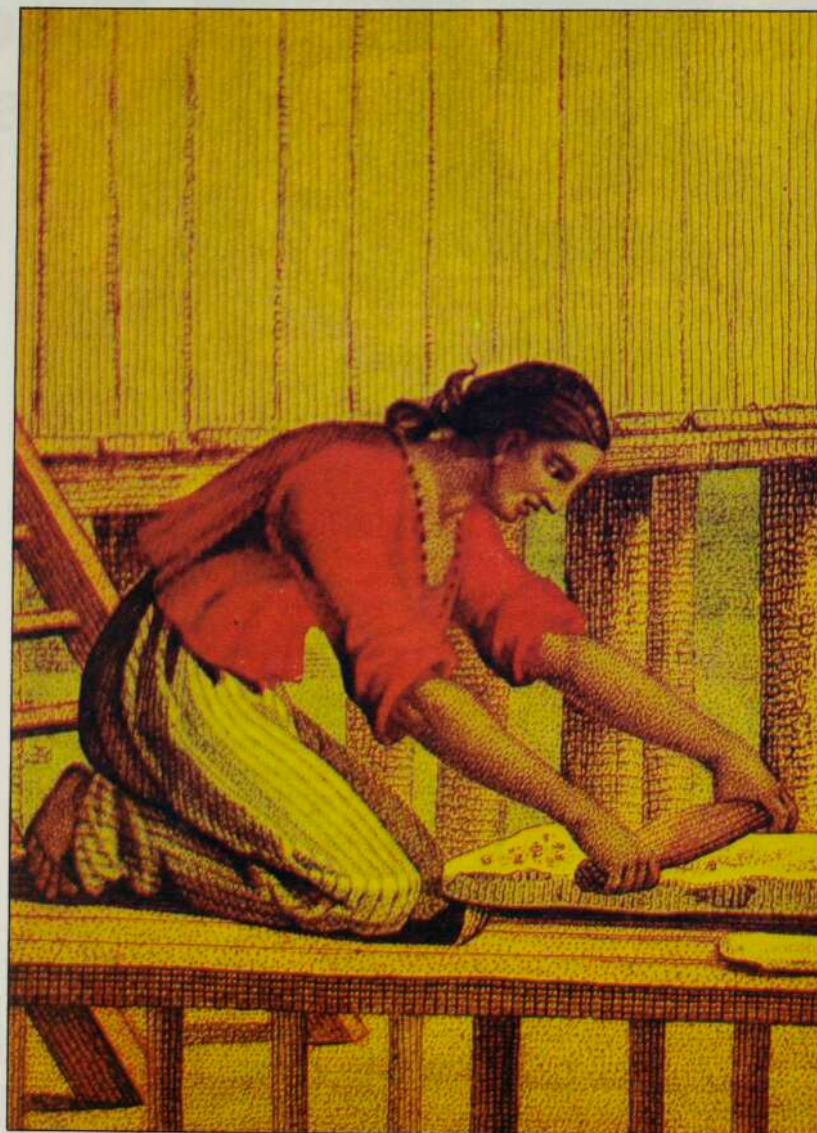
SPECIAL REPORT

Chamorro rights groups seek sovereignty

By David North

During the 1987 coups in Fiji, the Guam political status commission's executive director publicly expressed sympathy and support for the coup leaders. Simon Sanchez Jr., a Harvard-educated leader from a prominent Guam family, said the island's Chamorro people — those who regard themselves as the descendants of the indigenous inhabitants of the island — felt solidarity with Fijians who were trying to regain political control of their homeland. The endorsement shocked some observers in the prosperous, multi-cultural, U.S. territory because it could be interpreted as condoning force as a means of resolving political disputes among ethnic groups. Though Sanchez denied his statement endorsed violence, his views accurately reflected the increasingly pointed and outspoken politics of the Chamorro indigenous rights movement on Guam.

That campaign, begun in the early 1970's as a Chamorro studies and cultural awareness effort, has evolved over the past two decades into a force that has significantly shaped Guam's political status negotiations with the United States and forced legal and political concessions from the island's elected leadership. Many of the movement's leaders are young US-educated attorneys, educators, environmentalists and activists. A number of elected Guam leaders avidly support Chamorro rights issues, while others fear to oppose the indigenous groups of highly emotional positions. While no purely Chamorro rights leader has been elected to office on that form a consciousness-raising effort centred on a University of Guam Chamorro studies program. It was fed by



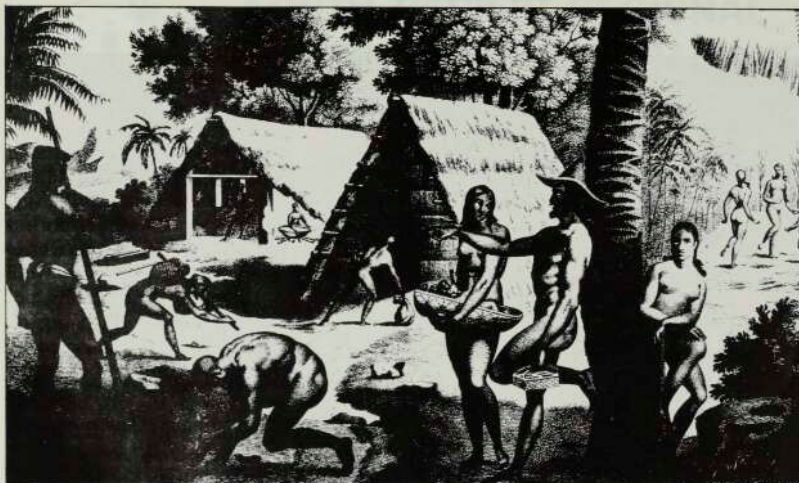
Woman grinding corn: by A. Pellion during the Louis de Freycinet expedition to Guam in 1819

several streams, including the U.S. civil rights and anti-Vietnam War protests of the late '60s and early 70's, the decolonisation movement in the South Pacific, and the self-determination process that led to the dissolution of the US trusteeship of Micronesia. Among the major founding projects at the University of Guam were Chamorro language and cultural preservation classes, rewriting the island history from an indigenous perspective, as well as comparative studies of other Pacific island peoples and cultures. Through local legislation these studies were spread to the secondary and elementary schools, annual cultural fairs

were begun, programs were created to encourage indigenous artists, and Chamorro was mandated as a language of government.

In the early 1980's the movement reached out for a broader spectrum of support, including those concerned about burgeoning tourism, environmental issues, and the nuclear-free Pacific movement. Environmental quality has become a popular, island-wide issue as Japanese-driven tourism growth has placed increasing pressure on land, ocean resources, and public utilities. Ironically, Japanese tourism also helped generate increased interest in the Chamorro past. As excavations for hotel foundations dug

SPECIAL REPORT



Library of Congress

up traditional village and grave sites, archaeologists and anthropologists were able to gather impressive new knowledge about the ancient Chamorro people.

The most tangible accomplishment of the movement in the 1980s was its push for political self-determination for the indigenous Chamorros and its influence on Guam's Draft Commonwealth Bill, a measure which local leaders have presented to the US Congress as a blueprint for a new political relationship. The bill outlines a commonwealth status for the island, with some of the provisions calling for unprecedented political autonomy. One of the measure's most critical provisions would limit the ultimate choice of a political status for Guam (at some unspecified future date) to only Chamorro voters, excluding Filipino-Americans, state-siders and other non-Chamorro US citizens. US leaders have said that provision would violate US constitutional protection which guarantees the voting rights of all US citizens and prohibits ethnically discriminatory voter registration laws.

The core issue for the Chamorro rights groups throughout the 1980s was maintaining political control of Guam amid the island's booming economic development and the rapid influx of US and Asian workers to build and run the tourist hotels. Though the 21-member unicameral local legislature remains Chamorro, the fear of the indigenous group losing control has been heightened by the 1990 census figures. Those on Guam who regard themselves as Chamorro make up only 37 percent of the 135,000 residents. That figure is down eight per cent from their position in 1980, when Chamorros accounted for about 45 per cent. The last time they constituted a majority was in the late 1970s before the tourism-driven development took off.

The remainder of the population is

about 22 per cent Filipino-Americans, 15 per cent state-siders, including about 20,000 US military personnel and dependents. The Filipino community began to grow after World War II, when thousands of Tagalog and Visayan workers were brought to Guam to rebuild the war-devastated island. Taiwanese, South Koreans, Japanese, and Micronesians, who have come to Guam to fill tourism and construction jobs, complete the multi-ethnic spectrum on the island.

The Chamorros are still the single largest ethnic group — and voting block — on Guam and control the local government. Their close-knit extended family systems guarantee high voter turnouts, while most of the state-siders — primarily transient military personnel and dependents — do not normally participate in local elections. The Filipino-American community, however, does vote in large numbers and has elected several representatives to political office in the island. Yet, in stark numerical terms, the Chamorros have been a minority on the island for more than a decade and are becoming a smaller per cent of the whole with each passing year.

Until recently Guam's indigenous rights movement has lacked unified leadership. Several small private groups have carried the torch on ad hoc issues and special causes. These include the Organisation of People for Indigenous Rights, the Guam National Party for Free Association, *Protehi I Tano'ta* (Protect the Land), *Para PADA*, and Chamoru Grassroots Movement. In September 1991, however, representatives from these organisations formed a co-ordinating group — the Chamoru Nation Traditional Council. (The group's founders prefer the CHAMORU spelling rather than the more generally used CHAMORRO.)

In an attempt to develop a unified

A 17th century couple using woven infant carrier and a purse to hold beetlenut, pepper leaf and lime:

By A. Pellion from the Louis de Freycinet expedition to Guam in 1819

agenda, the council, through its spokesman Angel Santos, publicly laid out a plan of action for preserving and enhancing the Chamorro culture and the island's environment. In an attempt to reach out to more conservative Chamorros as well as non-Chamorros, Santos also sought to clarify the group's political agenda — "It is a misconception that the group is pursuing independence, he said. "Our quest is sovereignty," which the group defines as "the right of the Chamoru people to decide the destiny of our nation ...". Sovereignty means "the rights of the Chamoru people to protect their culture and environment," Santos said. "Independence is a totally different political path that has complications ... We don't have the resources to rectify those political problems and we'll leave it up to our local leaders." Santos' statement represented a significant change from his previous outlook. As leader of another grassroots group called CHELUS (Brothers), Santos as late as 1990 had urged political independence for Guam.

The indigenous rights co-ordinating council also has tried to dispel the notion that the indigenous rights group ultimately seeks a Chamorro-only island. Santos called that notion "a myth — propaganda perpetrated by those who do not have a full understanding of what our goals are." He explained that the group's goal is "a constitution ... to protect the indigenous rights of the Chamoru and safeguard the civil rights of the non-Chamoru. Force is not the proper way to promote these concerns. We attest mutual respect of one another." Despite these assurances, many non-Chamorro groups see critical questions remaining for the movement to address, the most important being how the special rights sought for Chamorros can be achieved without violating or limiting the rights of non-Chamorro US citizens on the island. □

SPECIAL REPORT

The lost world of Irian Jaya

IRIAN JAYA - or West Papua - is a corner of our planet conducive to superlatives because of its natural and cultural wonders. But it often falls victim to clichés about man emerging from the stone-age and over-simplifications.

The western part of the island of New Guinea - taken over by Indonesia from the Dutch during the 1960s - embraces unique cultures and a fantastic array of flora and fauna. But man, beast and plant alike are all threatened by outside pressures. For example, virtually all of Irian Jaya is covered by logging licences. The shortcomings of the Indonesian colonists - whether arising from indifference, ethnocentricity or greed - are only partly balanced by more positive influences.

Irian Jaya's rugged central mountain range - 2000 kilometres long with peaks more than 4500 metres high - was formed only a few million years ago, as tectonic plates on the earth's surface collided. As a result of those geological events, it is possible today to stand on the snow covered glacier of the Cartenz Pyramid only four degrees south of the equator and view the Arafura Sea in the distance.

Australian Robert Mitton, whose family posthumously compiled the marvelous book *The Lost World of Irian Jaya* from his

writings, was captivated by the natural beauty of these mountains. He wrote of bare grey summits rupturing the green skin of the forest. Mitton also became engrossed with the land's peoples. The rich cultural tapestry ranges from penis-gourd wearing highlanders with sophisticated agricultural irrigation systems to wood-carving lowland Asmat gatherers of the sago palm, who traditionally lived their lives totally naked.

While Asian neighbours had long-traded with the Papuan people of the coast, and the Dutch explorer Jan Carstenz made contact in 1623, it was not until 1848 that the Dutch East Indies government claimed the western half of the island of New Guinea. And it was only in 1938 that the first expedition reached the densely populated Grand Baliem Valley off the central plateau. Dutch colonial rule was largely confined to the coast until World War II, with Christian missionaries - some of whom fell victim to cannibalism - constituting the only substantive influence in parts of the interior. Other areas remained free of outside contact until the 1970s and there are still isolated peoples in Irian Jaya who live lifestyles largely unaffected by the 20th century.

The Dutch colonialists, having succumbed to Indonesian nationalists further west, tried in vain to hold on to

Dutch New Guinea, which they said was being prepared for democracy and independence. A 1969 United Nations-demanded act of self-determination for the people of Irian Jaya to decide their future political status was manipulated by Indonesia to the point where it became a farce. In the 20-odd years since, there have been bow-and-arrow supported guerilla activity and the movement of more than 12,000 refugees into neighbouring Papua New Guinea. Isolated raids on remote Indonesian outposts and international protests seem unlikely to convince Jakarta to pack up their neo-colonial administration in Irian Jaya, and go home. In the 1980s there had been fears that expanding official trans-migration of settlers from other parts of Indonesia would numerically submerge the indigenous populations, alienating their land and resources; swamping their cultures. This threat has been eased by the economic failure of many trans-migration projects - with tragic consequences for the settlers themselves - and loss of financial backing.

Cultural dilemmas remain. While some Irian Jayans cling tenaciously to life in inaccessible areas of forest or swamp, others live urban lives in the Indonesianised northern capital, Jayapura. In between are the bulk of Irian Jaya's estimated 1.2 million Melanesian inhabitants who straddle the cultural divide.

Back in the early 1980s, indigenous academic Dr Arnold Ap was building the Mambesak cultural movement, highlighting traditional dance and song, and building a museum at Cenderawasih University. While cooking and sowing had become the stuff of village-based training activities for women, Ap and his supporters promoted teaching of traditional crafts such as pottery and weaving. But the drive to retain cultural roots in the face of an overwhelming Indonesian administrative presence inevitably became politicised. Revitalised interest in indigenous culture spurred demands for a greater say in land-use and development planning. Ap - identified by ruthless elements in the Indonesian military as a trouble-maker - was arrested. Authorities said he was killed after escaping from prison, but family and supporters say he was tortured and murdered. His wife, Cory Ap, became a refugee at the now closed Blackwater refugee camp near Vanimo in PNG, but later resettled in Europe where she draws attention to the need to defend the cultural integrity of her homeland.

The museum Ap founded has since suffered from neglect and lack of funding. Recent visitors say many of the exhibits - including intricate and rare carvings - are deteriorating through lack of resources for proper conservation and that other exhibits seem to be missing. □



Lament: children of Irian Jaya refugees at Blackwater refugee camp on the PNG/Irian Jaya border lamenting Indonesian rule during a visit by an Australian parliamentary delegation in the mid-1980s

SPECIAL REPORT

A cultural awakening

By Liz Thompson

THERE IS a piercing cry from one of the leading actresses, the audience sits mesmerised in the darkness, many of them crying. The actors stand, still, staring straight ahead, holding wreathes. There is a haunting, painful feeling carried throughout the theatre. They are mourning another Aboriginal death in custody. The play is Jack Davis' *Barungin* or *Smell the Wind*. Davis is one of Australia's leading playwrights and of Aboriginal descent. All his work looks at or draws on Aboriginal experience, culture and history. The audience is visibly moved by the performance; both through the convincing portrayal of pain and injustice by the actors and by the discomfort provoked in being confronted by some of the many horrors of modern Australian history. The majority of the audience is white. Plays like Davis' are part of an increasingly powerful creative force which is fundamental to the rewriting of Australian history. Many of those Aboriginals who suffered at the hands of the shocking Australian assimilation policy are describing their experiences through the arts. An inhumane and barbaric policy, it advocated the removal of any mixed race children from their Aboriginal mothers, to be reared in white missions for their own benefit. The white Australian community are only being confronted with the reality of this official policy today and largely through artistic expression rather than dense, inaccessible, historical accounts.



Paddy Roe: storyteller and narrator

Obviously work produced by people of Aboriginal descent is hugely varied and, in fact, it is probably wrong to continue to classify it or separate it as Aboriginal art. The work is part of contemporary Australian identity and part of the mainstream Australian art scene. To classify it as Aboriginal is to continue to marginalise it and is something which has been criticised by many Aboriginal artists. Despite this a great deal of artistic expression has focused on a common experience for it's inspiration. That is the colonisation of Australia and the assimilation policy. This work is drawn together by a common thread and it is undeniably Aboriginal. It is about rewriting Australian history from an Aboriginal perspective and it has been a powerful political force in this country for the last two decades. It has proved extremely challenging to prevailing white attitude and has perhaps done more to challenge them than anything else.

On a literary level there have been a number of hugely influential books. Whilst there has been a great variety of styles, many have told, in the first person,

of people's personal experiences. Sally Morgans' *My Place* is probably one of the best known and is deeply etched into the conscience of thousands of Australians today. It tells of her childhood; of being told she was of Indian descent through her mother's and her grandmother's fear that if she announced she was Aboriginal she might be removed from her home. Their fabrication was also no doubt partially to protect her from the social stigma that Aboriginal heritage brought with it. Morgan talks about her confusion, her sense that things were more complex than they appeared and her ensuing struggles to find out the truth. A process that was extremely painful for her, her sister, her mother and her grandmother. It is extraordinary to read this as an oral history and understand that it is actually the experience of someone living in Australia today. Equally disturbing and similar in content is Glenyse Wards' *Wandering Girl*. Her story is about being taken away from her mother at the age of one — literally sneaked out of the back door of a clinic while her mother waited in the waiting room. She grew up in missions, was hired out as a domestic servant and didn't discover who her mother was until she was 18 years old. Her father had already died and she met her brother for the first time after he had a car accident, he died a week later. The story is harrowing and it is hard to believe it's true and so recent. Ward, now living in Broome with her two children, is remarkably generous in spirit. She told the story she says, so that people have a better understanding of what she and many others went through. Not, she insists, out of bitterness, but that it is important that people understand what Aboriginal people went through. Ward writes in a light narrative style, formed almost in verses.

Other Aboriginal writers have never developed this form of linear narrative and utilised what Aboriginal critic Mudrooroo Narogin considers a more 'dreamtime consciousness' type of style. More abstract storytellers like Paddy Roe and his books *Gularubulu* or *Reading the Country* illustrate this. Paddy Roe is an extraordinary character, old and wise, he too lives in Broome. He spoke his stories into a tape recorder and they were later transcribed and appeared in book form. He tells of his experiences as a young child, walking through the country with his people and how they told him all they knew about the land. About creation myths and sacred places and how he was to be the guardian of the land when they died. The land was handed to Paddy to



Wrestling with white spirit: Trevor Nickolls

Liz Thompson

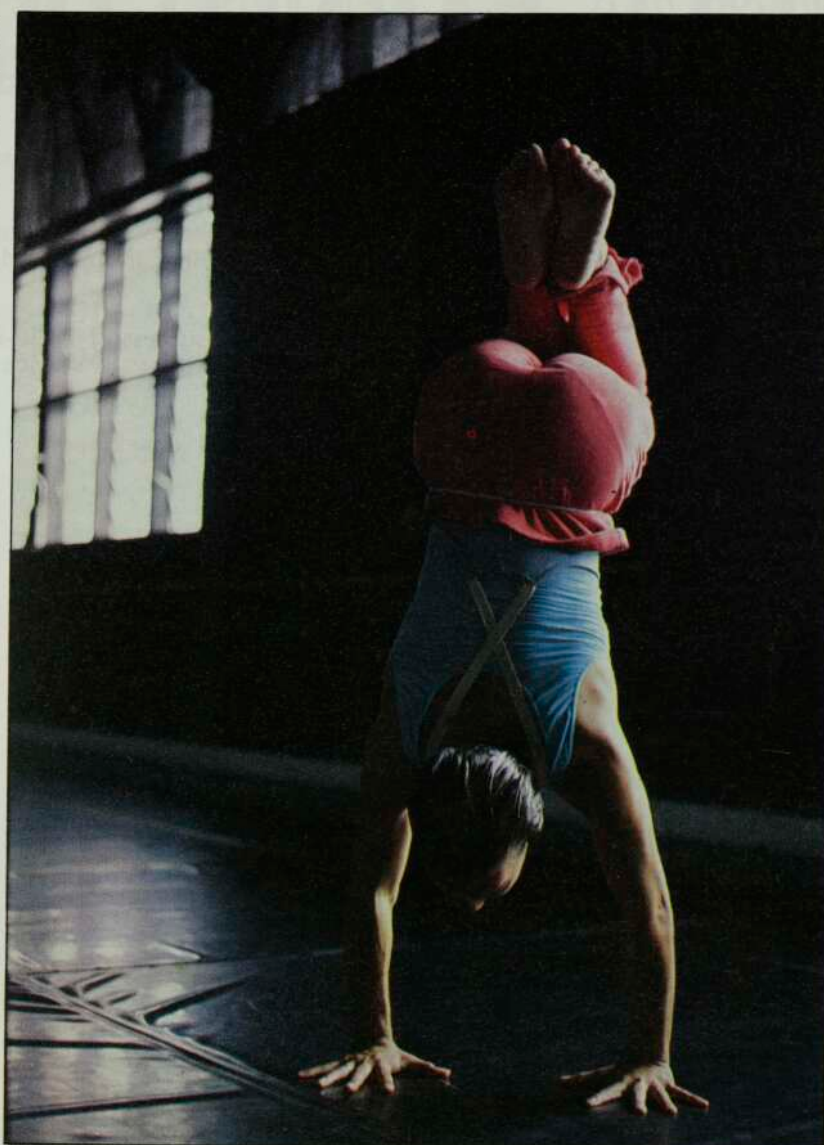
SPECIAL REPORT

look after and in his books he gives us a greater understanding of the powerful and respectful relationship the Aboriginal custodians had with their country. He talks about the importance of passing this information to all people, white and black, that we must come together to look after the land. His books are his way of contributing to this process. They introduce many white Australians to ideas about land and relationships with it.

Magabala Publishing Company in Broome has published both Glenyse Ward and Paddy Roe's books. An Aboriginal publishing house, it is the only one of its kind in Australia at present. It is committed not only to publishing the work of Aboriginal authors but also collecting traditional stories from elders before they die.

Theatre has been an equally powerful force. Davis' *Barungin* is the third of a trilogy which included the *The First Born* and *The Dreamers*. The first contemporary Aboriginal musical took to the stage in 1990 with *Bran Nue Dae*, one of the most successful and widely publicised productions to date. Written by Jimmy Chi, it traces his experiences and those of many of his contemporaries. *Bran Nue Dae* celebrates Chi's looking forward to a brand new day which is typified by greater understanding, compassion and acceptance.

Contemporary visual artists have been frequently concerned not about posing black against white but about building bridges of greater understanding through presenting real experience. Artists like Trevor Nickolls, Les Griggs and Gordon Bennett all examine their experiences of being of Aboriginal descent in what they see as a Eurocentric Australia. None of them were actually placed in missions, though Griggs spent several years in institutions, including some time in prison. All of them paint the conflicts and confusion they have experienced in coming to terms with their heritage. Nickolls expresses the conflict he feels between his Aboriginal spirit related to the land and a sense of harmony and living with nature and his reality of living in a small flat in a busy town and feeling alienated. Bennett often paints about trying to deconstruct his own ideas and prejudices towards ideas of Aboriginality. He didn't discover he was of Aboriginal descent until later in life and talks about how horrified he was. He said, he says, by the time he found out, taken on board prevalent white attitudes which essentially saw Aboriginals as 'filthy grub eating 'primitives''. He explains how long it took him to breakdown those ideas and to come to



Liz Thompson

Dancer on hand: Stephen Page

terms with and take pride in his own heritage. Both Nickolls and Bennett paint of other things too. Their work is constantly evolving and they are both powerful and influential artists in Australia. However, much of their early work is caught up in exploring these issues and communicating these explorations to the public at large.

While artists of Aboriginal descent are moving in as many directions as any other artists, this core of work based on a common theme has made a formidable and specific impact on the Australian psyche. Not only white but Aboriginal Australia. Many people of Aboriginal descent talk of a greater pride and sense of identity being forged in their own

community through the telling of these stories and the strength found in common experience. Australia has often been seen as culturally nebulous, suffering from a 'cultural cringe' and continuing to draw its sense of identity from Europe. Many speculate that this is because it hasn't yet come to terms with some of the uglier sides of its own history — until recently steeped in heroic white folklore. The work of many of these artists has assisted in providing the other side of the story and so marks the beginnings of Australia coming to terms with its past. There is no doubt these contemporary art forms are one of the most potent commentaries to have come out of modern Australia to date. □

WE'VE EARNED OUR NAME

Twenty five years ago, the government of Fiji established the Agricultural and Industrial Loans Board to assist in the overall economic development of the country.

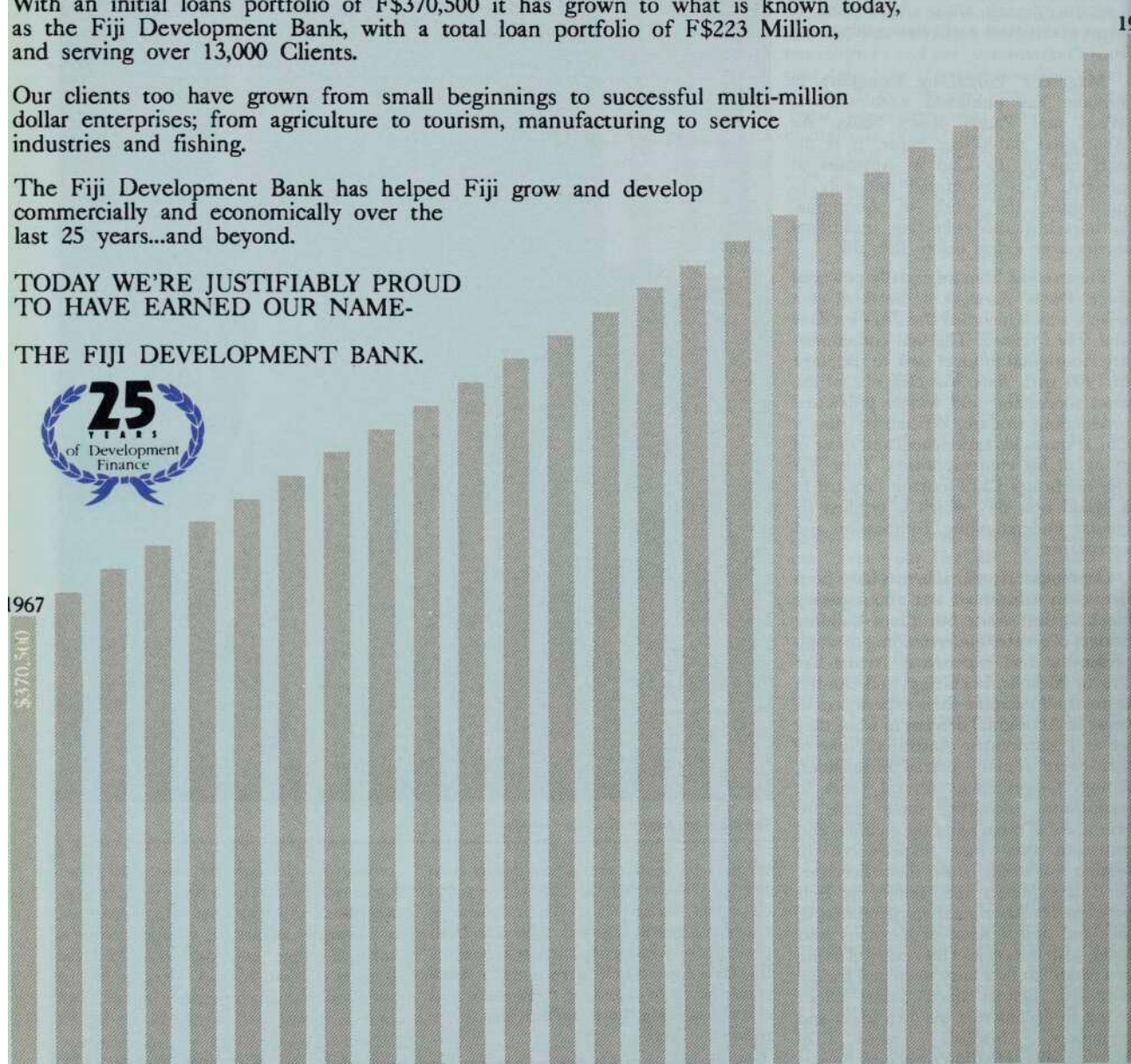
With an initial loans portfolio of F\$370,500 it has grown to what is known today, as the Fiji Development Bank, with a total loan portfolio of F\$223 Million, and serving over 13,000 Clients.

Our clients too have grown from small beginnings to successful multi-million dollar enterprises; from agriculture to tourism, manufacturing to service industries and fishing.

The Fiji Development Bank has helped Fiji grow and develop commercially and economically over the last 25 years...and beyond.

TODAY WE'RE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD TO HAVE EARNED OUR NAME-

THE FIJI DEVELOPMENT BANK.



25 YEARS
of Development Finance

F·D·B Fiji Development Bank
FINANCING FIJI'S FUTURE

BOOKS

The Polynesian king

By Alan Merridew

TONGA'S King wants nuclear testing stopped for ever in the Pacific and France to quit Polynesia.

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV called France "totally unreliable" in an interview with American travel and fiction writer Paul Theroux.

The interview is in Theroux's just-published book *The Happy Isles of Oceania*. The *Sunday New York Times Magazine* ran most of the interview in June.

The book and the 1.5 million-circulation *NYT Magazine* excerpt will give Tonga — and wider Oceania — enormous exposure.

Theroux saw the King at the Palace — "a bit like being in a well-furnished boarding house" — in Nuku'alofa. "He

Paul Theroux's sardonic view of Tonga's king causes ripples in the royal household.

was vast, he was slow, an enormous shuffling man whose heavy-lidded eyes and whopper jaw gave him a huge frog-like face you sometimes saw on ancient carved Polynesian *tikis* ... you would know immediately that he was the king ...

"I had never seen anyone so politically powerful who was at the same time so physically overwhelming."

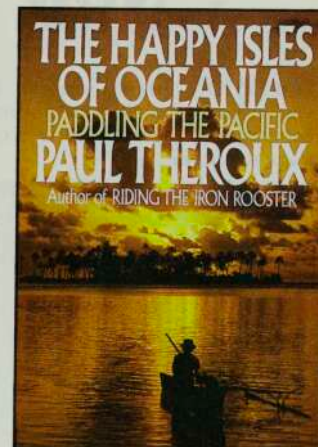
Tupou said he is trying to unite Polynesia into a federation of nations. But it could not be a political grouping.

"How could it be?" Theroux quotes the King. "The Cook Islands is a republic (sic). Hawaii is a state. French Polynesia is a colony. Tonga is a monarchy."

"There are too many differences. No, it will be concerned with culture and society. With language and the arts ... We will publish a magazine."

He said at Mururoa atoll, where France tests atom bombs, "I saw the holes in the reef ... They had made so many holes they had very little room left on the reef ... So they had started to dig into the bed of the lagoon, which is of course very dangerous."

"Nuclear testing must stop. The French must leave. They import everything from France. It is ridiculous. Although it will be hard financially



The book: cause for concern in Tonga

for the people of those islands, they must decolonize French Polynesia ... Soon. Soon."

Theroux quotes Tupou as saying that nuclear bombs "are needed to stop people like (Iraq's dictator Saddam) Hussein ... He is like Hitler ... They should put a bomb under him."

Asked if he trusted the French to test nuclear devices elsewhere in the world, the King said, "I don't trust the French at all!" and roared with laughter. "Totally unreliable!"

He protested to Theroux that he is not an absolute monarch — he had a parliament. And he had committees looking into tourism, oil and television.

He said, "I am the committee!" and he laughed very hard. "We always have a majority." Another laugh ... "No dissenting voices!"

Carrying a collapsible kayak, Theroux covered countries or colonies ranging from Australia to Vanuatu, French Polynesia, Easter Island and Hawaii.

The book is focussed, erudite and witty — albeit cutting at times. At every chance Theroux belittles those he considers fools, humbugs, dishonest, stupid or hypocritical. He deplores church influences in the Pacific.

He finds paradises not in the mythical South Seas — but in small isolated, uninhabited spots and paddling off the reef or shore.

The Happy Isles of Oceania: Paddling the Pacific by Paul Theroux. Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York. U.S. \$24.95 ISBN 0-399-13726-2.



he king: resplendent in his finery

New faces at 23rd Forum

SOLOMON Islands capital, Honiara, was a hive of activity as Forum leaders congregated there for their recent 23rd annual summit.

With \$1.5 million (SI Dllrs) invested in hosting the event, it seemed the Solomon Islands government did well organising the meeting and ensuring the safety of the leaders and their officials.

For Fiji's prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka, his Australian counterpart, Paul Keating and Vanuatu's prime minister, Maxim Carlot, the Forum was their first.

The Honiara Forum also signified the departure of one of the elder statesmen of the Forum, Niue premier Sir Robert Rex who attended for the last time. He was given a standing ovation at the end of his farewell speech.

Forum leaders honoured Sir Robert by asking him at their retreat (leaders' pre-Forum informal gathering) to choose the Forum Secretariat's new logo.

The Forum tackled a number of important issues, including the question of establishing some form of dialogue between Forum countries and Taiwan.

Rather than let the issue drag on, Forum leaders agreed the importance of Taiwan/Republic of China as an economic presence in the region justified some form of formal consultative arrangement with those Forum countries which wished to participate.

This means that countries participating in the proposed Taiwan/Republic of China-Forum countries dialogue would do so in their own right but would not represent the Forum as a whole.

Taiwan/Republic of China has diplomatic relations with four Forum island countries including Nauru, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

Other issues included the follow-up on outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Earth Summit, economic and trade concerns, special needs of smaller island states, the importance of enhancing linkages with the broader Asia-Pacific region, a declaration on law enforcement co-operation, the Niue treaty on fisheries surveillance and law enforcement, the region's concerns on nuclear testing and hazardous materials, indigenous people, New Caledonia and the state of Pacific children.

On UNCED, the leaders stressed the importance of sustainable development in the region and accorded "very high priority" to environmental issues and to developing and implementing the outcomes of the Rio Earth Summit.

Recognising that global warming and sea level rise are the most serious threats to the survival of some Pacific island member states, the Forum called for the prompt implementation of the framework convention on climate change.

Keating announced that his country, a Forum member, would provide \$A1.3 million to upgrade meteorological services in the region.

This money will be used to support a South Pacific sea level rise and climate (change) monitoring project Australia is also funding in the region.

Keating also told his Forum counterparts that Australia was providing \$A5 million for the development of a region-wide bio-diversity conservation and management project.

THE FORUM



ALFRED SASAKO

As a follow-up to the UNCED, the offer by the Cook Islands to host the first global conference for small island states next year was endorsed by the Forum.

Among other things, this conference in Rarotonga will discuss in detail sustainable development and its implications. The 15-member Forum also endorsed UNCED's call for the establishment of a commission on sustainable development to, oversee the implementation of Agenda 21 and to ensure the interests of Forum island countries are adequately reflected. Forum leaders applauded France for its decision to suspend its South Pacific nuclear testing program until the end of the year.

But they stressed that "indefinite extension of this moratorium will contribute significantly to improving further the relations between France and the countries of the Pacific."

An urgent letter on this has been sent to the president of France. France has made it clear that an indefinite suspension of its nuclear testing in the region depends on other nuclear testing nations doing the same.

For this reason, the Forum has also sent similar letters to the British prime minister, the Russian president, the United States president and the government of the People's Republic of China, urging cessation of nuclear testing.

The Forum, through its chairman, Solomon Islands prime minister Solomon Mamaloni has also written to the Japanese government urging it "to consult fully" with Forum Countries on Tokyo's planned shipments of plutonium from Europe over the next 30 years.

Although the proposed route for the shipments, expected to start later this year, is not clear yet, Forum leaders believe this could be through the Pacific region.

Rabuka announced major initiatives including a scholarship scheme and a SPARTECA-like non-reciprocal trade agreement with other Forum island countries.

Details of the scholarship scheme are not immediately available but it is understood that under the scheme, more students from Forum island countries will be able to study in tertiary institutions in Fiji.

Fiji's proposed non-reciprocal trade arrangement initiative is aimed at facilitating exports and at the same time providing assistance to the economies of Forum island countries.

As traditional donors, Australia and New Zealand indicated that the South Pacific remains a priority in their aid programs.

The Forum has also stressed the importance of establishing effective international links with particular priority to countries of the Asia-Pacific rim.

Strengthening the economic relations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is to be given greater emphasis.

On New Caledonia, Forum leaders said they were encouraged at the positive progress being made in promoting equitable political, economic and social development in the Territory within the framework of the Matignon Accord.

Leaders agreed on the fullest possible integration of New Caledonia into the South Pacific region, expressing the intention to work to encourage further development of links between it and Forum countries.

□

SPORTS

Up, Up and Away

A new, and expensive, sport takes Fiji by storm

By John King

THE INTERNATIONAL hot air balloon meet in Fiji during June, part of which coincided with the 31st Fiji Tourism Convention, directly benefited the country's economy, according to organiser Diane McKee of Auckland.

"The 23 balloonists spent about \$25,000 during the eight to 10 days they were here," she says.

Comfortable as the stay was at the Regent, everybody enjoyed getting out into the countryside and meeting the Fijian people.

And people responded in fine style. One balloon landed on a country road — the only flat area available for deflating and packing the balloon away — and found it was blocking the road for a taxi. Never mind, it was a farmer who had seen the balloon nearby and hailed a passing taxi so he could get a closer look.

Co-operation with CAAF (Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji) staff was excellent, although the Americans were surprised to find no radar in the Nadi control tower during a visit there.

Two international hot air balloon events have now been held in Fiji. Will it become a regular annual event?

"The response has been terrific," says Diane McKee, whose husband Daryl, flew the Air New Zealand balloon. "I've talked to a lot of people and lined up several likely sponsors for next year. The expense for this sort of thing means it depends on sponsorship to attract the right people, but we hope to have about twice as many balloons next time, including some from Australia and Japan."

Hot air ballooning is a truly international sport and Fiji's suitability will make it attractive to a wider range of tourists. □



The flying finished: balloons are packed away amid the roar of burners

John King



Set to go: balloons being readied

SPORTS

The battle of the giants

By Henry Dyer

WESTERN SAMOA became the undisputed rugby champions in the Pacific when it beat Fiji 20-16 in a fast and torrid Pacific Three Nations battle at the National Stadium in Suva on June 20 — and the match marked the end of Fiji.

It was the perfect gift that captain Peter Fatialofa wanted to give back to the country that made his dream of becoming a top world class rugby player come true in front of a 12,000-crowd that turned up to witness the game.

"This was just the perfect gift I was longing for to give back to the people of my country," Fatialofa said basking in the sweetness of his dream.

"They have done a lot for me in my rugby career and this was what I was waiting for — a victory over Fiji on their home turf.

Leading with experience from his playing days with the tough New Zealand provincial team, Auckland, Fatialofa came to Fiji with his band of warriors from Samoa to conquer the Fijians on their home turf and this they did to perfection with the four-point win in the Pacific Three Nations game.

It was the deciding game of the tournament and for the future of Fiji rugby until 1993. It was also to see who represents the Pacific in the Super Ten series next year.

Going into the game as favourites to win after their brilliant performance in the 1991 World Cup, the Samoans displayed hard, controlled and disciplined New Zealand rugby mixed with the tropical Samoan flair that contributed immensely to their sweet victory.

Fatialofa, the 33-year-old Auckland resident, said after the victory the mission had been accomplished and the next in the Super Ten series against New Zealand, Australian and South African provincial teams.

He said beating Fiji at home had been an achievement that he was waiting for.

Manager George Meredith, the man who coached the side in their abandoned game against Fiji in 1983, said the Samoans had the upper hand in all phases of the game and this was one of the many reasons the Samoans won.

"We have maintained all along that



Asaeli Lave
Reaching out: Fiji Number Eight Ifereimi Tawake and Western Samoa's Danny Kaleopa battle in the line-out

we are a better side and our victory is just one of those many victories against Fiji since 1982," Meredith said.

Fiji coach Senitiki Biaukula admitted after the game the Fijians lacked the cohesion to play fast, controlled rugby and this led to their defeat.

He praised the Samoans for their display in the second half where they pinned the Fijians inside their own half for most of the second spell.

"The Samoans were a better side and they deserved to win," Biaukula said.

"Their spoiling tactics paid off, cutting the backline movements time and again thus denying the Fijians any chance of scoring valuable points."

The Samoans, with most of the players who represented the country to the World Cup retained, started the game badly — giving away penalties that Fiji flyhalf Waisele Serevi converted to give Fiji an early 6-nil lead.

But that was all the Fijians could do as the Fatialofa-led Samoans' mean machine started to roll and set up second-phase attacks using the fast loose forward trio of Danny Kaleopa, Apollo Perelini and Sila Vaifale to the breakdowns.

It got the Fiji backs involved with the forwards and the over-lap created gave Samoan backs a chance to spin the ball wide.

Speedster winger Too Vaega made things look easy when he crossed for the games first try near the corner, to narrow the deficit from one such move that saw full-back Anitelea Aiolutupo kicked ahead of the last Fiji defence to near the Fiji goal-line.

A quick ruck by the Samoan loose trio gave Vaega the try. Aiolutupo failed to convert to leave the score at 6-4.

The Samoan number eight Kaleopa, showing one of his powerful displays of rugby was a constant headache for the Fiji side with his bustling runs shrugging off would-be tacklers. He scored his



Asaeli Lave
Going for it: Western Samoa's Mata'afa Keenan and Fiji's Ilaitia Savai

SPORTS



Asaeli Lave

The winners: *Western Samoa team*



Asaeli Lave

The defeated: *Fiji team*

team's second try running 20 metres to score unchallenged to put his side into a slender 8-6 lead.

But the lead by the blue-jerseyed Samoans was short lived when a scrum near their own goal-line resulted in a try to Samisoni Rabaka, the hard-working Fiji halfback.

Getting the ball from the base of the scrum from Iferimi Tawake, Rabaka kicked a pass with two players sitting outside him. The Samoan defence moved across and created the gap for Rabaka to score in the 34th minute. Serevi converted to put Fiji to a 12-8 lead.

At Western Samoa flyhalf Filipo Saena, taking over the kicking duties from Aiulupo converted a penalty to take his side a one-point deficit.

The Samoans came back strongly in the

second spell pinning the Fijians in their own half for 15 minutes before Saena crossed the Fiji try-line from a Kaleopa break after pushing off a weak Fiji tackle. Aiulupo converted for a 17-12 lead.

From then on it was no looking back for the strong Samoans as they hustled and rattled the Fiji defence into making mistakes.

A penalty by Saena resulting from a forward infringement by the Fiji forwards gave the Samoans a good 20-12 lead.

With time running out and only minutes to go before the end of the game, former secondary-school-champion sprinter-turned-rugby-winger Filimoni Seru intercepted a Samoa backline movement near his own goal-line to outspurt the Samoan defence to narrow margin of the score to 20-16. Serevi failed with the

conversion.

At the final whistle the Samoans showed their joy with a repetition of their traditional war dance in front of the packed stadium.

The teams: Fiji — Mosese Taga, Isaia Rasila, Nasibuka Vuli, Ilaitia Savai, Aisake Nadolo, Ifereimi Tawake, Setareki Tawake, Pita Naruma, Samisoni Rabaka, Serevi, Viliame Sovalevu, Vil Rauluni, Lemeki Koroi, Filimoni Seru, Mosese Natuilagi.

Western Samoa: Peter Fatialofa, Stan Toomalatia, Vili Alatoa, Mata'afa Keenan, Saini Lemamea, Sila Vaifale, Apollo Perelini, Danny Kaleopa, Junior Tonui, Filipo saena, Keneti Sio, Alama Eremia, Brian Lima, Too Vaega, Anitelea Aiulupo.

Referee: Peni Kaihau (Tonga).

□

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YACHTING

FellowShip at Christmas Island

By Sally Andrew

IT WAS hard to believe that the ocean could be so calm but it was. Not a breath of wind, not a ripple on the water, not a cloud in the sky. Curious sea birds flew overhead from time to time and apart from the occasional slatting of the mainsail as *FellowShip* rolled on a long gentle ocean swell, there was absolute silence. After sunset, the moon appeared directly ahead, a beautiful orange globe rising slowly out of the eastern ocean. The stars turned on, one by one, illuminating the night sky. Hour by hour we were being set further away from our destination by a strong westerly current. Relentlessly drifting to leeward, we fired up the "iron genoa" and motored through the night.

The lagoon entrance at Christmas Island was too shallow for *FellowShip* and her two-metre draft so we anchored in the roadstead just outside of the entrance. Open to all the ocean with just a little protection afforded by the island itself, the anchorage can be extremely inhospitable if the wind shifts or the swell rises. We were plagued with water as smooth as glass, at calm with a negligible ocean swell.

Standing watch through the night had been tiring and a quick swim



New friends: Teboima, her son and the palm frond hat I made

seemed the perfect antidote. An American yacht, *Tandem Cay* (a North Sea 27) with Steve and Heather aboard, was anchored nearby and we swam over to say "Hello". They had arrived the previous day after a passage of some 1200 miles south from Hawaii. Inside the lagoon, *Kona Star* was waiting to continue her passage from American Samoa home to Hawaii.

Christmas Island (or "Kiritimati", the Gilbertese spelling of Christmas, "ti" sounds like "s") is less than two degrees north of the Equator and is the largest island of purely coral formation in the world. It is 160 kilometers in circumference and has a land area of 363 sq km, an area equal to the rest of Kiribati's 32 other islands together. Sparse and irregular rainfall limits the cultivation of staples such as breadfruit, taro, bananas and pandanus and scrub and saltbush predominate. Not surprisingly, when Captain James Cook discovered Christmas

Island on December 24, 1777 (during his third and final voyage) the island was uninhabited.

Christmas Island is now home to 1500 I-Kiribati, many of whom work for the Kiribati government. It is the administrative headquarters for the Line and Phoenix (LINNEX) Island Groups and is considered



Christmas Island: Me in front of London police station

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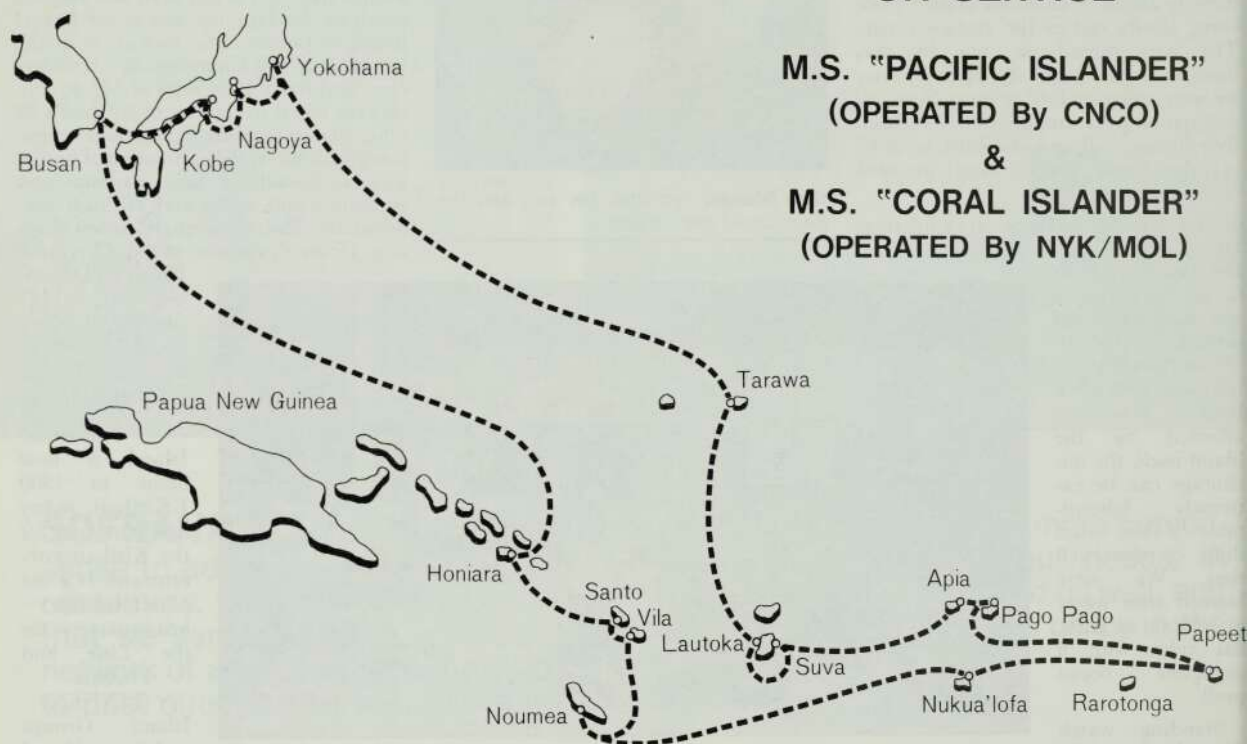
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YACHTING

an Economic Development Zone. There are three villages — London, Banana and Poland, interesting names for communities in the middle of the Pacific! A fourth village, Paris, has been abandoned. While at anchor we enjoyed watching the frigatebirds, boobies and sooty terns. Without warning they would swoop down out of the sky and dive into the water. We were fascinated to see birds fishing and fish flying. At irregular intervals schools of iridescent half-beaks, a type of narrow-nosed needle fish, took to the air to escape from water-based predators. But while airborne they became prey for the fish-eating birds. Eighteen species of rare migratory birds nest at Christmas Island and the principal seabird areas have been designated as reserves by the Wildlife Conservation Unit of the Republic of Kiribati. Black, brown and blue-grey noddies; fairy and sooty terns, red-tailed tropic birds, wedge-tailed Christmas and Audubon shearwaters, phoenix and storm petrels ... a bird-watcher's paradise.

When we rowed ashore, we were greeted on the beach by Uriam ("William"), a policeman with the London police unit, and some local children. Uriam and his wife, Teboima, welcomed us to the island with traditional drinking coconuts. Teboima is a school teacher but because of a school break she was able to spend some time with us. I showed off my skill at weaving palm-frond hats and made hats for both of them. Teboima, in turn, showed me how to weave mats. They taught us a lot about life on Christmas, and about Kiribati traditions. When we left, Teboima gave me two treasured gifts — a pandanus mat and a bright yellow traditional Gilbertese blouse. Their generosity was typical of I-Kiribati hospitality.

For what seems a sleepy atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Christmas Island has a diverse, albeit short, history. Around 1860 the island was worked for the phosphate rich guano of seabirds, an agricultural fertilizer. Twenty-eight years later it was annexed by Great



Sally Andrew

Crafty: Preparing coconut fibres for the traditional riri or coconut skirt

Britain. During World War II it became a strategic base for the Pacific Air command, and, roads, an airfield and a wharf were constructed. These facilities were later modernised when British and American servicemen arrived to conduct atmospheric tests as part of a nuclear testing program. Millions of seabirds were blinded and killed before the Test Ban Treaty went into effect in 1963 and testing stopped. Surprisingly no known contamination remains on the island today and the birds have made a remarkable come-back. What does remain is a lot of military junk — the rusted out bodies of abandoned vehicles and buildings which have been salvaged for diverse uses. Currently the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) operates a satellite tracking station (set up in 1976). NASDA constructed the only hotel on the island — now called the Captain Cook Hotel. It is six kilometres northwest of the airstrip and has 24 rooms.

On board *FellowShip* we had a package

to deliver to Father Bermond, a Catholic priest from the French Alps who has lived in Kiribati for 30 years. We finally found him, cycling around the village, visiting his parishioners. Father Bermond is trilingual and has great sympathy and much love for the Gilbertese and their way of life. A typical Frenchman, he loves good food, so painstakingly grows vegetables in his garden and cooks his own gourmet meals. He prepared a marvelous lunch for us, and we returned to the boat with fresh baby tomatoes, a rare treat in such a remote outpost, and scrumptious land crab.

Because of its remoteness, only few yachts call at Christmas Island each year, and usually because they need fuel and water. But the real attractions of Christmas are its warm-hearted people and tropical isolation, its massive size and natural wonders, its bizarre history and rusting junk-piles. It has to be seen to be believed.

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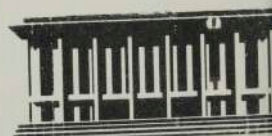
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For the benefit of our readers who would like to place a small classified advertisement in our magazine, Market Place will assist you in selling personal items, accommodation, real estate, boating or a service ... in fact anything you would like to sell to our over 50,000 readers. Market Place Advertising Rates are structured to allow you to place as many advertisements as you wish, economically.

FISHING VESSEL

124) PROCESSING FISHING VESSEL, built 1987, aluminium, 95' (28m), DNV Class, very good accommodation for 15, Cat main engine, refrigeration comprises blast tunnel, glazing room, packaging room and 3 large storage freezers. CHARTER CRAFT MARINE, 8C/15 Tedder Av, Main Beach Q 4217 Australia. Phone 1-75-916334 Fax 61-75-329788

BARGE FOR SALE

15) LANDING BARGE, 90' (27m), carrying capacity 120 tons. Twin GM 8V71 main engines, good accom, large fuel & water cargo capacity. CHARTER CRAFT MARINE, 8C/15 Tedder Av, Main Beach, Q 4217 Aust. Ph. 1-75-916334 Fax 61-75-329788.

BOOKS

Philophile, a secondhand bookshop in Sydney, keen to buy good books on the Pacific. Also, current book catalogue "Pacific & Southeast Asia" now available free on request. Philophile, 24 Glenmore Road, Paddington, NSW 2021, Australia. Ph. 61 2 331 1411. x 61 2 361 3371.

SMALL SHIP WANTED

80ft to 150ft older-style, general cargo ship wanted. Please send details to: T.P.T. P.O. Box 64, Mordialloc 3195, Australia, or Fax 3-5809416.

WANTED

We are seeking an AGENT in your area to supply VEGETABLE IVORY NUT PALM SEEDS. Agent would be required to supervise collection, drying and bagging for export. For further information contact: D. WILKINSON, PO BOX 5, ROUND CORNER, 2158, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA. PHONE 61 2 8993988, 61 2 6344507.

PLANE FOR SALE

TEN NORMAN (045) ISLANDER BN2A-26 OHP. Full IFR, GPS, Avionics coupled, extended baggage compartment, High uplift, high floatation gear, completely re-engineered, re-trimmed, re-painted, new Certificate of Airworthiness, low times, immaculate condition. Suit new aircraft buyer, or operator of VIP/tourist services. For full particulars fax Papua New Guinea (675) 3588.

COMMERCIAL VESSELS FOR SALE

Due to Licence restrictions, approximately 60 modern, steel & timber, Gulf of Carpentaria trawlers will be available to Pacific Islands beginning in September at drastically reduced prices. Sizes range from 50 to 100 feet. Write or call Ben Lexcen Brokers, Doug Meyer, 1 Jodrell St. Innisfail, Queensland Australia 4860 (70) 614601 Delivery available.

FLYING CAREERS

Flight Attendants, Pilots. Career into Pacific, NZ, Australia, Asia Airlines. Free info, Aviation Professionals, Box 28051, Remuera, Auckland, Phone (64-9) 522-1330, Fax (64-9) 522-0380.

NEW BOOK!

TAKE NECESSARY ACTION — authors Chris & Louise Harkness ex PNG. Available from publishers: Robert Brown & Assoc. 7 Atherton St Buranda Qld 4102 Australia. Hardcover 352 pages. Exciting PNG Highlands Fiction set pre-Independence era. \$24.95 plus postage \$5 Aust. \$9.50 Overseas.

SCRAP METAL

Tall ingots operate from Brisbane, Australia and make frequent visits to the Pacific Islands which they have done for twenty-five years. We are buyers of Copper, Brass, Aluminium, Lead, Cable etc. Inspection no problems. Telephone 61 7 8922033. Fax 61 7 8922077.

TRAVEL GUIDES

Australian citizen planning to move to Fiji early 1993 seeks partnership or purchase small business in tourism or manufacturing preferably in western district. Have considerable business experience and used to hard work. Visiting Fiji July/August 1992. John Gardner, 1/43 Beach Rd, Brighton SA 5048 Australia.

KAYAKS & ACCESSORIES

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 - * "Spex" amphibious eyewear.
 - * Rip Curl wetsuits and more!
- For more information on pricing and our products call: (805) 238-7994 Extension 4369 or write: KAYAKS Etc. P.O. Box 667 APO AP 96555, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands.

TATTOO SUPPLY

Everything. Write for price list. Tattoo Supply, P.O. Box 3068 Clontarf, Australia. Qld. 4019.

DRIED SEA CUCUMBERS WANTED

Seafood importer is interested in buying Sandfish (Metriatyla Scabra), Black Fish (Actinopyga Lecanora) on basis of monthly shipment. Please contact Wealthy Ocean Corporation, P.O. Box 36 — 503 Taipei, Taiwan Telex: 19882 WOCO, Fax: (8862) 7624455, Phone: (8862) 7661036.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

MARKET PLACE CAN WORK WONDERS FOR YOU ...

Promote your business, or service, sell your household items, cars or heavy machinery etc.

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NO COMPANY LOGO. NO
DISPLAY. NO BOLD TYPE.**

Just forward your Advertisement together with payment to: PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY "Market Place", P.O. Box 1167, Suva, Fiji.

CONDITIONS:

1. All Advertisements are subject to acceptance and approval of publisher.
2. Advertisements are published as space permits; we cannot guarantee date of insertion.
3. All advertisements must be pre-paid and should be typed or printed clearly.
4. Deadline for receipt of advertisements is the 10th of the month prior to issue.
5. PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY assumes no responsibility for any service other than publishing paid advertisements in this section.

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PAC

Where we were first in first 75 years.

1917 First Japanese passenger car to go into series production: the Mitsubishi Model-A with 35 ps. Room for seven passengers.

1918 First truck from Mitsubishi: four prototypes were developed, two three-tonners and two four-tonners.

1931 First Japanese vehicle diesel engine: the Mitsubishi 450AD. The success of this direct injection engine made Mitsubishi the pacesetter in the commercial vehicle sector.

1932 First large bus: the Mitsubishi B46. Japan's biggest (38 seats) and most powerful (100 ps) bus. It heralded the start of Mitsubishi's production line buses.

1934 First Japanese 4WD passenger car powered by a diesel engine: the Mitsubishi PX33.

1935 First Japanese diesel-driven bus: the Mitsubishi BD46. Powered by a newly developed pre-combustion type diesel engine.

1936 First Japanese diesel-powered truck in series production: the Mitsubishi TD 45.

1947 First service bus with electric drive: the Mitsubishi MB 46.

1950 First rear-engine Japanese bus in series production: the Mitsubishi Fuso R1. Delivered 130 ps and seats 76 passengers.

1951 First Japanese truck with 8 ton load capacity: it featured a revolutionary suspension, which became the forerunner of the air-suspension system for commercial vehicles.

1959 First Japanese tilt-cab truck with a load capacity of 8 tons: the Mitsubishi T380. Today's heavy-duty truck range traces its roots back to this medium to long-range hauler.

1960 First Japanese family car aerodynamically designed in a wind tunnel: the Mitsubishi 500. Forefather of the Mitsubishi Colt.

1961 First prize in the annual Japan Machinery Academy Award for the 4DP diesel engine. Regarded as the most efficient of its class.

1962 First self-loading truck in the world: the Mitsubishi Self-Loader.

1963 First high-speed sightseeing bus: the MAR820. Equipped with the world's most powerful turbocharged diesel engine (290 ps), and capable of 134 km/h.

1965 First Japanese fastback passenger car: the Mitsubishi Colt 800.

1967 First 8 ton truck with a top speed of over 115 km/h: the T810. Powered by the 6 DC 2 engine.

1975 First vibration-free differential shaft in the world: the Silent Shaft technology. Two differential shafts run with double revs, rotating a reciprocal crankshaft. They ensure silky smooth running. Many leading competitors acquired the license from Mitsubishi.

1980 First Japanese turbocharged diesel engine for passenger cars: Astron 2300. First used in the Mitsubishi Galant.

1982 First automobile manufacturer in the world to offer a complete product range of turbo engines. Used in the Mitsubishi Colt, Lancer, Galant, Sapporo and Starion.

1982 First engine in Japan with modulated engine displacement: Orion 1400 MD. First used in the Mitsubishi Lancer.

1984 First ranking automobile in Germany: the Mitsubishi Galant. Received the prestigious West German automobile award "Das Goldene Lankrad."

1985 First place in the world's most gruelling rally: Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero overall winner Paris-Dakar in the unmodified 4WD production class.

1986 First for the year: Pajero/Montero. Received 4 x 4 top award of the year from "4 x 4 Australia" and "Bushdriver" magazines, UK's "What Car" magazine, and was voted Car of the Year in Spain.

1987 First automobile manufacturer in the world to be awarded the Blue Environment Seal by a jury: for the invention of an active carbon filter system for the fuel tank inlet. Evaporating fuel is trapped and channelled to the engine after starting.

1987 First needle-bearing roller rocker arm in the world. It significantly increases engine efficiency. In contrast to conventional rocker arms, the needle roller cuts power needed for valve control by 30 to 50 percent, reducing fuel consumption and improving torque.

1987 First car in the world with permanently integrated 4WD, 4WS, 4ABS and 4-wheel independent suspension: the Mitsubishi Galant GTi 16V Dynamic-4.

1989 First Import Car of the Year in the USA: the Mitsubishi Galant. Awarded by the prestigious "Motor Trend" magazine.

1990 First electronic trace and traction control system (TCL) in the world: fitted to the Mitsubishi Sigma.

1991 First linear air-fuel ratio sensor: the Mitsubishi Vertical Vortex Engine (MVV). Ensures optimal air-fuel mix at any revs.

1992 First, second and third places in the Paris-Cape Town Rally. The Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero sweeps overall honours.

The challenge of being first. It has always sparked a natural competitive instinct in Mitsubishi Motors. From Japan's first series production car, the Model-A, to the Galant Dynamic-4, the world's first production car to incorporate both 4 wheel drive and 4 wheel steering, we have consistently pursued our goals with a singular determination to be the best.

But for all the pleasure we receive in being first with technological breakthroughs, our primary goal is not merely to finish ahead of everyone else. Rather, our pursuit of accolades is designed to keep us sharp and innovative, a necessity today as we face the

challenge of building cars which are safer for both human beings and the environment.

Most recently, this has led to research in the HSR-III, an entirely recyclable car emphasising safety and environmental efficiency. Among its many advanced functions, the HSR-III monitors the level of driver concentration, reads speed signs, and registers and corrects its position in relationship to both painted lanes and other vehicles on the highway.

Our research in the HSR-III is only one of the ways Mitsubishi Motors is investing in a future which we believe will lead to many more firsts.



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AMERICAN SAMOA: PACIFIC MARKETING INC. P.O. Box 698, Pago Pago, Tel. 699 9140 / AUSTRALIA: MITSUBISHI MOTORS AUSTRALIA LTD. 1764 South Road, Clonville Park, South Australia, Tel. (08) 775 7297 / FIJI: NIVIS MOTOR & MACHINERY CO. LTD. G.P.O. Box 150, Suva, Tel. 383 411 / GUAM: GUAM INTERNATIONAL MOTORS INC. P.O. Box 18038, Tamuning, Guam, Tel. 646 8829 / NEW CALEDONIA: SOCIETE D'IMPORTATION D'AUTO DU PACIFIQUE SUD S.A. P.O. Box 2548, Noumea, Tel. 226 144 / NEW ZEALAND: MITSUBISHI MOTORS NEW ZEALAND LTD. Private Bag, Porirua, Tel. 237 0109 / NORFOLK ISLAND: BORRY'S PTY LTD. P.O. Box 169, Tel. 2114 / PAPUA NEW GUINEA: TOBA PTY LTD. P.O. Box 503, Port Moresby, Tel. 217 891 / SAIPAN: E-SAIKAN MOTORS INC. P.O. Box 569, Tel. 234 7343 / SOLOMON ISLANDS: HARVEST PACIFIC LTD. G.P.O. Box 803, Honiara, Tel. 30407 / TAHITI (FRENCH POLYNESIA): SOPADEP S.A. P.O. Box 1617, Papeete, Tel. 472381 / TONGA: SITANI MAFI CO. LTD. P.O. Box 83, Nuku'alofa, Tel. 24044 / VANUATU: SOCOMETRA VANUATU LTD. B.P. 06, Route de Lagun, Port-Vila, Tel. 2314 / WESTERN SAMOA: MOTOR DISTRIBUTORS (SAMOA) LTD. P.O. Box 516, Apia, Tel. 20607

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