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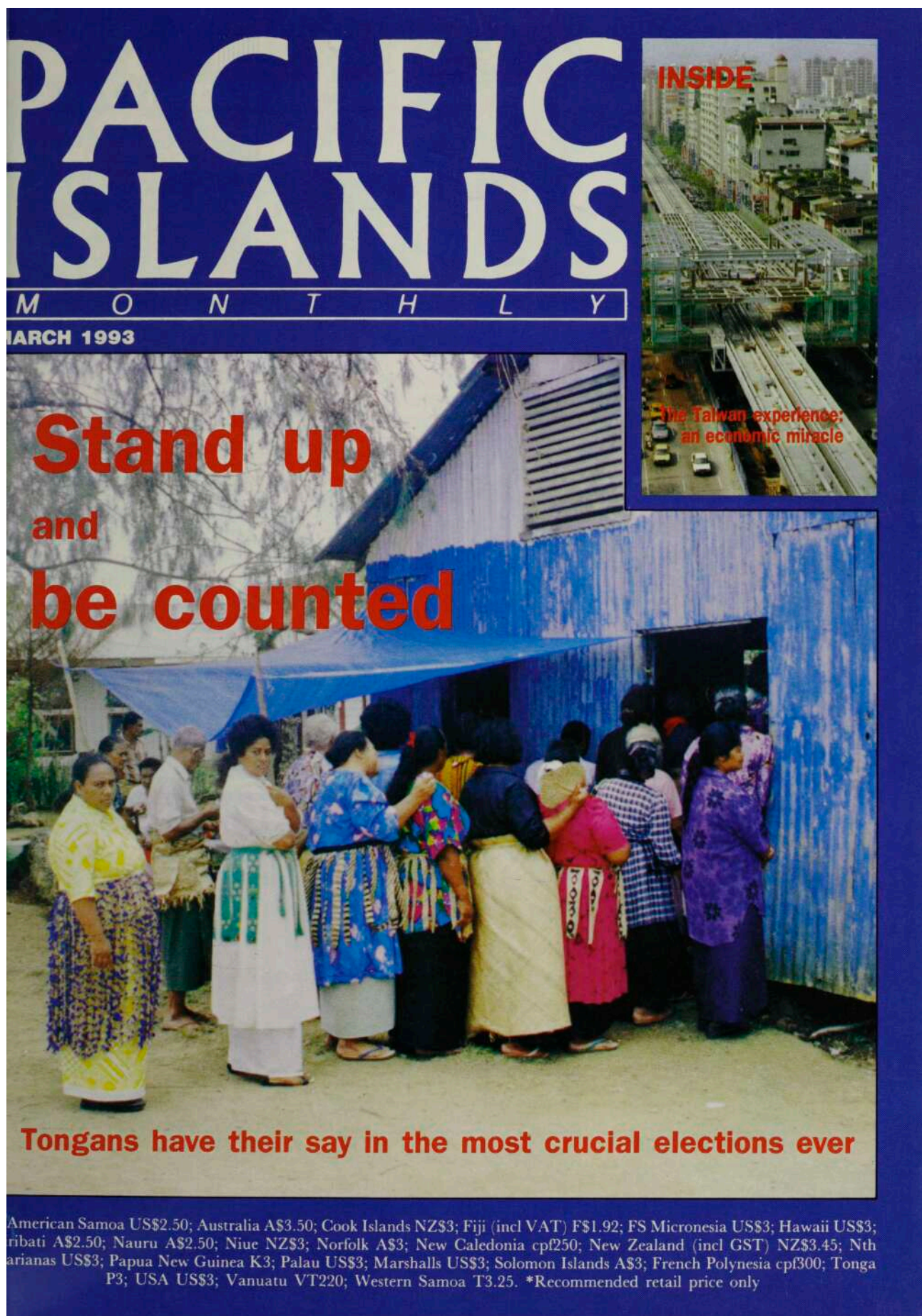
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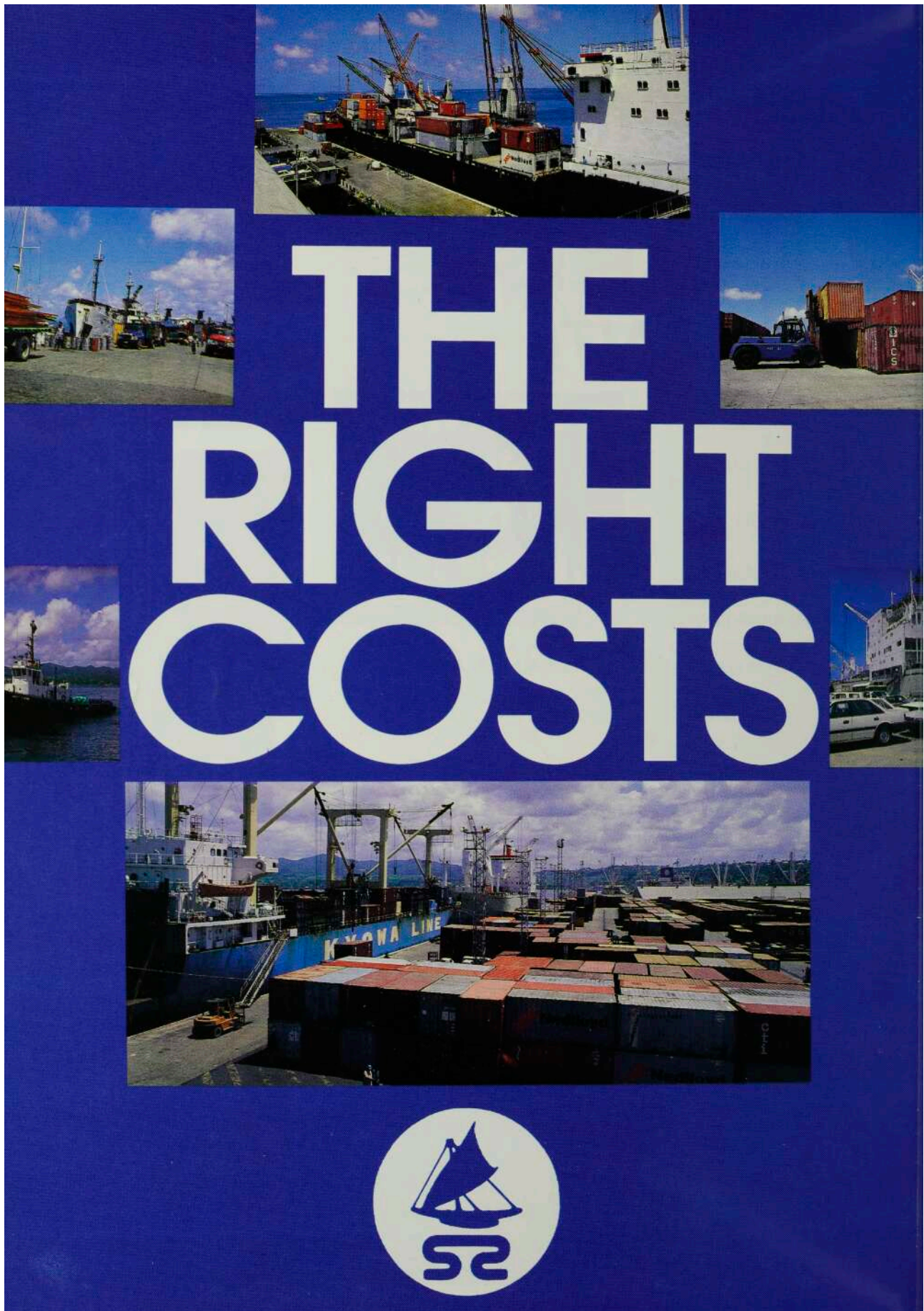
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

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Taipei Stock Exchange: Financial speculation is on the rise in Taiwan

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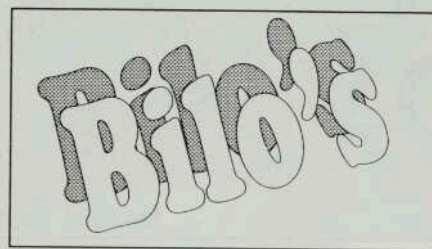
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AMERICAN SAMOAN GOVT. GIVES IOU'S TO EMPLOYEES

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Snared in a vicious cycle

ALARMING statistics from Rarotonga in the Cook Islands forces us this month to once again focus attention on a heinous crime perpetrated against women in Pacific societies. These crimes of violence are all the more in need of serious and prompt attention because the very nature of our societies makes it virtually impossible for the victims to break free from their miserable situations.

We are talking here about rape, wife-bashing and sexual abuse. We are also talking here about suffering violence at the hands of people women know and are in close contact with.

Cases of rape are reported to the authorities and action is usually taken, in that the case is heard before a court and the culprit sentenced. But the attitude brought to bear upon such cases are questionable — for instance, the woman's role in "encouraging" the crime. Of course, the severity of the sentences have been questioned, es-

pecially when they are compared to other violent crimes.

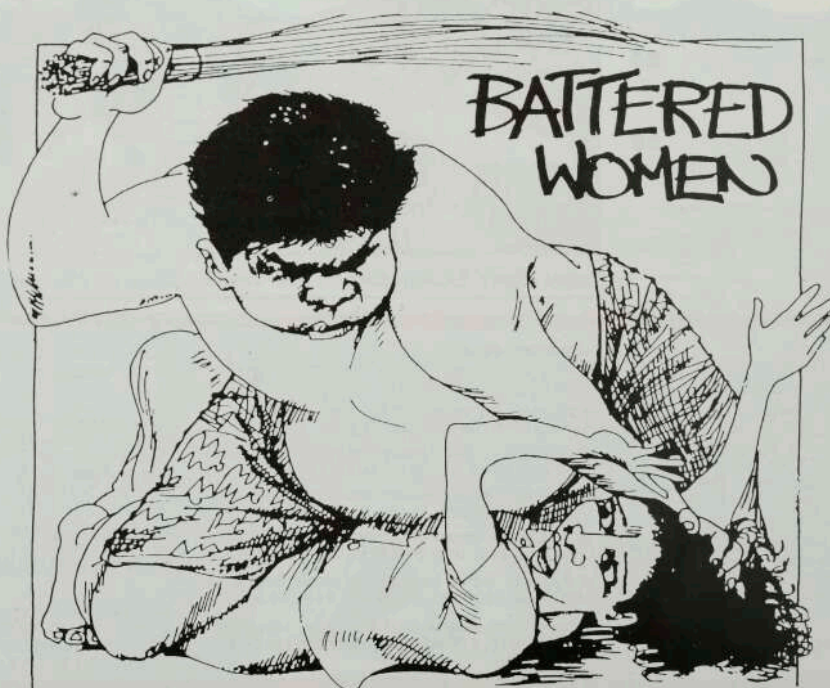
The case of the battered wife is perhaps even more pathetic because she is tragically bound in a vicious trap. Because the women are often not financially independent they cannot leave. Because the societies in many cases

do not have centres such women can taken refuge in, they cannot leave. And because society generally views such violence as part of a woman's lot, she is not likely to go against social pressures to escape.

She has little reason to resort to the law for protection. This has been known to

aggravate the situation — especially if the crime is battery and she has no option but to continue to live with him. Besides, most law-enforcing authorities in Pacific countries do not consider wife-bashing a serious crime of violence — rather a domestic problem which will sort itself out.

Unfortunately, unless we take stock of the situation now and come up with ways to remedy it, the injustices against women will continue. □



LETTERS

Thoughtful remark

Madam,

I want to reply to Aula Kobale's letter (*PIM*, Jan. 1992). His letter cannot be left unanswered.

The comment that BRA (should be "Bouganville Freedom Fighters" [BFF]) has not killed any Solomon Islanders was not only true but instructive. What the Honourable Prime Minister, Solomon Mamaloni, was alluding to was that "Brothers should not killed each other," if the arguments of one nation and sovereignty are to hold water. This has not been the case with Papua New Guinea governments and the Papua New Guinea military which have been supported by Australian advice and resources. The PNG military (with the support of Australia) had invaded Bouganville and the Solomon Islands and had killed people in these zones. Clearly, Papua New Guinea and Australia had killed Bouganvilleans and Solomon Islanders.

Certainly, this is not the case with BFF. However, the case of BFF, having not killed Solomon Islanders, would soon cease to be valid if Papua New Guinea military (with Australian military aid) continues to kill Bouganvilleans. Seen in this context, the Prime Minister's remark was not unthoughtful but rather loaded with useful thoughts and cues. Only a decolonized mind which is able to decipher the difference between "ultimate sovereignty" based on peoples' lives and the respect for peoples' person and property (in this case Bouganvilleans and Solomon Islanders), and "national sovereignty," founded on colonial demarcations, expatriate contrivances and continued neo-colonialism, can comprehend these dynamics.

The above aside, I would never condone killings by members of BFF. But Bouganville was invaded. And PNG government had yet to exhaust alternative means of resolving the conflict before the military resorted to invasion and killing.

Any one who understands the "Melanesian mind," would have realised that once a single life was lost, even the closing of Paguna mine would never compensate for such a loss. This is what Australian advisers (even some PNG leaders) have failed to realise or blatantly refused to acknowledge.

In some parts of the world where people are disposable and "Mr. Money" is glorified, this should have been the case. Fortunately, some Bouganvilleans have refused to put money in the place of their people in their land.

The above thus reflects the pressing need to resolve the conflict and, this time, PNG needs all Pacific island states to assist; most of all Solomon Islands. Any Prime Minister of the Solomon has a role to play in this endeavour with grace and utmost integrity.

Benjamin Baoro,
Honolulu,
Hawaii.

Tongan time

Madam,

I refer to your article "Royalty Under Threat" in the December issue of your magazine. Martin Tiffany raises the question of whether "the man (Akisi Pohira) and his movement are a force ahead of their time". I realise that Tonga straddles the line 180° east and west of Greenwich, that Tongans claim that "Tonga (is) where time begins", but the philosopher Plato once said, "Time waits for no man". Without going beyond the

realm of the mortals, by point is that time is running out. Whether it be the chiefs or the people living on the Tukutonga rubbish dump, the economy of the kingdom can no longer deliver the goods and services to satisfy the desires and human needs of the people. I mean deliver in terms of quantity, quality and in a manner acceptable to the people. If there is a sow with a litter and the sow has not enough food and only dirty water some piglets starve to death. If the sow has no milk all the piglets die. If the sow has no food and water the sow and the piglets die.

Furthermore, if the pace of environmental destruction continues the country won't be able to deliver the most basic physical needs of humans — food, clothing and shelter. It won't even be a matter of sharing the cake or even stealing the cake, there just won't be the capability to produce a cake.

It is not surprising that increasingly Tongans are seeing there is no future for their children in their homeland. It certainly looks like it is time for dialogue. May be if there is another timely conference, for this time on the theme of "The Development of Tonga", the Hon. P.M. Vaca will attend and the other ministers will also make the time between their overseas travels.

Don Seiler
Nuku'alofa
Tonga

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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HEADLINES

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Collaborators arrested

Solomon Islands security personnel have arrested eight Solomon Islanders who have allegedly been collaborating with both the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. A police spokesman said the men were from the Shortland Islands opposite Bougainville and were arrested on January 14 on a border island after returning from an illegal visit to Bougainville.

The spokesman said the men had now been brought to Honiara aboard the patrol boat *Auki* and would be charged under Solomon Islands immigration laws. The eight men are all in their 20s and police believe they were dealing with both sides in the Bougainville conflict.

According to the police spokesman, the men had been selling Second World War ammunition to the BRA. It was also believed they had guided PNG soldiers in cross-border raids on Shortlands villages last year. The spokesman said both the PNG Defence Force and the BRA had raised complaints about being double-crossed in their dealings with the arrested men.

Landing rights questioned

A Hong Kong-based company which has put in a bid to buy a major share in Solomon Airlines has questioned whether the airline's landing rights in regional countries will be secure if the deal goes ahead. Golden Springs International, which has logging interests in Solomon Islands, was the only applicant for 70 per cent of the shares in the government-owned airline which were put on offer last month.

The manager of the Government's Investment Corporation, Wilson Gina, says the question of landing rights was raised in initial negotiations with the company and further talks are expected. The Honiara newspaper *Solomon Voice* says it understands some regional countries have indicated their reluctance to grant Solomon Airlines landing rights if the Hong Kong company becomes a majority shareholder.

Airspace violation

Solomon Islands police have expressed surprise at the Papua New Guinea Defence Secretary, Peter Peipul's denial of PNG Defence Force violations of Solomon Islands airspace. Assistant Commissioner of Police Operations, John Homelo, says the recent intrusions cannot be denied as they were witnessed by villagers, government officers and security personnel at the border area south of Bougainville.

Homelo says a light aircraft and a helicopter were seen crossing the border into Solomon Islands airspace more than once from Bougainville and returning the same way.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

First Aids victim

The Marshall Islands Health Minister Evelyn Kanou has announced the country's first known victim of the virus that causes Aids. The 18-year-old man is now in Hawaii for treatment.

Kanou says in many countries around the world Aids has reached epidemic levels. She says the Marshall Islands still has the opportunity to limit the disease's spread if everyone takes the necessary precautions. Marshall Islands health officials are worried sexually active teenagers and adults may be vulnerable to Aids.

The country was struck with a syphilis outbreak in 1991. Cabinet ministers have met with health officials to plan ways to contain the spread of Aids.

WESTERN SAMOA

New disclosure law for journalists

The Pacific Islands News Association, PINA, has written to the Western Samoan Prime Minister asking him to abolish a new source disclosure law.

The new laws will allow the courts to require journalists to reveal their sources of information. Under the recent Newspapers and Printers Act, journalists face jail term of three months and a fine up to \$2000. The law requires newspaper publishers to reveal their sources in defamation cases.

PINA says the legislation passed without public consultation, is a severe setback for media freedom. PINA officials are seeking a meeting with the Western Samoan Prime Minister to discuss the issue. The Western Samoan government has made it clear that it was not happy over information and allegations contained in anonymous letters printed in the Letters to the Editor column.

TONGA

Media split

There's been a split in media organisations in Tonga with three of them coming together to form the Tonga Independent News Association (TINA), the second media body in Tonga.

HEADLINES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Oil call

Papua New Guinea has called on oil producing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to join forces to gain entry to the world's elite club of oil producing nations. PNG's Prime Minister, Paias Wingti, made the call in an address at the so-called Asia Pacific Oil and Gas Tax Issue conference in Singapore. Wingti says individual countries of the region may not make a tremendous impact in OPEC board-rooms but together they could be a sizable force.

PNG joined the region's oil producers with its first oil project at Kutubu which started producing in July last year. The Chevron-operated Kutubu in the South Highlands Province currently produces 129,000 barrels a day.

Wingti says his government wants to invite and enter into partnerships with other firms which could build and operate a profitable refinery in PNG to keep money on-shore, help develop PNG's industrial base and create jobs.



Wingti: looking for partners

Highlands threat

In Papua New Guinea, threats by the Eastern Highlands MPs to withdraw from the Wingti government over Cabinet appointments, is gaining momentum. Eastern Highlands Premier, Robert Atiyafa, claims eight of the nine MPs in government are being taken for a ride by the government after losing their numbers to get into power and secure its mandate.

Atiyafa says the Wingti government has dumped unimportant ministerial portfolios on two of the MPs. The Premier says unless the Wingti government reshuffles the cabinet and allocates economic ministries to Eastern Highlands MPs, its eight MPs with the Wingti government should withdraw their support.

Short-term visas reintroduced

Papua New Guinea has reintroduced the issuing of short-term entry visas on arrival in the country. Tourists and business people, with the exception of journalists, can now obtain a 60-day single entry visa on arrival at Port Moresby airport.

FRANCE

Nuclear testing suspension

French President Francois Mitterand has said France will refrain from testing nuclear weapons as long as the United States and Russia do likewise. Mitterand was speaking at the start of a United Nations conference in Paris where more than 100 countries gathered to sign a treaty scrapping chemical weapons.

The French President said he noted with pleasure both Russia and the United States had decided on a breathing space before deciding what to do next about testing. He said France would be obliged to maintain adequate security if the other countries resumed testing but he said he ardently hoped this would not happen.

Last April the French government announced it would suspend nuclear testing in the South Pacific at least until the end of 1992. Russia had already made a similar announcement and the United States soon followed suit.

France also agreed to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty last year after many years of being reluctant to take this step. Mitterand said he hoped the treaty would be extended indefinitely when it came up for re-evaluation in 1995.

On chemical weapons Mitterand stressed the importance of the UN treaty which he said was "the first real universal disarmament treaty" concluded after decades of negotiations. France's centre-right opposition, favourite to win a general election in March, has criticised the nuclear test freeze.

SPREP

Treaty signing held up

The establishment of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) as an autonomous body is being held up by a constitutional wrangle between the United States and its South Pacific territories. Under the US constitution, its territories can't sign an international treaty.

The treaty signing was due for early this year at SPREP's headquarters in Western Samoa, but has been put off until July. The territories of American Samoa, Guam, Palau and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas are hoping to re-open negotiations with the new Clinton administration.

SPREP's acting director, Don Stewart, says without the treaty the organisation is unable to establish itself fully as a regional body on the same level as the South Pacific Forum or the South Pacific Commission. The French government says it has no difficulties with its South Pacific territories signing the treaty.

HEADLINES

FIJI

Fraud squad

The Fiji government is to set up a Serious Fraud Squad to deal with white collar crimes and insider trading in leading corporate and government institutions. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka says the squad will be independent from the police force's Criminal Investigation Department and from the Fiji Intelligence Services.

The Fiji Times says the squad is to be formed amidst widespread concern over alleged shady business deals involving various loan and investment organisations. Rabuka says the squad will have its own prosecutors.



Rabuka: squad independent

Hawaii bank for Fiji

The Bank of Hawaii plans to establish a branch in Suva later this year. The bank was granted a banking licence on January 28 by the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

The bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bancorp Hawaii Inc and has total assets of \$US10.3 billion.

The Fiji operation will expand the bank's wide representation in the Pacific region which includes branches in Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, Guam, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of Palau. It also has partly owned affiliate banks in Tonga (Bank of Tonga), Tahiti (Banque de Tahiti), Western Samoa (Pacific Commercial Bank Ltd) and New Caledonia (Banque de Nouvelle Calédonie). The bank also has representative offices in the Philippines and Hong Kong.

KIRIBATI

Island erosion

An island in Kiribati is in danger of being cut in half by continuous pounding waves caused by strong westerly winds. Reports say the road on the northern part of Nonouti has been washed away and waves are steadily eroding the remaining part of the land. The reports say if the strong wave conditions continue, the northern part of Nonouti will be cut off from the rest of the island.

AMERICAN SAMOA

Operation reduction

In American Samoa meetings at the Governor's Office in mid-January have given a sense of urgency to the new administration's move to trim the government workforce known as Operation Reduction in Force (RIF). RIF is geared at reducing the government's 5400 workforce in a bid to cut down payroll costs.

As a lead up to the workforce reduction, Governor Lutali, Lt Governor Tausese Sunia and cabinet directors got a briefing on RIF procedures. Acting Attorney General Malaetasi Togafau talked on the requirements of the law and legal regulations which the government may violate in the process of laying off employees.

Acting Director of Education, Dr Salu Hunkin, talked on how RIF should be implemented without affecting employees needed to maintain the public service.

Dr Hunkin is a member of the Executive Committee appointed by the chief executive to recommend cost containment measures to get the government out of its current financial crunch.

COOK ISLANDS

Overloaded Prime Minister

The leader of the Cook Islands opposition Alliance Party, Norman George, claims the Prime Minister's workload is too large for it to be managed effectively. George says Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry is being overloaded by portfolios which he says is the cause of stop-start economic development in the country.

Sir Geoffrey holds the Finance, Police, Cultural Development, State-owned Enterprises, National Advisory Board, Monetary Board, Planning and Economic Development and Crown Law portfolios.

INDONESIA

Border issues

Indonesia's President Suharto says his country and Papua New Guinea should resolve border issues to prevent a deterioration of bi-lateral relations. Suharto suggested common arrangements be made to ensure the rights and traditional activities of local people along the common border.

HEADLINES

BOUGAINVILLE



Death: PNG soldiers with fallen comrade at Arawa on Bougainville

Death, lies and confusion

CONFLICTING reports, accusations and death continue to be the hallmarks of the conflict on Papua New Guinea's troubled island of Bougainville. It is now impossible to know which side — the Bougainville Revolutionary Army or the Papua New Guinea government — to believe because of the widely varying accounts each side gives of an incident.

With claims and counter claims and accusations of lies from both sides it is difficult to keep track of what is really going on. This is made worse by the PNG government not allowing journalists free access to all parts of Bougainville. A recent example of these conflicting reports is the BRA refuting a PNG government claim that the BRA had killed 17 civilians at South Bougainville care centres. The PNG Minister for Bougainville Affairs, Michael Ogio, said the BRA had killed the civilians as part of a stepped up campaign of terror. But *Radio Free Bougainville* says the 17 people killed by the BRA were soldiers of the PNG Defence Force. It says the BRA killed the soldiers and injured 13 others when they raided two Defence Force camps.

Ogio issued a statement saying some news organisations are thriving on endless stories based on rebel claims of assault, rape, brutality, murder and general destruction allegedly committed by PNG's security forces. He says his government does not recognise any person or group directly challenging its lawful authority on Bougainville. Ogio says because of this it is illogical for journalists and news organisations to expect the PNG government to respond to various claims.

However the Pacific Island's News Association has blamed the PNG government for any alleged unfair reporting on the Bougainville conflict, saying Port Moresby's media restrictions on the island made it difficult for journalists to verify claims from both sides.

The Bougainville Interim government, on the other hand, claims Australia is supplying more weapons, ammunition and other military hardware to PNG. A statement says PNG will use the equipment to arm its expanded Defence Force in preparation for a new offensive against the BRA.

The trouble on Bougainville has spilled across the border into the Solomon islands and strained relations between the two countries. Relations between them cooled following the shooting of two Solomon Islanders by PNG soldiers last September and subsequent illegal border crossings. However moves have begun strengthen ties between the two governments. On January 10 PNG Prime Minister Paias Wingti and his Solomon islands counterpart Solomon Mamaloni, announced the re-establishment of dialogue between their two countries. A meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries to discuss the strained relations was to have taken place on January 19 but this was postponed for at least a month.

However in late January there were talks in Port Moresby between a Solomon Islands government delegation and a PNG government delegation.

Almost daily reports on the Bougainville conflict come from both sides. The Bougainville interim-government claim a number of Bougainvilleans supporting the PNG Defence Force have defected to the BRA. The PNG government say they have to conduct a major emergency food supply operation to government care centres on Bougainville following rebel attacks that have cut off road access to gardens. The BRA say PNG troops stationed at Tunuru and Itakara in Central Bougainville have continued using mortar bombs containing poisonous chemicals in bombarding villages. And so it goes on.

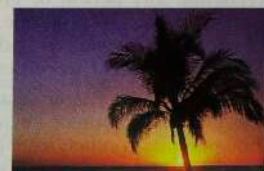
As the conflict between the PNG Defence Force and the BRA continues so does the war of words between the two sides. The question is who do you believe?



Photo by Greg Thon

Think of it as a stairway to paradise.

Air Vanuatu now offers travelers the worldly pleasures of a new Boeing 737-400 to that beautiful corner of the Southern Pacific they call "The Untouched Paradise." Air Vanuatu operates the new twinjet between Vanuatu and Fiji, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. The -400 is the largest member of the new generation 737 family—the most popular family of jetliners in aviation history. Passengers like them because of their comfort, abundant overhead stowage, and easy-in, easy-out cabins. And airline operations people like 737s because they are the most dependable jetliners flying, with a consistent worldwide-fleet ranking of greater than 99% technical dispatch reliability. Congratulations to Air Vanuatu for expanding their service with this new airplane. And to the fortunate travelers who will enjoy the untouched paradise, and their flight to it.



BOEING

COVER STORIES

A question of time

By Bill Morton

TONGAN people went to the polls last month to vote for "Peoples' Representatives" to the country's Legislative Assembly. The nine elected members will sit in parliament alongside 12 ministers handpicked by the King and nine "Nobles Representatives" chosen by 33 Noble families.

The 1993 election held special significance. It was a test of countrywide support for the concepts of change and democracy.

Election results have caused the pro-democracy camp to claim victory and the government to play-down this claim. Six of the nine elected candidates are pro democracy; one is pro government and two have not yet revealed their allegiances.

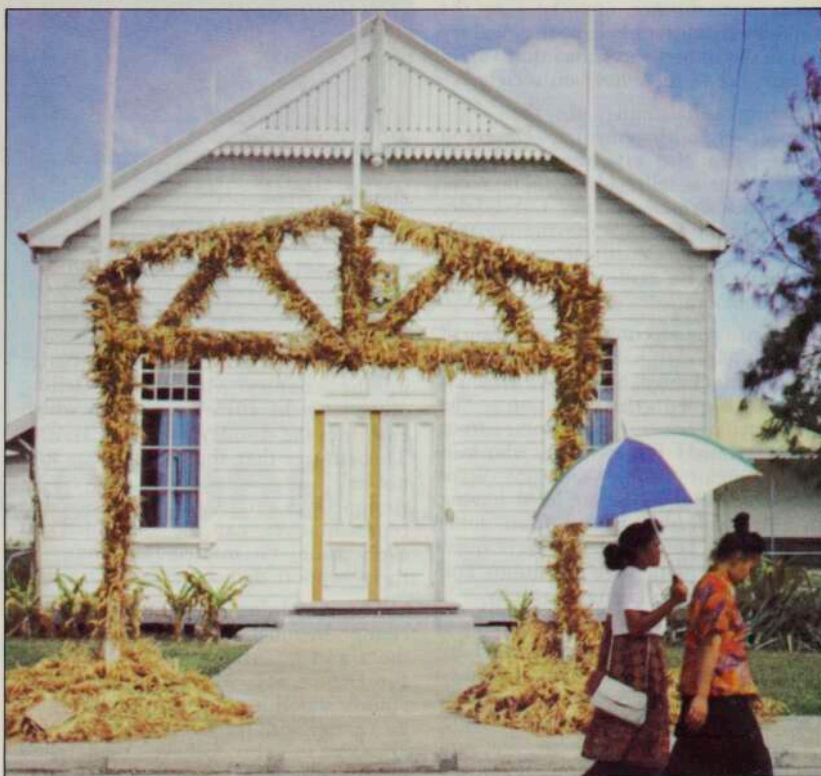
Akilisi Pohiva, sitting representative for the main island of Tongatapu was re-elected for his third successive parliamentary term. He claims the election served as a referendum for people's support for change. "We are very pleased with the result. It is a clear mandate for change and a clear message to the government."

The results reveal regional differences in the country's endorsement of democracy. Voters on Tongatapu elected candidates to three seats. They gave overwhelming support to Pohiva and two fellow pro-democracy candidates Viliami Fukofuka and 'Uhila Liava'a. Among them they captured 57 per cent of the vote. The remaining vote was spread amongst another 12 candidates from both the pro-democracy and pro-government causes.

The outer island group of Ha'apai elected candidates for two seats. It showed it is following in the footsteps of Tongatapu by choosing pro-democracy candidates Tesina Fuku and 'Uliti Uata. The unsuccessful third place-getter was also pro-democracy. Most significantly, Ha'apai rejected outspoken pro-government member Viliami Afeaki.

Results from the other outer islands are not as clear-cut and suggest voters considered a range of issues in addition to the question of democratic change. Vava'u (two seats) ousted both sitting members. It chose pro-democracy candidate Masao Paasi for the first seat but elected independent Samiu Vaipulu to the second. 'Eua (one seat) stayed conservative and re-elected its pro-government member. The Niua (one seat) booted out its conservative member, giving victory to the only woman

The real message from the Tongan elections is that support for change is real. The government would like it to go away, but it is unlikely to do so.



Bill Morton

Tonga's parliament building: can change come from within?

member in the House, 'Ofa Fusitu'a. Her intentions are not yet clear.

Compared to the 1990 election when pro-reform candidates won five out of nine seats, the 1993 election represents only a small improvement for the cause of change in Tonga. However, 'Akilisi Pohiva says he expects pro-democracy numbers to increase through support from Samiu Vaipulu. Pohiva states Vaipulu joined him in a walk-out from parliament when they were both members, between 1987-1990. Both Vaipulu and Fusitu'a will be under intense pressure to declare their positions in relation to democracy.

The crucial question which now stands out is how the election will affect the

process of change in Tonga. In previous elections pro-reform candidates campaigned from a platform of cleaning up the act of government, citing corruption and misuse of funds at the highest levels. In this election the stakes were much higher. As a result of the November 1992 "Convention on the Constitution and Democracy" the issue of "democracy" rocketed to the top of the political agenda. It was immediately in the election spotlight. The entire fabric of Tongan society was now under question, with pro-change candidates arguing for a reduction of the King's powers and calling for a parliament with all 30 members elected by the people.

The election demonstrates that not all Tonga's 95,000 "commoners" want such

COVER STORIES

change. However it is clear that support for change is widespread and that people now want the government to take action. Pro-democracy supporter, Professor Futa Helu, who played a highly influential role during the election, believes government must now respond to the peoples' wishes. "The overall message is quite clear. People want our constitution to be looked at seriously and they want changes to be instituted. Government is now considering this message in order to formulate a response. I think their response will be different to former ones because the trend is very clear. I believe they will try and make some concessions that would at least erode their hold on society."

Acting chairman of the Pro-Democracy Movement, Reverend Simote Vea also says the message to government is self-evident. "The clear victory for Pro-Democracy Candidates confirms that Tonga is moving towards full democracy. Constitutional changes will have to be made to make Tonga more democratic."

Prior to the election the government made it clear it had no intention of considering change. Since the election it has re-affirmed this position. The strongest statement has come from Prime Minister Baron Vaea, who said that Tongan people did not want democracy and that they liked having an elite leadership drawn from noble background. He added they were quite happy living with their traditions and accepted the role of the hierarchy.

The government view that change is unwarranted appears to be shared by deputy chief secretary and deputy secretary to Cabinet, Eseta Fusitu'a, who has previously also acted as a spokesperson for government. She said election data for Tongatapu suggest the pro-government as well as the pro-democracy sides could claim victory. She said pro-change candidates gained 1000 votes less than when Pohiva, Fukofuka and former stablemate Laki Niu in the 1990 election.

Fusitu'a believes one of the reasons the votes for the top three candidates dropped is that educated people are disenchanted with Akilisi Pohiva. "They are now showing their independent thinking regarding Akilisi and company. They are no longer satisfied with whatever Akilisi is peddling. An increasing number of people are no longer buying it."

Pohiva dismisses Fusitu'a's interpretation of the election results. "It is an unrealistic interpretation of the situation. She is trying to discredit our success and ignore the importance of the

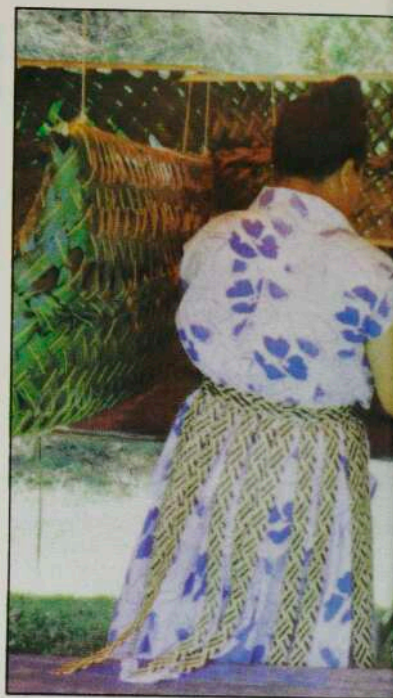


Fusitu'a: 'both sides could claim victory'

election." The pro-democracy candidates' claim of a mandate for change and the government's restated position that it is not considering change indicate the battle lines between the two camps are now more sharply drawn than ever. This polarity of standpoints represents a major obstacle to the process of change in the country. An equally telling obstacle is the 1875 constitution which enshrines the country's political system. This ensures that the 21 ministers and nobles' representatives have a stranglehold on power. The people's representatives can be out-voted on every issue, no matter how many of them support democracy.

The remaining avenue open to pro-change members is to by-pass government and go straight to the top. The Pro-Democracy Movement has previously stated it places its greatest hope for change with the King. Akilisi Pohiva appears to also believe monarchical intervention may be the key to change. Speaking after the election he said that while he must first consult his fellow pro-change members, "there is a great need to have an audience with His Majesty." However, it remains to be seen whether His Majesty will share Pohiva's enthusiasm for a get-together.

The next scene in the enthralling drama of Tonga's political development is therefore hard to predict. The real message from the election is not the number of pro-democracy candidates who were elected, it is that support for change is real. The government would like it to go away but it is unlikely to do so. It is now a question of continued stand-off between the opposing camps or compromise. At present the former is prevailing. The result of this may mean the process of change is long and unpleasant. □



Casting their vote: in polling booths on

Issues b

THE 1993 election for People's Representatives in Tonga highlighted growing political division within the country. While people from the outer islands considered a range of issues when casting their vote, Tongatapu voters made a clear choice between two political camps, each espousing opposing ideologies.

The first camp represented the status quo, under which the power of the King and the nobles would be preserved and parliament would continue to be dominated by members not elected by the people.

The other camp represented fundamental change to this system. With "democracy" as its catchword, the pro-change camp called for a reduction in the King's powers from head of state to a state figurehead, and for a parliament elected by the people. Such a call challenged the thinking of those Tongans happy with the present system. In particular, it threatened those maintained in positions of power by the system, most notably the nobles.

Because the People's Representatives are a minority in parliament the election itself could not directly bring about this



Bill Morton

and the elections

By Bill Morton

change. It could however indicate support — either for the status quo or for the idea of change.

Indeed government appears to have made good use of its media, in particular radio station A3Z which it controls. In the early stages of the election, deputy chief secretary and deputy secretary to Cabinet, Eseta Fusitu'a, appeared on a weekly program in which she clearly promoted the government position. Closer to the election date radio time was given to candidates to make election speeches. Pro-democracy candidates claim they were not granted equal opportunity to talk.

The most important events occurred a few days before the election. Police Minister Noble Akau'ola gave a talk on radio in which he warned people against "rebellion", saying this included activities such as promoting hatred of the King or government, advocating protest marches or bringing in foreign doctrines. He also said some members of parliament were not living up to their oath of allegiance to the constitution and said the penalty for treason included death. Shortly afterwards

the Prime Minister, Baron Vaea, appeared to contradict Akau'ola's statements, saying the democracy movement was quite free to air its views.

Successful pro-democracy candidate Akilisi Pohiva said after the election, "The government mounted a strong campaign against the pro-democracy cause." Pohiva also believes the nobles took an active role in trying to influence how people cast their vote. "Nobles had meetings with people and told them not to support pro-democracy candidates. They told people that if the government changed to democracy they would lose their land. They were trying to threaten people but people supported the pro-democracy candidates anyway."

"The tactics they used were terrible." He says they tried to scare people by misrepresenting the outcome of a democratic Tonga. This included saying democracy would involve the removal of the King, that people would lose their land and that customs and traditions would be affected. As well as contending with forces opposed to it, the primary pro-democracy candi-

dates also faced issues in their own backyards. These centred around the falling out between Pohiva and Number Two Peoples' Representative in the 1990-93 parliament, lawyer Laki Niu. Niu's popularity was clear, having polled only 40 votes less than Pohiva in the 1990 election. Pohiva chose not to endorse him for this election and made his reasons public. Instead he gave his support to 'Uhila Liava'a. When this caused a further split between Pohiva and formerly staunch ally Viliami Fukofuka, the affairs of the country's foremost pro-democracy candidates appeared to be in tatters. They decided to stand for parliament as individuals rather than as a group, thus unable to present a united front to voters.

When Niu subsequently withdrew his support for democracy Pohiva and Fukofuka were able to re-unite and form a team with Liava'a. This approach proved crucial. Speculation was rife that Pohiva's rejection of Niu would alienate voters and cause an upset at the ballot box. Instead the result was clear. Pohiva and team were elected with Niu missing out 2200 votes behind Liava'a.

When Pohiva, Fukofuka and Liava'a stood as a team, pro-democracy candidates throughout the rest of the country stood as individuals. And it will be as individuals that they enter parliament. While the six pro-change members all support democracy in some form, there are differences in ideologies and approach. The absence of a political party means there are no party rules to unite and bring them into line.

One of the important questions will therefore be the ability of pro-democracy members to present a united front in parliament and to work together. This is particularly pertinent after the falling out between Pohiva and Fukofuka over the Laki Niu issue. Pohiva believes there will be no problems in this area. Eseta Fusitu'a holds a different view and believes "it remains to be seen" to what extent the candidates are able to work together. She suggests leadership will be an issue. "There's no way someone like Liava'a will last with Akilisi. He's too smart...Just because candidates campaigned on a pro-democracy platform does not mean they will accept Akilisi as leader."

Ironing out personal differences may be the least of the problems facing the six pro-change People's Representatives. They will be sitting in what may be Tonga's most important parliamentary term ever. Speakers at last year's landmark "Convention on the Constitution and Democracy" emphasised the need for change to occur sooner rather than later. It would be unimaginable for them to have to wait until after the next election in 1996. Their statements echoed the sentiments of their supporters who are determined that change will occur and who expect their elected People's Representatives to be a leading part of this process. While a post election calm has descended on Tonga it will not last for long.

□

FINANCIAL CRISIS

IN THE RED

What happens when a new administration takes office and is faced with an empty treasury?

By David North

THE FRAYED string finally broke, and 1000 employees of the American Samoan government (ASG) have lost their jobs. The new Governor, AP Lutali, was faced with an empty treasury and a bloated payroll when he took office in January. He immediately took drastic action to remedy the situation, and laid off 20 per cent of the ASG's employees.

The protests were vociferous; the head of the territory's Republican Party, Te'o Fuavai, organised a rally for the laid-off workers, and a law suit was filed against the (Democratic) Governor's action in the High Court of American Samoa.

Many of the laid-off workers said it was an outrage, and that dismissals were not handled according to regulations;

other observers praised the Governor for his courage, and were relieved that something finally had been done to solve American Samoa's long-simmering financial crisis.

American Samoa's finances, never sturdy, have been going from bad to worse in recent years but the incumbent Governor, Peter Tali Coleman apparently did not want to take dramatic remedial action until after the November election. He was seeking another four-year term, and he was running against his life-long foe, former (and now) Governor Lutali.

So Coleman ran through just about every financial manoeuvre in the book to avoid taking the unpopular steps needed to solve the crisis. He did not want either a massive layoff or a cutback in the hours

of all workers (though he used that technique briefly a year or so ago). Nor did he want to raise taxes enough to keep meeting the payroll.

As 1992 progressed it became evident that Coleman could not run out the string forever. Often there were headlines in the *Samoa News* saying this week the banks were accepting ASG payroll checks, as they had not the week before or vice versa. (Sometimes one bank accepted ASG checks and others did not). Suppliers and contractors were not paid for months on end; sometimes shipments of medicine to the hospital were suspended as a result.

Moneys from specific federal grants were shuffled into other funds to help meet the payroll — and the Federal Highway Administration stopped repair work on a major highway until the funding situation could be rectified.

Other techniques were also used. The pension (social security) taxes for the ASG workers were not paid by the

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Coleman Administration, to keep the payroll checks flowing; in another case, a US Labor Department pot of money, designed to train the unemployed for a full year, was used up in the first three months of the current fiscal year (October 1 — December 31), again to avoid layoffs. The Lutali Administration will see none of these Labor Department funds for nine months, unless Lutali can persuade the Clinton Administration to help him out.

Making things worse, the outgoing Coleman administration gave favoured employees post-election raises (which Lutali will have to cancel) and expedited salary, leave and expense account checks for ranking political appointees.

Lutali had few options. Coleman had scrounged as much money as anyone could from various special funds, from the banks, and (in effect) from suppliers. Lutali had promised to curb fraud and abuse, but that is a slow way to save money. Similarly, though probably needed in the long run, raising taxes takes time before money starts flowing into the treasury. Finally, Lutali did not know as much about the territory's finances as he would have liked — outgoing Treasurer Ace Tago, a Coleman ally, had refused to release the annual audits on ASG finances, and was off-island for much of the period between the election and the inauguration.

Given the situation, the only sure way to bring some financial balance was to lay off the workers. First it appeared that 429 would go, then the total moved up to 1000. Generally those laid off were either Coleman political appointees (who did not have civil service status) or the far more numerous temporary or contract employees. In many of the latter cases, people were hired despite the fact there was no money in the budget for their salaries.

Most of the talk in Samoa has been about the hurt to the workers, not about the reduction in services; a smaller staff probably can get most of the job done.

But losing a government job in Samoa is a real blow to the individual. Samoa is a two-industry place — with the exception of some retail and private-sector services activity, involving perhaps 2000 workers — everyone works for either the government or the tuna canneries. And since the better jobs are in government, these go exclusively to voters, while a majority of the 4700 people in the two canneries (where the work is considerably rougher) are from other islands, notably Western Samoa.

So if you lose your government job, there isn't much else to do, unless you want to disembowel tuna all day.

The bank account is empty

The Lutali Transition Team's reports on American Samoa's finances do not speak in macro-economic terms about the gross national product, the government's overall debt level, or the balance of payments.

It talks about meeting the payroll.

The following are excerpts from one such report as noted in the Samoa News:

"The bank account is empty. All the cash is used as fast as it becomes available to meet current obligations.

"At the end of September ASG had a bank balance of — \$7,152,724 (in the red.) This included checks that were

printed but either not released or not cashed of \$8,395,600.

"ASG also reported investments of \$5,933,546 ... if [they] were cashed in and all outstanding checks were released, ASG would still have a negative bank balance of about \$1.2 million.

"ASG relies on the Department of Interior's operating grant [of about \$20,000,000 a year] to cover one payroll a month, then uses [tax and other grant] collections to cover the other payroll ..."

Both Governors Coleman and Lutali have secured advances on Interior's monthly grants to help meet the bi-monthly payroll. □

The flip side of the situation was that none of the alien workers on the island were hurt by the layoffs — given the situation everyone Lutali laid off was a voter, and politicians do not like to hurt voters.

One should hasten to add the Coleman's apparent slowness to raise taxes or cut costs was not the only factor at work. As his supporters point out, when Coleman took over from Lutali four years ago the treasury was not overflowing. Further, the *Fono* (the territorial legislature) has not been very supportive of some of Coleman's tax initiatives; also, Samoa never has had a tradition of frugal government. Finally, there are underlying structural factors that have quietly contributed to the current situation.

Many governments, from small island states to the mighty government in Washington, over-spend and under-tax as American Samoa has done for years but they seem to do so without the level of disorder and panic recently seen in Pago Pago. How do they manage? There are two reasons: the territorial government plays a disproportionately large role in the economy, and has (compared to most other island governments) more limited powers.

Because of the territorial government's larger role in the economy, when it screws up the consequences are much more significant than when Washington, for example, makes comparable errors, as it did in the savings and loan fiasco.

One set of numbers tells the story: on the Mainland 15 per cent of the work force is employed (either in military or civilian jobs) by federal, state or local governments. In American Samoa fully 41 per cent are employed by the territorial government.

Not only has the ASG payroll been

padded with needless workers, but ASG also manages the telephone, power and water systems. Bloated governmental staffs are not unique to American Samoa; governments play major roles in the economies of all the island states. But here the second structural distinction comes into play — ASG is a colonial government with severely limited fiscal powers. It simply does not have the room for manoeuvre of the independent governments.

Traditionally independent nations spending more money than they raises in taxes can look for (at least temporary) relief from five sources: (1) private sector bank loans; (2) donor nations; (3) international agencies, like the World Bank; (4) the printing of additional currency, or (5) "creative" use of one's sovereign powers, like Tonga's sales of its passports. Since ASG is not a nation, it has no access to the last three sources, and only limited use of the first two.

As noted, the private banks treat ASG as a major, but not terribly reliable customer, and both local and federal law limit the extent that banks can make loans to ASG. Further, the US is a jealous donor nation to its flag territories; it hands out limited subsidies and does not allow its islands (or other units of local government) to seek funds elsewhere.

So once Coleman's string of temporary fixes ran out, Lutali had few choices, and he took the drastic step of a large layoff. He decided to inflict the inevitable pain early, and then later he would seek more money from the Mainland, try to get his books balanced, and hope to be in the position of re-hiring some people well before the election of 1996 rolls around.

It was a gutsy move, and maybe he can make it work. □



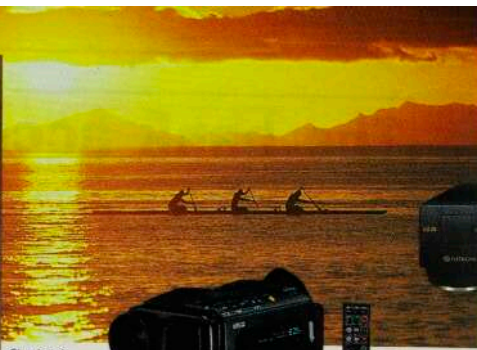
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POLITICS

Bad Boy George

Controversial Atiu MP Norman George has finally secured party leadership.

By Christine Hatcher

IT MAY be difficult for some who have followed "bad boy" break-away Atiu MP Norman George's political career over the last decade to think of him as a lamb. But as leader of the recently formed Cook Islands Alliance Party, he insists, that is exactly what he is.

"Just ask my wife," he laughs.

Norman (somehow it's difficult to call him anything else) has probably been the most controversial, Democratic Party MP in the House, fearlessly tackling any issue head on. More like a bull, some would say, than a lamb.

This year, he criticised everything from the Civil List allowances to the recent Education Act amendment, which now allows corporal punishment in primary schools. He proclaimed a "tax war" for what he considered unjust taxation and has busily leap-frogged from one cause to another. His commanding voice often drowned out the leader, Dr. Terepai Maoate, and embarrassed his former party.

Rolling with the many punches, none, could undermine his altruism or love of being quoted in the media. No-one, could keep him down or shut him up, at least all, the Democrats.

He said: "There was constant conflict in the Democratic Party between the older members and what I call the angry young men. Older members were reluctant to shift, took no part in the major battles to win elections. They would just sit back and take the credit. Their constant tactic was to accuse the younger members of being greedy for power. We were just being used."

Opposing the Democratic policy to groom future leaders to succeed at age forty plus, he says, "Quite honestly — I'm forty six now — by sixty I'll be turned out! In the end you get sick of monkeys on your back, supporting a rubber stamp leader for whom you have done all the work. After a while you wonder why you are doing it?"

These were the frustrations, he says,



George: Bull or lamb?

Christine Hatcher

that led him to form a party, which held its first two day, American style conference on the 17th of December. In a well filled, flag adorned room, the conference opened enthusiastically to the rock n' roll style music of the Apostolic Church.

Former Democratic Party Prime Minister, Sir Thomas Davis, under whom Norman served, however said: "He has wanted to be leader ever since he got into politics, so far he has failed. He is very ambitious and has been forced to form a party so he can be leader."

The real rift and struggle for power, can perhaps be traced back to October 1991, when Norman lost the leadership to Maoate by one vote.

It was a conspiracy, he claims, for the leadership to go back to previous leader, Dr. Pupu Robati.

"Bring Maoate to do the stirring, shift to the leadership challenge by Norman George and clearly establish there is no peace between the two men, so that the leadership will fall back to Robati. That was the draft of the plan that was being laid on by Robati himself."

Describing Robati as a selfish old man, he says, it was his betrayal that lost him the vote at the last minute.

"Especially after the conference in July, when I had overwhelming support. Maoate threatened to walk out and the election was stalled," he explained.

Things came to a head in August when

Norman offered his increased 1992 Civil List allowance to charity. He said it was excessive for MP's to deem it their right to award themselves such allowances, when Health & Education was going without and some people were still living on NZ\$80 per week.

Cook Islands Party (CIP) MP Vincent Ingram, in Parliament, however accused Norman of using the stance to undermine the Opposition Leader's position.

He claimed Norman had vowed, twelve months ago, when Maoate was elected leader, not to rest until securing the party leadership.

"... I remain convinced ... that the real purpose of the announcement was to stab the opposition leader in the back and at the same time, try to frighten off those intelligent and well qualified Cook Islanders who are contemplating a career in politics," Ingram said in Parliament.

By October, Norman was replaced as party whip. He maintains it was punishment for the Civil List stance, actioned "behind his back" while he was in Australia.

Promising to continue serving the Democratic Party, he also strongly expressed a lack of confidence in the leadership.

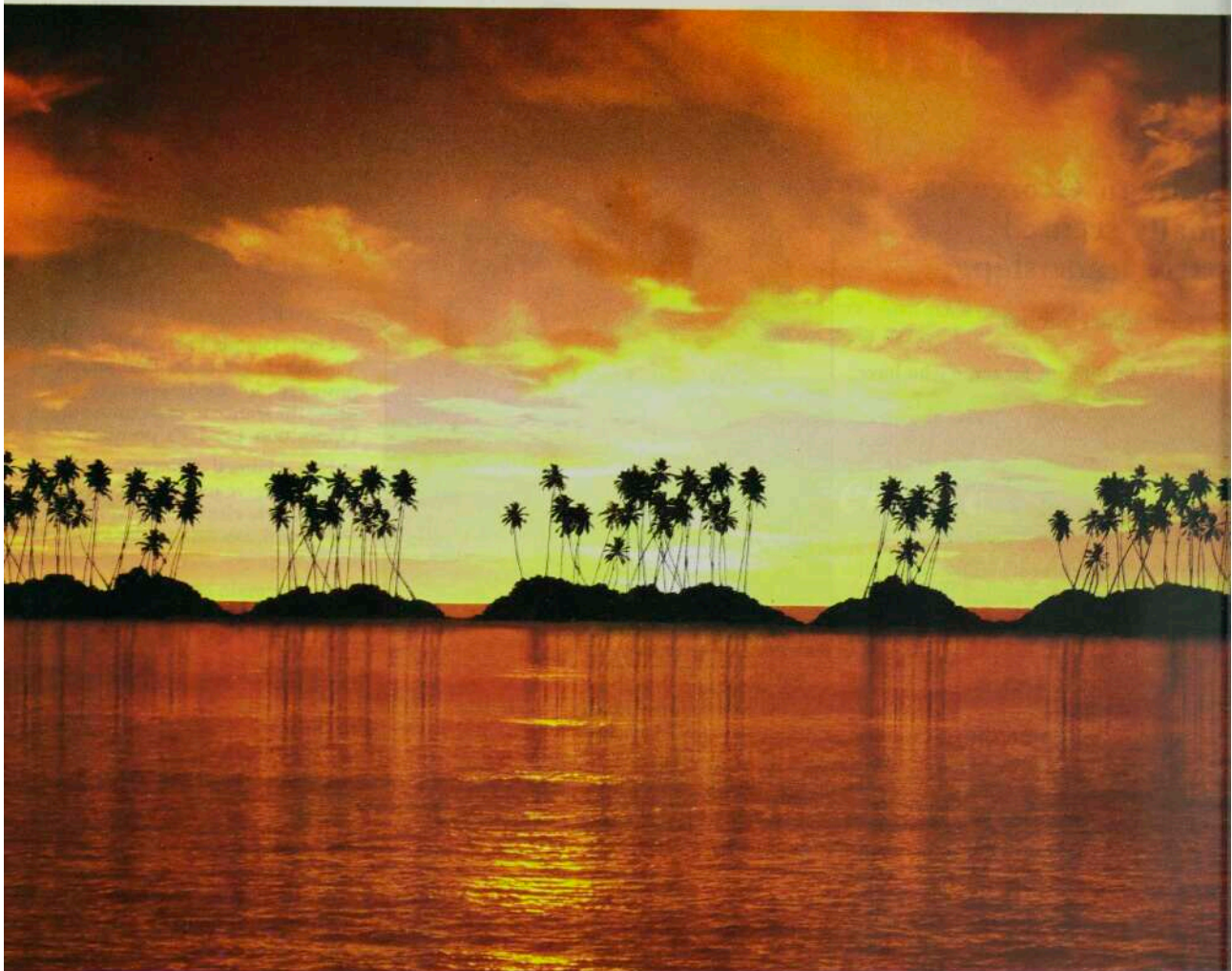
"I want to state categorically that I am not chasing the leadership" he said in the same breath as saying he remained open to the leadership being offered.

The disintegration began in earnest when, in October, he walked out of the Democratic Party Convention, narrowly beating what Demo Party delegates say were plans to oust him. In turn he predicted the Democrats would be out by the next election and were facing extinction, "like the New Zealand moa's and dinosaurs."

Maoate commented that the aggressive performances of Norman George would not be missed in Parliament.

"I was probably creating problems," Norman admits, "but as a worker you are going to strike all sorts of things. You could say I was the controversial figure when they chose to be silent. So when things went wrong it was always my fault, if they went well they took the

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POLITICS

credit. As far as they were concerned they were perfect!"

Believing firmly he had support, by mid-November, he announced "a new dawn in politics".

"Today marks the greatest event of my political life and perhaps that of the entire nation," he said in an unusually soft tone, adding that he bore no bitterness to former colleagues or present government. For the first time, he said, the people will have their own "middle of the road" party. Given the present credibility problems within government, honesty will be a priority and any government corruption would be stamped out by a leadership code, he promised.

As former Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1984 to 1989, he said, he understands the problems, claiming the need to go back to the villages, the grass roots, as essential. "Already a motion has been passed unanimously to move Atiu support out of the Democratic Party and into the new party," he said.

Contrary to Ingram's earlier prediction, Norman called for the support of those "intelligent and well qualified young Cook Islanders seeking a political career."

"I want a new breed — young guns, successful business people, leading public servants with ability, talent and a real desire to serve and be strong enough to stand up to me! The real test will lie in how many I will attract, how many I will put into parliament. Travel will be minimal, economy class with reduced allowances," he said a few days before the conference.

Women were given special recognition, with five women and three men nominated to the party executive as patrons. The party plans to use the American political model, Norman said, to avoid the farcical multi-candidacy disasters of the past, citing George Washington as his hero.

Party policy will be to fight government on foreign debts; over taxation; economical management; excessive

salaries for members of Parliament as opposed to public servants; excessive travel privileges of ministers; have a serious look at incentives; push for Cook Islands Maori business and land right reform. Other main issues will be to refinance with soft loan rates.

"We have an artificial economy, the window dressing and this show of prosperity is bullshit. There may be one or two existing loans, like perhaps the Sheraton NZ\$70 million loan, we feel we have enough grounds to walk away from ... I say, give the hotel to the Italian

Maoate says the Democrats are relieved to be rid of him and his band of stirrers. He is not the least threatened by this new party, he said.

Sir Thomas said "Norman can't be something he isn't. He is promising to deliver something that he hasn't been able to in ten years in politics — if he had, it would have got him the leadership."

"The history of third parties in the Cook Islands is not good. He has generated a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of questions, but no answers."



Third party: George and party executives at an Alliance Party conference

Christine Hatcher

banks and let them treat it any way they wish."

"Why is there no fishing fleet, why isn't vanilla production going, why isn't more coffee growing? Why hasn't there been any major investment in the Cook Islands in the last four years? We haven't even got the investment code government promised! I want to see an Economic Summit in my first month of being in office."

Health, education and a moratorium up to ten years on any new land leases, agriculture and the economy will be priorities. Consideration of expatriates, the elderly, youth, women and a policy to encourage freedom of speech without fear of victimisation are also on the agenda.

Norman calls himself a reformed politician. Anticipating short, two term leadership, he says he is no longer the "bad guy", but the "under-dog's" champion.

Is the forming of the Alliance Party an indication of genuine dissatisfaction of what Norman calls the "little people" with present government? An indication of changing times and values — a demand for more accountability? An indication of real unrest amongst the people of the Cook Islands?

One can't help wondering if it's not all a bit of a dream, slightly too all encompassing, a few too many promises and not enough solutions. Too good to be true, perhaps?

"No" said the new leader, "I'm idealistic, but not unrealistic."

"It now all depends on my charisma and I feel a little nervous about all this unaccustomed positive attention," he said.

Whether or not Norman's prediction, that the 1994 general elections will be between the Alliance and CIP party, now lies in the hands of the gods — and the people of the Cook Islands. □

SOVEREIGNTY

A question of when

The Hawaiian sovereignty movement steadily grows in Hawaii and on the US mainland.

By Mel Kernahan

THE MOOD was solemn this Sunday (Jan 17, 1993) afternoon as over 150 Hawaiians and friends, many clad in black, braved flood conditions to gather at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani and discuss the Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement.

Community leaders and individuals came from as far as San Diego, 100 miles away despite a winter storm that pummelled Southern California and Baja with rain and small tornadoes, leaving highways impassable with mudslides and flooding in places.

According to the 1990 census, 35,000 Hawaiians live in California, about one-sixth of the total Hawaiian population. There are only about 216,000 Native Hawaiians left among Hawaii's million residents. The increasing vigor of the Sovereignty Movement in the island state has raised questions and anxieties among Native Hawaiians living overseas.

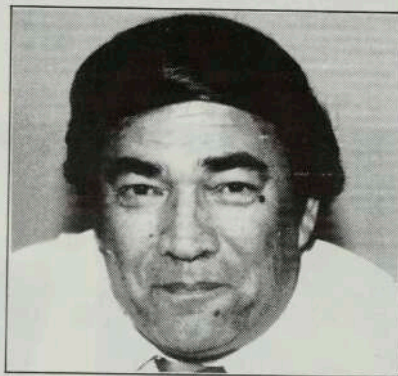
"Will we have a say in the process?" Analu (Andy) Berard, President of the US Mainland Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs asked the gathering. "Do we have any rights to benefits from ceded lands? We have not given up our rights just because we chose to leave our homeland. We are always Hawaiians!"

With tears in his eyes, the aerospace engineering executive quoted Queen Lili'uokalani's lament from her prison: "What did I do wrong to lose my country for my beloved people?"

"My Queen, you did nothing wrong," he replied. It was not your fault. The seeds of destruction were planted years before your reign by traders, missionaries it was many things beyond your control." He mused that now, 100 years later, "We are still patiently waiting for the return of our country."

He told the audience exciting developments were escalating around a word he couldn't even spell a few years ago. "Sovereignty. What does it mean? Are we going to have to live on a reservation? Renounce our US citizenship?" He said Hawaiians have not yet agreed on how they would exercise their sovereignty or what model they would choose.

"Hawaiian sovereignty is no longer a question of reality, it's a question of,



Berard: Will we have a say?

when?" he said. The sovereignty movement has been growing steadily in Hawaii in the last few years. Extremists call for independence for the islands. Moderates seek other solutions such as a status patterned after that of the American Indians who have tribal sovereignty.

The Sunday afternoon non-denominational service and tribute to the Queen was jointly sponsored by the Mainland Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Hawaiian Inter-Club Council of Southern California, the Asian Pacific Student Service of California, LMU, the Na Kōlea Hawaiian Club of LMU, the Campus Ministries of LMU, the 'Ahaui O Lili'uokalani Hawaiian Civic Club and the 'Ainahau O Kaleponi Hawaiian Civic Club.

The program opened with a greeting from Fr Thomas O'Malley, LMU president followed by the traditional blowing of the conch shell. The opening prayer was offered in Hawaiian by Mary Ann Kauluwehi Kalama. Hymns and songs written by Queen Lili'uokalani were sung by the choir and congregation and letters to and from the late monarch were read in Hawaiian and English by Hawaiian language students.

Others taking part in the service included Hinano Rodrigues, Sharon Kuuipo Paulo, President, Hawaii's Daughters Guild of Southern California and Hawaiian Community Center Association; Dolly Keahiolalo Crawford, President, Hui O Hawai'i of San Diego; Moana Hanauhine, Randy Chang, Harry Kawai, Victor Kaiwi Pang, 'Ainahau O Kaleponi Director to Main-

land Council; Aunt Mary Kovich, Brucie Halani Berard, Tess Warren and Jay Manion, choral director.

Light refreshments of traditional Hawaiian foods were served followed by musical tributes of hula, chanting, and special music from children and adult groups.

Leis and a bouquet of purple chrysanthemums wrapped in newspaper and tied with a black ribbon were laid beneath and easel bearing a maile-draped framed photograph of the Queen. The latter gift was a reminder of the Queen's imprisonment, when she was denied all news of her country. A friend helped her by picking flowers from her gardens and presenting them to her, wrapped in the front pages of the newspaper. The ruse was finally discovered and her clandestine newspaper delivery was stopped.

Other gifts included an American Indian sand painting from the Hawaiian Sovereignty supporters from the Southern California Indian Center in Los Angeles. The collection was flown to Mauna Ala in Hawai'i and placed at the Queen's crypt on January 23.

Two Sovereignty Workshops were announced. The first, titled Ho'ala (to awaken and enlighten) will be March 13 featuring Hawaiian attorney Hayden Burgess, Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Hawaiian Affairs. Emphasis will be on how mainland Hawaiians could be affected by self determination and sovereignty of the Hawaiian Nation.

The second workshop, Ho'okahu (models and elements of sovereignty) will be an intensive 18-hour session split into two days, April 17-18 featuring a panel of sovereignty advocate organisations. Various models of sovereignty will be explored with emphasis on their significance to mainland dwelling Hawaiians.

Workshop sponsors include the Mainland Council-Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Asian Pacific Students Services, L.M.U. in collaboration with Hui Na'auao Education Project. Partial funding support comes from the Liberty Hill Foundation in Santa Monica, California. All workshops will be on the LMU campus.

The Memorial gathering at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles was one of several mainland observances of this day named He Inoa No Lili'uokalani. Hawaiian communities of Alaska, Colorado, Nevada and Utah reportedly held similar services.

□

Hawaiian Renaissance

By Martin Tiffany

OF ALL the people of the Pacific the Hawaiians are arguably the race who have been most completely dominated by a foreign power. Being part of the American super-nation, their individual identity — as a Pacific country in its own right — has all but disappeared. So much so, special programs have had to be set up to ensure native Hawaiians learn their language and culture.

However, in the last 10 years or so there has been something of a "Hawaiian Renaissance" as Hawaiians begin to get a sense of belonging to a nation. These nationalistic feelings were aided greatly by the setting up of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) in 1981. Constituted in 1980 the OHA represents the native Hawaiians and the Hawaiian people. It is the only official representation they have.

With 64 staff throughout the eight major islands of Hawaii the OHA looks after land — and revenue from it — education, housing, health and other important matters for the Hawaiians. The bulk of the 64 staff work in the capital Honolulu. Many are specialists dealing with specific areas such as land and natural resources and run their own research programs.

The trustee from Maui, Abraham Aiona, for example, flies to Honolulu almost every second day for work. Aiona is one of nine delegates elected to office by the people. He is also vice-chairman of the OHA.

The OHA has a budget between \$US18 million to \$US20 million for each two-year period. They also get 20 per cent of revenue from ceded land used for business. Ceded land is land taken away from the Hawaiians at the time of overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893. The Hawaiians are also having more say in the use of land.

At the last US legislative session the Hawaiians were granted a \$US112 million-package consisting of cash and land. There is also a \$US30 million-deal in the pipeline and another settlement package of over \$100 million. So what, you may say. What is a few million dollars when you have lost your country. Fifteen years ago the Hawaiians didn't even have representation. Now at least they have a voice.

While some elements in the Hawaiian society want to go back to the time of monarchy, Aiona says it is not realistic, they have to go forward — slowly.

Aiona, 67, a former chief of police on

Over the last 10 years or so Hawaiians have begun to feel they belong to a nation.

Maui fought in Europe during World War II. He feels no bitterness for what has happened. But he does feel things should be put right with his people being given back what is theirs.

Understandably there is some bitterness among the Hawaiians. How could there not be when decades ago missionaries came wielding their bibles to teach the locals the correct way to live and years later the off-spring of these missionaries became the biggest landowners in the country. Japanese investors have also caused bitterness. Their arrival in the country saw rents — mainly in the large urban areas — zoom up.

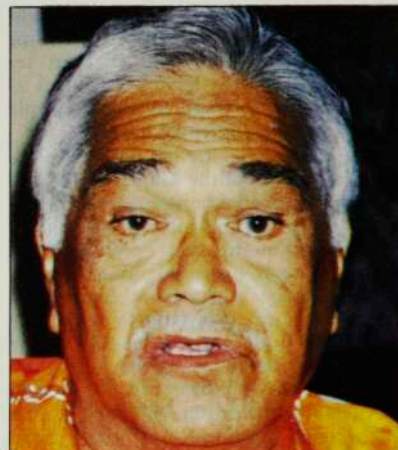
There are now moves to try to build affordable housing for native Hawaiians. The Department of Hawaiian Home Land is responsible for putting native Hawaiian people on land. They are a separate agency from the OHA and come under the state. The department however tends to move very slowly because of a lack of funds. But recently it received \$US27 million from the legislature which should see an increase in native Hawaiian housing.

The OHA says it plans to provide \$US10 million as a revolving fund for housing and another \$10 million for building. According to Aiona the OHA feels the Department of Hawaiian Home Land should come under it.

Aiona is confident his people will get what they want. They will get their land back and the transition will be a smooth one. But, he says, his people need education if they are to succeed. "Coming generations will profit if we can get them educated and if they know where they come from."

Aiona is in the process of learning his language. When he was young his parents made him learn English to enable him to compete at school and in the workplace. He said this undoubtedly helped him in his career but he always felt something was missing because he could not speak his own tongue.

Education is the answer, Aiona believes. He said they not only have to educate the Hawaiians but the general public as well. He says many whites and Japanese are asking what will happen to them during the transition that is being spoken of. According to Aiona nothing will happen to them but if they are on land that belongs to the Hawaiians they may have to leave. But he says they will be paid for



Martin Tiffany

Aiona: we can't afford to go backwards

it. "There will be no major conflict, just a smooth transition," he said.

Aiona likes the idea of a nation within a nation concept for Hawaii. Similar to the way the American Indian nation is set up. With its own laws and courts. He said they have specialists looking at the concept.

Aiona says the Hawaiian people want to get more involved in South Pacific affairs through the South Pacific Commission and other regional organisations. He said as Hawaii is more developed than other South Pacific countries they have a lot to offer in the way of education and training through the University of Hawaii and the East-West Centre.

But what will actually happen, remains to be seen? The struggle is far from over for the Hawaiians. Getting the land back will not be easy. One case in question is a yacht club which pays \$US9200 a year to lease the land. Aiona says they want the lease revoked so they can negotiate a new — and much higher — lease contract. There are other similar cases, where the people on the land will not give in easily.

There have already been protests by the Hawaiians where arrests have been made and an armed stand-off where some Hawaiians went to jail. So far the authorities have been able to keep the lid on anything serious. But with a Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement willing to fight for its land and cultural rights how long will this lid stay on?

□

ORIGINS

Sharing Aboriginality

By Craig Skehan

MANY Pacific Islanders think of Australian Aborigines as either political militants with chips on their shoulders or drunks on the dole. Rather than respected, Aborigines have been pitted as examples of what happens when a people lose their sovereignty and land.

On the other side of the equation, romanticisation of the islands region has no doubt twisted Aboriginal perceptions along with those of other Australians. Simplistic notions of a palm fringed paradise have obscured shared harsh realities such as poverty and high infant mortality rates. The cultural gap may well have been opened by stereotypes passed on to Islanders about Aborigines by Australian expatriates in the Pacific.

Ancient cultural factors, such as the hierarchical natural of Polynesian societies and a decree of xenophobia in parts of Melanesia, have at times widened the divide.

On one occasion, Aboriginal activist Michael Mansell was detained by islands' police at the ceremonial opening of a regional gathering for displaying a protest banner dealing with Aboriginal concerns. He had underestimated the weight Islanders place on protocol. And Mansell's fair complexion raised the sensitive issue of racial mixing.

In Australia, the trend has been towards acknowledging an individual's right to declare his Aboriginality, regardless of a part-European ancestry. However, in the Pacific people with a part foreign heritage are more likely to state simply they are of "mixed race".

"Those Aborigines who make all the noise are more white than black," one Islands' politician said when asked if he

sympathised with Aboriginal rights' campaigners.

Generalised prejudices may well continue to prevail unless Islanders and Aborigines get to know each other better. Fortunately, new opportunities for contact are being created as governments, churches, educational institutions and other groups become aware of what constitutes an odd historical legacy.

When exposed to both modern Aboriginal Australia, and to the antiquity of Aboriginal cultures, Islanders will usually react positively. For example last year, sponsored by the Australian Government, 103 Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders attended the South Pacific Festival of Arts in the Cook Islands. There were nearly 1000 people at the Festival from more than 20 island countries and the Australian contingent were not only a great success, but personally popular with fellow participants.

Marsali MacKinnon, who has just completed a posting as first secretary public affairs at the Australian Embassy in Suva, made a significant contribution to advancing awareness of Aboriginal issues here. Visits she arranged to Australia by local journalist resulted in feature newspaper articles in Fiji dealing with Aboriginal successes as well as problems.

Jeremia Tabai, who heads the premier regional body, the South Pacific Forum, has recently met with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and senior white bureaucrats during an official visit to Australia. Special arrangements have been made for him to hold talks with Aboriginal leaders.

Scope exists for exchanges in fields such as health and education services

Generalised prejudices may continue unless Islanders and Aborigines share more.



Tabai: met Aboriginal leaders

tailored to indigenous needs, as well as in innovative areas such as remote area radio broadcasting.

Roni Ellis, as cultural relations officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra, is involved in efforts to foster Aboriginal links with Pacific Islanders. She talks about plans for the Aboriginal Magaballa Books publishing company to help Islanders publish works in their own languages. Ellis says a lot of misunderstandings that have developed between Aboriginal Australians and Pacific Islanders flow from media stereotyping.

"People need to be made aware that 75 per cent of Aboriginal people in Australia today don't drink alcohol at all and of that 25 per cent only a small minority have a chronic alcohol problem," Ellis said.

To sum up, it is not as if indigenous Australians do not share much in common with other peoples of Oceania. There is also a common history of European colonisation, evidenced by the thousands of Islanders brought during the 'blackbirding days' of last century to work Queensland and northern New South Wales sugar plantations.

But whereas most Islanders eventually gained their independence, the Aboriginal people did not. The challenge now is for experience to be shared for mutual advantage.

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The people want changes

THE COVER of last December's issue of *PIM* flashed a picture of Akilisi Pohiva face to face with King Taufa'ahau of Tonga and captioned it "Democracy v. Monarchy". With a slight modification — for example, the pro-democracy candidates do not want an end to the monarchy, only his absolute powers — the *PIM* cover is an excellent distillation on the basic issues that beat at the heart of last week's general election for People's Representative's — the greatest ever held in Tonga.

I say "greatest" because Tonga in her little over one hundred years of constitutional government never saw anything like those three days before February 4. Tonga went through a social cyclone. For about three days and three nights the government-owned, only radio station in the country continuously bombarded listeners with reactionary and anti-democracy propaganda. The attack erupted like hellfire all this time with inflated and terrorising rhetoric but, of course, not one bit of careful logic.

One of the invited speakers in this orchestra of denunciation was a Tongan-New Zealand lawyer of some standing in Tonga. He went to great lengths to manufacture a case against democratic changes or changes to the existing constitution, disparaging democratic societies and putting up the Tongan constitution as something of a flawless instrument in its power to regulate justice in this society. Obviously this person enjoys living in democratic New Zealand where he has been for many, many years and helping Tongans to become citizens or permanent residents of that country. And he seems not to be planning to return to non-democratic Tonga soon to live. And he neither shows the concern constitutional law scholars have regarding Tonga's basic law, nor about the fact that any law whatsoever is only as good as the will of powerful human beings who put it into effect — or prevent it from being enforced.

Even the Minister of Police (and acting Premier at the time) went on the air with more accusations and threatening insinuations directed at advocates of democratic changes and ending his harangue by playing a Christian hymn and pronouncing the Benediction! "Oh!" said people, "the bigotry, hypocrisy, the hate."

But all that to no avail. This whole barrage of resentment succeeded in riveting even more tightly people's conviction

THE ISLAND



**FUTA
HELU**

that the desired political facelift for Tonga lies in democratic rule.

Come the big day. There was a lull over the land as people entered the polling booths and recorded their preferences which were emphatically for change. The largest electoral district, Tongatapu, returned the three leading Pro-Democracy candidates. Pohiva, Fukofuka and Liava'a, who together took up about 50 per cent of total votes polled. Add to this votes netted by other pro-democracy candidates who did not make it home (about four) and we are looking at a figure over 60 per cent.

The Ha'apai district returned two avowed pro-democrats — Fuku and Uata. The proportion of

votes taken by pro-change candidates together was higher than for Tongatapu — about 60 per cent. The Vava'u electorate returned one pro-democracy, pro-change candidate, Paasi, and a "neutral" one, Vaipulu, though he is believed to be amenable to progressive ideas. (When he was in Parliament five years ago he often worked together with Pohiva and company on a number of issues.) He came in this time, though, on the Church's ticket for he is a very prominent layman of the Free Church of Tonga. Again the proportion of votes secured by the pro-change candidates of Vava'u was quite high (well over 70 per cent).

In the northernmost district, the Niua, the electorate returned a woman, Fusitu'a, said to be the best educated person in those islands. She is an unknown quantity. The first two runners-up are pro-change candidates and the remaining ones predominantly conservative. The only successful candidate who is anti-change is the ultra-conservative Takai of 'Eua who was representing the district last session. Takai is so fervent in his loyalty to the present system of government that at the vote last year on a motion for the people (and not the King) to elect Cabinet members, he told Parliament, "How can a horse like me vote for reduction of the King's powers?" Such gushing devotion to the King and country is traditionally the "mark of the true Tongan." At any rate, in 'Eua also the three front runners after Takai were all pro-change, pro-democracy candidates.

The above profile of the election hides problems for a full understanding of its deeper implications. The most important relates to the impossibility of quantifying emotion and ideological factors that lay behind confronting determinations — of the conservatives to destroy any appeal democratic principles may have; and of the pro-democracy constituencies to win the day. It is the latter that triumphed in a clean sweep as they sent the loud, unequivocal message to the authorities that the people want major changes to the constitution and that these must be in the direction of a more democratic government.

□

ECONOMY

Resourceful Initiative

By Liz Thompson

FOR a long time there have been questions surrounding the logging industry in Papua New Guinea. The findings of the Barnett Inquiry commissioned in 1987 by Prime Minister Wingti pointed to massive corruption and inefficiency resulting in both a loss of revenue and valuable resources. The report stated that no timber operations were operating on a sustainable basis. For some time NGOs have criticised the exporting of raw timber, calling for an immediate ban and the setting up of secondary processing and manufacturing. Various groups have also been looking into alternative sources of income for landowners, appreciating that if people are to be encouraged not to sell their timber, even if the financial return is minimal, alternative sources of income need to be established.

In support of this idea, a grant of A\$100,000 from AIDAB to research Non-Timber Forest Products in Papua New Guinea is a significant step in the right direction. Little recognition has been given to the value of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in subsistence economies. What the proper development of NTFPs offers is the means for a community and country to earn an income and maintain the resource from which it is derived. As Jeff Sayer at the IUDN argues, they can be harvested without gross physical disruption to the forest. Their exploitation does not carry with it the risk of subsequent agricultural encroachment, nor does it open up the canopy and thus increase the risk of fire. Harvesting, processing, marketing and use can be undertaken by rural and forest-dwelling people, thus not only exploiting the traditional skills of these sectors of society but also encouraging the maintenance of traditional knowledge. Harvesting systems for NTFP usually leave more benefits in the hands of local communities than is the case with industrial timber exploitation whose benefits accrue to the urban based entrepreneurs" (Sayer 1990).

The grant has been given to the project partners — the University of Papua New Guinea and the Melanesian Environment Foundation — by AIDAB Environment Initiative. During the course of 18 months the program has a number of objectives — to provide a comprehensive data base of NTFP available from the forests of Papua New

Non-Timber Forest Products offer a means to earn an income and maintain the resource



Logging industry: not the only alternative for landowners

Guinea; to review the current and potential extent of national and export trade in these products and to recommend strategies for the development of products and marketing outlets; to conduct consultations with a range of representative communities on forest use; to organise workshops to disseminate the project's findings and to produce a booklet appropriate for community and policy use.

The project will involve a number of stages, beginning with the training of NGOs and students who are involved with the collecting of information on the potential range and uses of NTFPs and questionnaires will be developed for use in community consultations. A number of communities, representing a range of environments and cultural systems within Papua New Guinea will be chosen and research will take place on two levels, economic and botanical. The "economic" being the exploration of markets for NTFPs and the "botanical" understanding just what is available within the forests. When the information has been collected workshops will be used to discuss the findings and to organise follow-on activities with communities, NGOs and government officials. The final booklet produced will appear in

both Tok Pisin and English.

Resource exploitation is a substantial part of the developing economies of countries like Papua New Guinea. Whilst people are concerned about the destruction of forests the situation will only be improved by offering economic alternatives. Obviously secondary processing as opposed to the export of raw timber is a necessary step but the potential and validity of manufacturing NTFP is only just being appreciated. According to a United Nations survey in 1980 the total value of world trade in medicinal plants was US\$550 million. The insect market is valued at US\$100 million a year and shiitake mushrooms have potential US\$28 million annual market. In 1987 Indonesia exported a total of US\$238 million worth of NTFP. Papua New Guinea has enormous potential to become involved in these markets with the export of fragrant barks (for example, massoy and cinnamon); copal gum; insects; rattan; nuts (galip and okan); orchids; medicinal plants; tannins; sandalwood; mushrooms; sago; betel nuts and fruits.

□● This article is based on ideas put forward in a proposal by Paul Chatterton to AIDAB

The French Connection

THE French Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New Caledonia and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Australia have produced a brief, practical guide to doing business with New Caledonia — a market that is undergoing rapid expansion. The French overseas territory is embarked on a major bid to attract new industry and business.

More than 163,000 sophisticated consumers in that territory now spend A\$2 billion annually, and there are some fine new opportunities for two-way trade with the rest of the Pacific, and with Europe.

The strengthening of its economy through improved trade and investment is meanwhile seen as a vital way of ensuring that New Caledonia will become more fully integrated into the region and its long-term dependence on France reduced. Recent liberalisation of New Caledonia's trade and investment policies should certainly help that.

I've just read the report of a 40-member Australian trade mission of investors, exporters and importers that recently returned from the territory convinced there were lots of positive things happening there. The mission, the largest from Australia for many years, was arranged by the two French chambers in association with Austrade, and its members included many people already doing business in the South Pacific but not familiar with New Caledonia's changed outlook.

Among the things that surprised them were the extent of the political evolution of the territory since the Matignon Accords, the high level of sophistication in Noumea, the genuine business potential in a variety of areas and the speed with which business can be done.

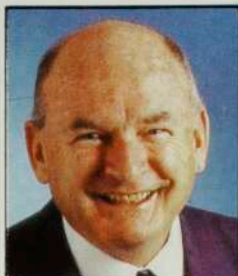
One member, John Alsop, director of the Melbourne firm of architects, Irwin Alsop Group, said, "The government is serious about making it easier to do business there, and that means the ability to do business more easily with France and with the Common Market."

Import restrictions on a number of products have been reduced or abolished, there are tax incentives and businesses can take advantage of new subsidies and other incentives to set up there as a springboard into Europe. Investment aids include up to 50 per cent of the cost of a feasibility study, up to 40 per cent of the cost of setting up a factory and up to 50 per cent of employees' social welfare costs. There are low cost loans available.

Nor does the financial support come only from New Caledonia. Because the Common Market wants to promote the development of the more outlying regions of its member countries, there are additional European Community financial packages available.

The EC will recognise a product as coming from New Caledonia if it has between 20 and 60 per cent of added value, depending on the product, put on it in New Caledonia. With such recognition there will be no restrictions on quantity or value of the goods and they will be free of customs duties into Europe, with its 340 million consumers.

TRADEWINDS



**BILL
McCABE**

It thus seems that business people who want to export to Europe might do well to first visit New Caledonia.

Now what of this practical guide to doing business there that I spoke of? The guide was prepared by the two chambers for the benefit of the mission members, but in fact the tips in it make a lot of sense for anybody doing business anywhere.

In choosing products for the New Caledonia market you have to remember that a manufactured article must be well made and durable, for consumers are demanding. The product's packaging is critical; even if the product itself is of the highest quality, damaged packaging or incomplete technical documentation may rule it out.

Orders must be carried out quickly and according to instructions with the order; delivery times in particular must be respected. There must be full and efficient after-sales service or the product's image could deteriorate rapidly. And there must be price competitiveness.

The guide comments, "All products that comply with these conditions can find an outlet. No sector is excluded. However, when making a first approach to the market it is always better to try with a product that does not yet exist in New Caledonia or brings in some quality and innovation, rather than set out in immediate competition with French or other foreign products already well established."

Among the mistakes to be avoided in approaching the New Caledonian market is lack of preparation. Have a clear idea of the objectives of your visit and know what you are selling or buying. Provide attractive catalogues, preferably in French. Provide reference lists and up-to-date prices and present samples if possible. Be patient and available. This type of preparation is expected by New Caledonians. Otherwise you risk having your professionalism questioned or your genuine interest in the market doubted.

It may take a couple of months to one or two years to establish the first solid business link with a New Caledonian partner. You will need to make regular business visits to ensure follow up, on average two or three times a year.

The chambers' guide adds that the companies that have the best chance of success in New Caledonia are those that already have export experience and fully understand the need for adaptation to market conditions and are prepared for medium to long-term investment.

If you want more advice, the address of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Caledonia is 15 rue de Verdun, BP M3 Noumea Cedex, phone (687) 27 25 51, fax (687) 27 81 14, and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Australia is at 350 George St, Sydney, phone (02) 2236146, fax (02) 2236706. Or contact me or one of the staff here in Sydney at the Forum's South Pacific Trade Commission office, phone (02) 2835933, fax (02) 2835948.

□

BOOKS

The Pacific Drug

By Ian Williams

KAVA does *not* kill, as some newspaper headlines have it. On the contrary it is a benign drug which is beneficial to society and the Pacific islands economy. These are the conclusions of *Kava, the Pacific Drug*, a book published this month by Yale University Press, written by three researchers who have looked at the chemistry, botany and anthropology of the Pacific's most distinctive product. Co-authors Vincent Lebot and Mark Lamont of the University of Hawai'i, and Lamont Lindstrom of the University of Arizona are no ivory tower academics; they all admit they themselves also carried out extensive first-hand consumer research of kava.

Perhaps their most interesting conclusion is that the cultivated kava plant began as a cutting from the wild species in Vanuatu, some 2500 to 3000 years ago. In the past, botanists saw cultivated kava, or *Piper Methysticum* and the wild variety, *Piper Wickmanii* as two separate species, of the pepper family, but the authors claim kava began as a cutting from the wild plant, and a hundred generations of Pacific farmers have since been selecting cuttings that gave roots strong in the chemical cocktail that gives the drink its effect.

During their travels around the ocean, it seems Pacific islanders were careful to take their cuttings with them, growing them wherever they settled.

Studying the chemical composition of the different wild and cultivated plants, they came to the conclusion that Vanuatu has so many different varieties of kava plants, and so many clearly traceable similarities between the cultivated and wild varieties, that Kava is almost certainly the Melanesian Republic's most distinctive contribution to the Pacific Way.

That conclusion is, they say, reinforced by the evidence of the words used for Kava in various Pacific languages. Far from dying out, the tradition is growing. In Vanuatu, alcohol sales are only 60 per cent of what they were at the time of independence as locals prefer kava to beer, wine and spirits. Vila now has many kava bars. "It's a big improvement over the older alcoholic, social atmosphere," Lamont Lindstrom comments.

Lindstrom told *PIM* he suspected it

The islands' national drink, kava, comes under scientific scrutiny and emerges as anything but the demon drink

was the absence of major mammalian plant-eaters in the islands which led the kava plant to concentrate its active chemicals in the roots and stump, in order to protect against the fungi and microbes in the soil. These chemicals, the "kavalactones" do have an anti-fungal effect — in addition to making people happy.

For the moment, kava is safe from artificial, synthesised competition. The drink seems to need all its six major chemical ingredients working together to have its effect on humans. The different varieties developed by growers mostly differ in the balance of substances, some of which hit the bloodstream very quickly, and others which, less soluble, take hours to cross the stomach wall. Hence the notorious Vanuatu variety *Tudei* that keeps the drinker in the air for two days.

Most of the kavalactones do not dissolve well in water — which is why the traditional method of chewing the root produces such good results. In Victorian days scientists theorised the saliva had a chemical effect, inducing fermentation in the kava bowl. However, "Saliva has no effect whatsoever on the active molecules in kava," Lindstrom told *PIM*. It is the mechanical effect of chewing which is so effective.

The resinous substances have to be extracted from the plant and then dispersed into tiny droplets in the water to form an emulsion that will cross the stomach wall into the bloodstream. It is almost disappointing to record that they discovered no evidence that the chewing by virgins, as mandated in many islands, produces any better effect than more experienced chews. And many commercial kava bars now use a meat-grinder which is not in the slightest bit romantic.

So what does kava do? According to the researchers it induces a form of narcosis, reduces pain, and acts as a local

anaesthetic; it relaxes the muscles and counters fungus growths. But drinkers use it despite the numbing effects on mouth and throat, aiming instead for what the book calls the "excellent psychopharmacological activity" of producing "emotional and muscular relaxation, stabilisation of the feelings and stimulation of the ability to think and act."

Researchers have suggested that, as well as its recreational use, it could have uses in countering schizophrenia, epilepsy and as a muscle relaxant. In the past it has been used in treatments of gonorrhea, and other infective agents. It has been suggested that it may have a role as a food preservative because of its anti-fungal effect.

In fact, it could even be an answer to overpopulation. Many islanders report that kava diminishes interest in sex. Asked about this aspect, Lindstrom speculated to *PIM* that in many islands it may have helped maintain the tradition of couples abstaining from sex until the child was weaned — several years in most cases.

It is this mix of properties which has led to pharmaceutical companies in France and Germany being major purchasers of kava from the region.

However, for anthropologists and sociologists, perhaps the most significant aspects of kava drinking has been its role in maintaining social structures. In many island societies, hierarchy is emphasised by the order in which the kava is drunk, while the drink itself tends to make people less aggressive and more amenable to reasoned discussion.

It is those traditional ritual aspects with their pre-Christian overtones which made the missionaries oppose Kava use, but the wheel has now turned. In some areas, the Roman Catholics have incorporated kava into their rituals, while Fijian Methodist missionaries to Australian Aborigines have tried to promote it



Kava ceremony

Talal Mehmood

as a substitute for alcohol abuse. From Australia came the horror stories about "killer kava", and there have been moves to ban its use there. These stories may owe more to the sensationalism of the Australian press than to sound medical research. The studies showed that Aborigines using Kava suffered from poor health giving rise to lurid headlines like "Can Kava Kill?" However the authors point out that in the countries where kava has been used for centuries, there have been no such findings, while the Aborigines in modern times have had a poor health record — and often have a history of over-use of tobacco and alcohol as well. "Some of them use kava mixed in a cocktail with alcohol, battery acid and other things," warned Lindstrom.

He and his colleagues point out that in the Pacific kava avoids the social problems, the violence and ill-health associated with the demon drink. The book quotes an old Hawaiian proverb — "The man who drinks 'awa is still a man, but the man who drinks liquor becomes a beast."

There is great export potential for kava, but while there is a great reservoir of traditional skills in growing and reparation for consumption, quality

control is a problem. Commercial sellers are now accused of diluting the product, and the best kava is still made from fresh rootstock. So the Vanuatu government has been toying with the idea of introducing freeze-drying processes that would preserve the freshness of the product. The authors suggest that the active contents of the leaves, too low to exploit by traditional methods, could be extracted through distillation.

The plant is ideally suited both for the climate and the economy of the South Pacific. For example, the authors estimate that Fiji's kava crop was worth almost \$40 million in 1985, so it is already a major economic factor in the economy. Around the globe, people pay untold amounts for mild stimulants like tea, coffee and colas. What the overstressed world really needs is a mild relaxant like kava which is less addictive than any of them. As a high value crop, not labour intensive, it can be grown in conjunction with other food plants so that, unlike most cash crops, it need not displace local food production. Apart from pharmaceutical exports to Europe, most exports now are to Pacific communities in places like the West Coast of America. But the fact that the US

government allows it to be imported suggests that there is a huge potential market among stressed Americans, sold as they are on health foods like ginseng. "It's a great drug after all, very benign," comments Lindstrom. "It has a subtle effect, producing a feeling of peacefulness and well-being. I'd hate to have it blown up as the 'new cocaine' or anything silly like that." But what about the taste — even devoted kava drinkers have hardly been flattering about the flavour? Lindstrom points out that the world is full of drinks whose taste is acquired — who would drink coffee or beer if their effect had not led people to try them again after the first sips?

In fact, the authors find little but good to say about kava and its use. However they do warn that most of these rituals exclude women from consumption of kava and so that could help exclude women from the political and decision making processes. In these days of pressure for women's equality, it remains to be seen how long such exclusion can be tolerated.

□ **Kava — the Pacific Drug**, 255 pages, Yale University Press, \$45 by Vincent Lebot, Mark Merlin, and Lamont Lindstrom.

Reefs in crisis

IF YOU live in the Pacific islands chances are that you live near a coral reef in crisis.

Internationally recognised coral biologist, Dr John Veron, from the Australian Institute of Marine Science in Townsville estimates 70 per cent of the reefs in the Indian and Pacific Oceans have been degraded in some way.

Dr Leon Zann, a specialist in Pacific island reefs says, "We have seen the collapse of reef ecosystems near virtually all major urbanised areas" in the islands.

Reefs near Pacific island capitals such as Suva, Nuku'alofa, Apia, Tarawa, Port Vila and Pago Pago are, according to Dr Zann, suffering "grave ecological problems".

That does not mean the Pacific islands do not have large areas of beautiful and intact reef. They do — around the myriad of islands away from the main centres. The problem is that damage near heavily populated areas is dramatic and in certain patches, as Dr Zann points out, so severe that it has led to the collapse of the entire ecosystem.

The problems are caused simply by too many people.

In Suva, for instance, in an area which used to support around 1000 people there are now 120,000 with the reef just two kilometres offshore.

The reefs' difficulties began as much as a century ago.

On Western Samoa's heavily populated Upolu Island, for instance, large scale clearing of coastal forest for copra plantations led to erosion and heavy siltation as topsoil clogged the reefs and coastal streams.

As the population grew so did the human and animal waste and the amount of nitrogen and phosphates from fertilisers leaching around the reefs.

In Western Samoa overfishing has led to the extinction of two species of giant clam. In Fiji and Tonga the story is the same.

Local breeding populations of turtles have been so badly affected that turtles caught in many island countries are migrants from breeding populations in Australia or French Polynesia.

In American Samoa industry and a leaking World War II wreck carrying a dangerous cargo, have pushed lead and cadmium levels so high that the taking of fish from Pago harbour and surrounding areas has been banned.

To top it all the damaging crown of thorns starfish has devastated many reefs which, when subject to other stresses such as pollution, find it difficult to regenerate.

Dealing with these problems requires long term solutions — sewage treatment or disposal on land, the relocation of rubbish dumps, controls on industrial and agricultural waste and on silt producing clearing or construction, as well as curbs on population growth and migration to the cities.

None of the solutions are easy; if they are not prohibitively expensive they are politically difficult.

Many governments are only too aware their rubbish

AUSTRALIA



JEMIMA GARRETT

dumps, created in mangrove swamps to keep them away from areas people use, are in a highly sensitive spot; one which is used as breeding ground for fish and other marine species and from which it is impossible to prevent leaching for toxins into the marine environment.

With land having so much cultural importance in the Pacific, getting permission for new dump sites is not easy.

Human waste is perhaps the biggest problem of all. After nine years working in the Pacific, Dr Zann, now a senior scientist with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, says his biggest environmental fear is not for the reefs themselves but for the health of the humans living around them.

Recently, water borne human waste has caused outbreaks of cholera and typhus in a number of island nations as well as spreading hepatitis. To treat the waste to a level which would kill disease causing agents is well beyond island budgets.

The Pacific islands are not the only ones to be wrestling with water pollution problems.

Until just a few years ago, in Sydney, the waste of one million used to pour out into the water near its famous city beaches. It was not until brown scum became a regular feature on our coast that the government spent the hundreds of millions of dollars necessary just to pump the effluent further out to sea.

Amid all the gloom there are some hopeful signs.

Australia has just embarked on an ambitious exercise which will provide an inventory of its entire marine environment and form the basis for a strategy to protect it into the next century.

The first step, a State of the Marine Environment report, will describe every marine environment in detail setting out each one's environmental assets and problems as well as the sort of use people want to make of the area.

Dr Zann is co-ordinating the project. He says he hopes it will lead to a network of multi-use marine protected areas like the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In the islands, too, governments are aware of the problems facing reefs. The Apia-based South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) is putting a high priority on integrated Coastal Zone Management which tries to deal with the multiplicity of problems which are combining to stress urban reefs. Essentially it aims to make sure planning decisions by every government department take account of environmental consequences and to provide the basic information necessary to know what those consequences might be.

At the South Pacific Commission the under-funded inshore fisheries program is doing its best to stop overfishing.

Probably the most hopeful sign is the increasing willingness of agencies and governments to involve local landowners in solutions; solutions which, as a result, often have the spin-off of creating jobs which can slow the drift to the cities as well as provide a welcome income to locals. □

VIOLENCE

Tackling perpetrators

By Christine Hatcher

ON Rarotonga, in the Cook Islands, reports of domestic violence have increased to an alarming average of 10 per week, police inspector Piho Rua recently told a Family and Law seminar. Assuming the 10 reports are on the 4228 women between the ages of 14-44 (Census 1991) and there are no repeat reports, this means that, annually, 12 per cent of those women on Rarotonga are subject to reported violence. Many more incidents, go unreported.

Awareness of this, combined with reported and unreported rape numbers, led to the opening of the women's crisis centre, Punanga Tauturu, in May 1991, followed by Te Akapuanga, a men's anti-violence group, in June, this year.

As a Pacific "first" the men's group took up the cause after it became apparent that repeat attacks occurred after women obtained help from the centre.

Dr Takiora Ingram, chairperson of Punanga Tauturu and then president of the Cook Islands Business & Professional Women's Association (CIB&PWA), the initiating force behind the two centres, said at the time, "It was pointless patching up the survivors if the perpetrators of the violence did not look at the cause of their anger and also worked towards change."

Director of Clinical Services and chairperson of Te Akapuanga, Dr Teariki Tamarua, says, "We took up their invitation, held a meeting with the women's centre and decided to form our own men's group to get to the core issues." He says he was concerned, not only as an individual, but also as a medical doctor, at the increasing number of victims requiring hospitalisation.

Although recent figures are not available, public hospital records say 316 survivors of rape or domestic violence were hospitalised on Rarotonga between January 1989 and August 1991. Almost half of the 39 prison inmates last year, were serving terms for sexually related offences or assault. On an island with a population of 10,000 this was significant, according to hospital gynaecologist, Dr Michael Runge. He said, at the CIB&PWA Rape & Violence Forum held two years ago he believed only a quarter of incidents were reported. Compared to other countries, he said, figures were high.

Presently, two cases of incest on teenage daughters, one of whom is

pregnant for the second time by her father, and a 36-year-old charged with committing an indecent act on a one-year-old, await the court's decision.

Some victims leave jobs, incapable of working, due to injuries inflicted during domestic incidents. Others are fired because of time lost due to those injuries. Earlier this year, one woman, required extensive surgery to repair splintered wrist bones when she tried to protect herself from an iron-stick wielding husband.

The cost to individual businesses and the country in terms of police work and hospitalisation is enormous. But the cost to individual families, especially children witnessing these incidents, who learn by example and tend to repeat the patterns, is incalculable.

The recent rapid changes in society, combined with social and economic pressure, changing family values, the influence of television and videos can manifest in a difficulty to cope and subsequent "relief" found in over consumption of alcohol escalates the problem, Dr Tamarua explains. However, the fact remains, "most women have been, or are, victims of domestic violence. Fear of violence is a daily reality and it appears some people consider a certain level of violence to be acceptable and normal."

"Although domestic violence and rape have been a serious problem in the Cook Islands for many years, the code of silence persists. It is rarely talked about in public. Victims have come to accept it as a family affair."

Dr Tamarua says it is a complex issue. But what is changing, he says, is that violence is becoming less acceptable, that the veil of *akama* (family shame) is slowly being lifted and people are coming forward, looking outside the family for help.

"There are two reasons violence is still with us. One, as a form of disciplining either the family or the wife; two, some still believe there is a place for hitting a person given certain circumstances."

Dr Ingram says, "Myths such as a bikini-clad woman raising the hormone level of men to such an extent that they can't help themselves but commit rape, have to be dispelled. Women don't rape men wearing bathing trunks. These are ridiculous double standards! Rape — both men and women need to understand — is not sexual lust but a crime of violence. Just because I carry a wallet in my bag, does not mean I am asking to be robbed!"



Christine Hatcher

Dr Ingram: 'most women victims of domestic violence'

Dr Tamarua, however, is not a 100 per cent convinced and says women also must play their part.

Funding of NZ\$44,000 from the Canada Foundation for the men's group and NZ\$29,000 from the Asia Foundation to finance the women's centre into its second year will allow awareness creating and education. Counselling and counsellor training will run hand-in-hand with these objectives. Both centres employ full time co-ordinators, have trained volunteers on-call 24 hours a day.

Both Ingram and Tamarua agree, much work lies ahead, and all beginnings are hard. The fact that 80 women were counselled between May and December, with the October men's centre meeting recording 20 cases seen, is encouraging.

But Dr Ingram says, "This is merely the tip of the iceberg." As Otahuhu District Judge, New Zealander, Heather Simpson, said as special guest speaker at that Family and Law seminar, "A change of attitude is needed. Abuse diminishes a person, leaves them threatened and unable to achieve their potential. Education is of prime importance but the underlying issue is a spiritual crisis. Violence resulting from powerlessness is engendered by a society that does not value people."

The aim of Punanga Tauturu and Te Akapuanga is to change these attitudes and improve the lot of society as a whole, to make a better future for evolving generations.

□

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ARCHITECTURE

Realising the potential

By Liz Thompson

RAPID development in the Pacific Island nations has seen the old traditional environments of the indigenous people replaced, wholesale, by Western models of building and townscape. Although most countries have policies to ensure the development of their natural environments is consonant with local cultural values, there have been no corresponding policies towards the built environment — partly because of an absence of models for such development. One firm is working towards the creation of such models.

David Week is director of Pacific Architecture, a firm based in Sydney but with projects in many parts of the Pacific. "Buildings," he says, "are the biggest, and in many ways the most important artefacts a culture produces. If you surround people 100 per cent with the artefacts of a foreign culture, within one generation they'll lose their own. And, for Pacific countries, buildings are artefacts they can control. They're never going to make their own cars, or stereo systems, or refrigerators. But they can produce their own buildings."

Week has been working for 15 years on models of planning and architecture which fuse the best of local culture with modern management and technology. This work is now bearing fruit. For the second time in three years, a project by Week's firm has won the annual Papua New Guinea Institute of Architects/James Hardie Housing Award. The first time was in 1990, for its Provincial Government Staff Housing Project on the island of Bougainville; then again in 1992 for a group of four government houses in Palimal, East New Britain.

'Buildings are the biggest, and in many ways, the most important artefacts a culture produces'

1991 also saw an international jury select Pacific Architecture's scheme for a Kanak cultural centre for a short-list of three, from an original 170 contenders. And the company has now been invited to work farther afield, with a large-scale, low-cost housing project based on an analysis of South Indian culture now under construction in Vellore, near Madras.

These projects illustrate PA's core philosophy — to evolve and improve the local building culture, rather than replace it with some supposedly superior import. Russell Hall, the jury chairman on the 1990 award, stated the 18 houses built for the North Solomons Provincial government had "successfully achieved its stated aims in a technically competent and beautiful manner. It reflected the culture and climate in which it exists and because of this, its acceptance is assured. Such an approach will produce a sympathetic and appropriate architecture for Papua New Guinea."

Week feels that while there are often laws encouraging local control of the business and land and an awareness of the importance of cultural traditions, this awareness is not carried through into

policies on housing and towns. He sees two reasons for this. The first is that the built environment is a normal part of day-to-day life, that the people are not conscious of it and its tremendous effect on them. The second is that, historically, people have only been presented with two, supposedly mutually exclusive options — either the purely traditional architecture, or imported Western architecture.

Traditional buildings are not permanent, they don't have modern conveniences like electricity, water, or indoor toilets, they're not insect proof, banks won't lend on them, and building regulations often prohibit. So they turn to "modern" buildings — this often means hot, ugly, and expensive fibro boxes.

Week is working to define and establish a middle ground — permanent buildings with modern comforts and amenities, but thoroughly grounded in the local culture, in their materials, workmanship, and design. The result is synthesis — or as Week calls it, a "fusion" — of the best of the traditional and the modern.

The detailed process of working out such a fusion has been developed primarily through a long series of projects in Papua New Guinea. This process involves looking both at traditional architecture and at what people are doing in new, non-traditional settlements — re-settlement schemes, villages, informal urban settlements — where people are designing and building for themselves. This sort of study reveals indigenous architectural and settlement patterns. Some are traditional, some are new.

The process takes these patterns, and studies how they have evolved around the local economy, and way of life,



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climate, and history. Then the patterns are translated into a form in which they can be used into contemporary buildings.

"We also look," says Week, "at the local materials and construction — what people know how to do, what materials are available locally, how they have been used in the past, and how these past practices can be changed to make them relevant today."

This analysis is used to develop process for using local materials in new buildings, which involved low capital investment, but created long-lasting, good-looking building products.

But this process of "localising" architecture and construction, also extends to planning. Week asks questions such as — "How do people like to live together in groups?"

How much road do you need in a place where only 10 per cent of people have cars?

What's the nicest way to move from building to building in the tropical environment?

What about how the beautiful formal order of the old villages could be made relevant today."

These new town planning patterns have been implemented in Pacific Architecture's larger housing and school projects.

Week thinks this approach can be broadly applied throughout the Pacific and other countries. Governments, he believes, have significant a role to play. They fund and specify many of the buildings built.

Government construction — in the form of public buildings, schools, and housing — represents a substantial proportion of the total investment in the built environment. "But housing commissions and works departments, which see buildings in mechanistic terms of "shelter" and "services", scatter boxes on the landscape.

Public buildings are designed without any over-arching built environment policy." And so this opportunity is missed.

Town planning itself is subject to legal controls, and it is quite feasible for governments to develop rules which govern the way buildings shape the public areas of a town.

With more directed, culturally-grounded urban policy, Pacific island governments could nurture entirely new and exciting forms of local townscapes.



Peter Dunckelmann

Thatch veneer, Honlara: so far an unexploited potential

Education is another important area of government influence. The future of the built environment is in the hands of the young local architects and planners being trained today.

"Unfortunately," says Week, "most education programs accept uncritically, conventional western planning and architectural models." He proposes that governments can have a profound effect by insisting on a more open, culturally aware approach.

Such policy moves are not just a matter of social and cultural welfare. The economy of many Pacific countries is highly dependent on tourism, and the newly emerging forms of tourism — ecotourism, cultural tourism, educational tourism — all depend on offering a unique environmental experience, built as well as natural.

Built environment policy should therefore be seen as an essential aspect of strategic national and national planning.

The success of Pacific Architecture's work in Papua New Guinea shows not only that their approach is possible, but

that it is successful. Their process is not about recreating the past, but about creating something entirely new — pulling together practices both past and present, to create a local architecture.

The built environment of the Pacific has been despoiled by the unconsidered importation and application of foreign architectural and planning culture, without thought for the value of the existing. The result weakens local culture and history. It creates built environments ill-fitted to people's lives, their needs or way of relating to space. And it fails to nurture the local economy.

This is a situation which Week believes can be turned around. Pacific governments bring to the built environment the same vision and concern for their people they have to the economy, and the natural environment. "There's no reason," says Week, "why every square metre of the built environment can't be built in such a way that it enhances the local identity and way of life of the people who are from there, and thus also offers a unique and valuable experience for those of us who are not from there." □

ARCHITECTURE

Timber and Thatch

By Peter Dunckelmann

WHEN visiting the South-Seas, one perceives similar impressions as those depicted in holiday catalogues — sun-drenched villages perched on the rim of the Pacific; white sand beaches fringed with pandanus trees and coconut palms. These villages reveal inspiring examples of traditional skills and knowledge combined with a sense of practical simplicity.

Materials, designs and implementations vary from bush, to highlands and to man-made islands in Malaita's remote Lau Lagoon in the Solomon Islands, which have been constructed on sand bars or exposed stretches of reef with coral boulders taken from the reef.

The construction of homes, as well as of working and store huts, is a matter for the families concerned. The head of the family would erect an additional house for his adolescent, still unmarried sons and would be helped in the task by them and close relatives.

At first sight the dwelling and sleeping houses look flimsy; drafty huts rattled by the wind. Their ground surface is relatively small, measuring, for example, approximately 5mx7m or smaller. They consist of a roof, resting on four or six posts, and a suspended floor, about three to four metres above sea level. Some houses have walls made from timber planks. Others are fitted with mats made from the mid-ribs of coconut fronds, or



Peter Dunckelmann

Rustic beauty: of timber and thatch

from pandanus leaves, which are woven into special pieces for this purpose.

The posts and beams are commonly made from pandanus trunks from which the cork-like outer layer has been removed. The main posts frequently rest on rocks or coral limestone which are buried in the ground. The roof thatch is produced from pandanus leaves, that gives the house a surprisingly cool ambiance.

All parts of the framework of houses were usually bound together with lashings of coconut fibre cord. It's still applied in most villages and nails are used only by those who are able to afford them.

On the mainland, on the larger islands, a few houses in the bush settlements beyond the ordinary villages are reminiscent of the old type of dwelling and sleeping house. The roofs of these houses extend down almost to ground level. Yet the present day dwelling and sleeping houses are a recent development and evocative of bungalows built by the more affluent households.

Since the beginning of European influence with the onset of the new religion, Christianity, traditional decorations of houses have become almost obsolete.

The twentieth century is keeping pace in the South Seas and with increasing financial prosperity people embrace materials like fibre board, concrete, bricks and corrugated iron to build spacious, modern dwellings. To reinstate the old skills of building and decorating, samples of traditional houses were constructed in the compound of the Solomon Islands National Museum in the capital Honiara. The rustic beauty of these timber and thatch houses co-exists in stark contrast to a modern age skyscraper across the road.

□



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The lid has been lifted

OH DEAR! The year was less than a month old and New Zealand was yet again locked in a bitter racial debate. eiphis time it was Police Minister John Banks who sparked it off with what even for him was a pretty silly comment that New Zealand would be one of the safest places in the world if it wasn't for Maori criminals. (The remark stemmed from publication of an international survey claiming New Zealand had the highest crime rate per head of population in the industrialised world.)

Banks cited the fact that Maori accounted for 12 per cent of the population but nearly half of all those in prison. This is an undeniable statistic, but his remark that all would be well "if you took the Maori criminal out of the equation" smacked to many of blatant racial prejudice.

Maori offending, he said, was intolerable and unacceptable. "Surely all offending is intolerable ... all offending is unacceptable, regardless of the ethnicity of the offender," responded the newly-appointed Race Relations Conciliator John Clarke, who was immediately deluged with complaints about Banks' remarks.

It was the second time in three months that a Cabinet minister had touched New Zealand's super-sensitive racial nerve. Last November, Social Welfare Minister Jenny Shipley caused a furore with comments about the disproportionate number of child abuse cases in the Maori and Pacific island populations.

I wrote about that in one of these columns at the time, but I make no apology for returning to the subject, for racial differences and racial harmony (or disharmony) unquestionably comprise one of the most burning issues this country has to face.

It has for years refused to face it, choosing, as I noted then, to suppress the debate in the hope that the issue will go away or at least that Maori will continue meekly to accept subservience in a *pakeha*-dominated society.

The Maori renaissance of the last few years, and the growing recognition among thinking *pakeha* that it is a situation that simply cannot last, makes that a futile hope.

As the former race Relations Conciliator, Chris Laidlaw, who has just been elected to Parliament for the opposition Labour Party, wrote in a recent *Metro* magazine article — "The truth is, the lid has been lifted rather suddenly from a long-simmering pressure cooker, and the steam is there for all to see and the heat for all to feel."

Of Maori-*Pakeha* relations, he said, "It is now abundantly clear that the relationship has been severely distorted by history and that as a result the dangerous descent of Maori into a permanent underclass has threatened to become unstoppable unless there is some pretty bold political and social surgery."

His Parliamentary leader, Mike Moore, elaborated on what he called "the explosive cocktail of race and ethnic differences" in a speech in which he said New Zealand had a long way to go before it could call itself a nation of equals.

WELLINGTON



DAVID
BARBER

He cited, among other indicators, that —

- Maori are three times as likely as non-Maori to be unemployed.
- Almost 40 per cent of Maori school-leavers have no formal qualifications, against 12 per cent of non-Maori.
- The Maori cot death rate is almost double that of non-Maori.
- Maori suffer far higher rates of cancer, heart disease and asthma.

New Zealand's problem does not end with the Maori, of course. The Pacific island population is no less disadvantaged and under-privileged. Growing numbers of Asian immigrants are imposing their own pressures — both on the unacknowledged but nevertheless real *pakeha* sense of racial superiority — and on Maori and islanders' fears about their status and job prospects.

Successive governments have tried to persuade white New Zealanders that they not only live in a Pacific country but their destiny lies with Asia. They remain to be convinced, and if Maori and Pacific island people are not sure about their place in 21st Century New Zealand, neither are *pakeha*, who are running scared that talk of lifting non-European living standards and status means discrimination against them.

Laidlaw, who has been appointed Labour's spokesman on ethnic affairs, told me he had observed that Pacific island leaders were particularly nervous about where they fitted in, and particularly what continuing negotiation of Maori claims under the Treaty of Waitangi would mean to them.

He said they were very divided. Some saw themselves as "all Polynesian and part of the Maori team", confident that whatever Maori gained would rub off on their communities. Others had a clear understanding that they are not and must find their own way. Many, particularly newer immigrants, identified with the existing power structure and adopted a policy of keeping their heads down, he said.

This replicated a century-old Maori philosophy of keeping quiet and not rocking the boat, Laidlaw said. As a result, Maori felt powerless to do anything about things such as their crime rate.

The real issue, as Banks conceded, is that it is a socio-economic problem. In his Northland constituency, 60 per cent of young Maori are on welfare benefits, so it is little wonder that Maori account for seven out of 10 crimes committed in the district.

The opposition pointed out that his government must bear the responsibility for that.

Laidlaw said some good may come out of focussing on the problem. Lifting the lid on that pressure cooker was essential to the country's future, he said.

"Meanwhile, racism is like a noxious weed. It doesn't stop. It gets more entrenched if you leave it alone. And you can't legislate for tolerance — education is what it's all about."

□



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FOCUS

SUVA IN A DAY

By Kim Taylor

AFTER a number of visits, coming back into Suva always creates an air of excitement. As we brought our sailing home into the bustling harbour, the unmistakable aroma of the city enveloped us.

On this visit a friend was with us, new to the town, and on a tight schedule. How could we possibly squeeze it all into tomorrow?

We could at least try, and so made an early start at the fish market beside Nobukalou Creek. A colourful throng vied to purchase the best of the equally kaleidoscopic seafood, from tuna to turtle, sea urchin to octopus. Everyone seemed oblivious to the large notices along the quay advising the sale of fish was illegal. Even the Suva policeman, smart in blue shirt, red cummerbund and white *sulu* takes not a care.

It's a relaxed sort of place.

A block to the east a large dingy building attempts to contain the vibrant fruit and vegetable market. If it grows, you'll find it here. The root crop staples of the Pacific diet; taro, cassava, and yams tumble out of the doorways.

We had fun sampling many of the fruit items we had not seen before.

Admittedly, some are now on the "not to be repeated" list, particularly as others, such as succulent papaya and sweet pineapple, are readily available.

Fiji may be "third world" in money terms, however, it's definitely "first world" when it comes to food — a much more digestible commodity.

For distilled essence of Fiji, we went upstairs. With closed eyes, we could be nowhere else in the world. The warm aroma of spices, introduced by Fijians of Indian origin, mingle with the earthy *yaqona* (kava) grown largely by the indigenous rural communities. The pounded roots of this relative of the

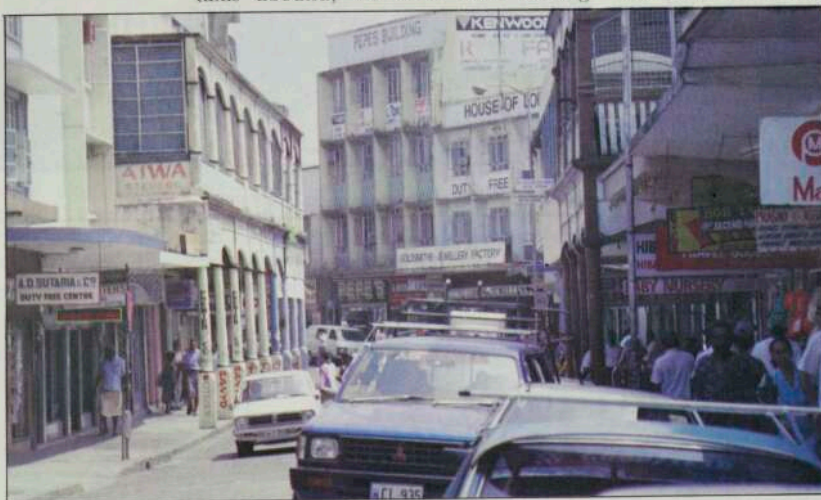
pepper plant, infused with water, produce the national drink of all Fijians. We had acquired a taste for it in the outer islands and shared a bowl at the back of the market on the way out.

Rain is not unknown in Suva, so we sought to minimise any inconvenience by dealing with the more outdoor parts of the trip before the possibility of an afternoon shower. With more time we should have taken one of the colourful, if aged, buses but, as reasonably priced taxis abound, we were soon rattling

We liked the frank admissions made on the subject of the making of *masi* (barkcloth) in the next display. In lieu of the vegetable gums the not-so-traditional "superglue" is now used to laminate the thinly beaten bark. Our opinions differed, but I thought the wedding dress was particularly elegant.

A turtle pool, garden walk and a rare iguana, led to jolly septuagenarian, Jervais, who revelled in some international banter whilst showing us some of the native and introduced species of food and cash crops.

No Fijian history would be complete without reference to cannibalism, the missionary influence and politics and this was covered in an absorbing display. Ask Jervais about his ancestors. It would have been easy to spend the morning here, but we needed to move on. The centre's traditional *bures* and temple provide the appropriate starting



Cumming Street: variety and ambience

point for an architectural overview, but through the industrial environs and past a grim-looking Suva Jail.

Our destination was Orchid Island, a commercially run Fijian cultural centre, and I still feel a little guilty that this was preferred, by the narrowest of margins, over the excellent Suva Museum.

A stop at the cemetery in Walu Bay is best left until the return as we wanted to reach our destination before the tour coaches arrived. Mission accomplished, the guided part of the visit, starting with a reconstruction of a traditional Fijian temple was a much more personal affair. It may seem a little hurried for some tastes but there was plenty of time to backtrack later.

A chief's house was next and some aspects of social custom and the usage of the displayed artefacts were explained. The wooden pillow looks a little agonising but, if you need to keep a chief's elaborate hairstyle in place, it is perhaps a small discomfort.

Back in town, the huge edifices of Burns Philp, opposite the market, and Morris Hedstrom, on Nabukalou Creek, reflect the trade influence of these emporia on the whole of the South Pacific.

We stayed in the taxi through the city centre, past Sukuna Park and up MacArthur Street, for a quick view at colonial suburbia and its churches.

Coming down Thurston Street, the increasing number of well-built Fijians in light shirts, dark *sulus* and leather sandals (*de rigueur* for the civil service) indicated we had reached the Government Buildings. The brooding monolith could have been built by no other nation than the British.

FOCUS

Just along Queen Elizabeth Drive, the Grand Pacific Hotel sentried by Royal Palms, reminded us of the apogee of the British colonial years. Government House, a short way further on, was the hub around which the rest of the region revolved. Set in manicured gardens, and the residence of the President of Fiji, independent since 1970, it commands a view over the harbour.

In complete contrast, below its aloof gaze, we saw women scouring the reef for molluscs and a man spearing fish much as they have for generations previously.

Taking the road up left past the bedrock institution of the Pacific Theological College and Suva Grammar School we found the newly opened parliament complex. Entering on foot by the back entrance, we had reached the doorway to the senate chamber before a polite security aide invited us to have a word with his boss.

Oops. Slightly concerned, and nervously chatty, we found the chief happy to see us and provide us with a guide to take us around. Relieved, we were soon on Sammy's *sulu* tails absorbed by his information. Designed by a Fijian architect and featuring only indigenous timbers and decorative work, the impressive

complex contains the most up-to-date technologies, unobtrusively, in a classic open style.

We took it as an optimistic sign that this new home for government should be finished within five years of two coups

which had made any debating chamber somewhat irrelevant. A further irony, perhaps, that the leader of the coups is the first prime minister to hold office within its walls but a sign, no doubt, that political developments are fast moving.



Suva Market: vegetables and parasols

Kim Taylor



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Which is also what we needed to be. We were soon amongst the authentic wood carvings, *masi*, pandanus mats and basket work on show at the Government Handicraft Centre in Ratu Sukuna House.

It's true that items may be cheaper by hard bargaining at the Handicraft Market behind the Post Office, but many there have little to do with Fiji.

Our guest chose a kava bowl (*tanoa*) which for many is the most representative of Fiji. The more luggage conscious may settle for a war club, oil dish or the ubiquitous, if gruesome, brainforks.

Other than particular souvenirs of Fiji, the very wide range of goods available are usually at reasonable prices. We bought brightly printed cotton fabrics, which are widely available, and stamps and first-day covers at the Philatelic Bureau in the GPO building.

Electrical goods, cameras etc. may not be that much cheaper than at home so if anything particular in this line is intended a little research may be wise.

Whether or not any particular purchase is in mind, a walk along the commercial Cumming or Marks streets is well worth it if only to appreciate the variety and absorb the ambience.

We had reached tea time, which would have seen us back to the "Grand Pacific", had it been open. There being no equal, we missed tea to spend more time, window-shopping and people-watching, downtown.

We had arranged to be in Suva for the Hibiscus Festival and tonight was "Fiji Night". So it was back to our base at the Royal Suva Yacht Club for a shower, quick change and a cool beer. We headed back to town and joined the throng bound for Albert Park.

Around it's perimeter all manner of foods were being cooked, extolled and served. We feasted on the hoof. In one corner carousels and ferris wheels spun to their passengers' delighted shrieks. Underneath the sports' grandstands, a small stage, too far from the seated audience, was poorly lit.

Several Fijian folk groups, consisting mainly of older folk, sang their specialties, often accompanied by some modest dancing.

All around the Park a cacophony of other noises competed for attention. The performing groups sat in tight circles facing inwards. Most of the time this introspective culmination of thousands of years of oral tradition was drowned out

by a showman's booth. At least four times further away from us than the stage, its sound system dominated the Park.

Ratu Sukuna, Fiji's most respected soldier and statesman, atop his pedestal not a hundred yards away gazed fixedly out to sea. He had been out-flanked.

To his left, the great "octopus" of commercialism, which he feared would overwhelm his people, was at hand. In general terms, however, he need to have been so pessimistic.

Modern cosmopolitan Suva is no stranger to change. Adapting successfully, its diversity is its main attraction to Fijians, of all ethnic backgrounds, and foreigners alike.

Many were now heading for the clubs and bars which provide the pulsing night-life. We were exhausted and decided to give that a miss. We had packed quite enough into our day already.

As I tumbled into bed I remembered there used to be a road sign, on the Queen's Road at Walu Bay, which read "Suva invites you to return".

It was gone this year, I wonder why.

Perhaps for others, as well as ourselves, the invite is no longer necessary.

We'll be back soon. □

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THE TAIWAN EXPERIENCE

FOR more than 40 years the Republic of China on Taiwan has enjoyed healthy economic growth and stability. This growth, however, did not happen by chance. It was part of a series of plans and programs initiated by the government to stimulate economic activity. The government introduced a land reform program in the 1950s, adopted an export-oriented policy in the 1960s, stepped up the production of intermediates, known as backward integration, launched major infrastuctural development projects in the 1970s, and pressed forward with economic restructuring and modernisation in more recent years. These policies have transformed the Republic of China on Taiwan from an agricultural backwater into a newly industrialised country. This record of economic achievement has come to be known and admired the world over as the "Taiwan Experience".

Pacific island countries perhaps have a lesson to learn from the Taiwan experience. Like Pacific countries, Taiwan has a relatively small land mass and few resources. But through sheer determination and well-formulated economic policies, it has managed to overcome these shortcomings to become the 14th largest trading country in the world.

Although only one-quarter of the

land, mostly along the west coast, is arable. The rest is rugged terrain with a spine-like ridge of steep mountains running along the eastern coast. Fortunately, the sub-tropical climate permits year-round farming and multi-cropping of a wide variety of crops including rice, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables. However, large quantities of soybean, corn and wheat are imported.

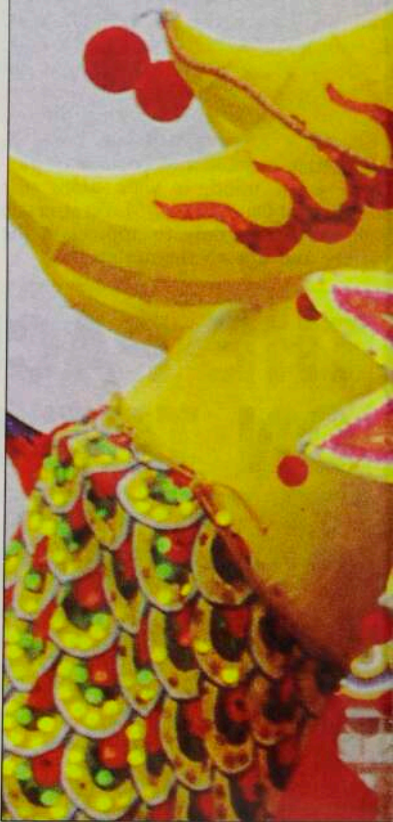
Although Taiwan does have deposits of coal, limestone, marble and dolo-

mite, and some natural gas has been discovered, it is not rich in minerals. More than 90 per cent of its energy requirement are met by imports.

While about two-thirds of the land is forested, forest resources are highly limited because of poor accessibility, inferior quality and understocking.

Among factors which have made Taiwan's success possible are a large skilled workforce, economic policies

The



Dragon's Dream



committed to growth and development and political stability. Taiwan had, during its initial phases of growth, managed to keep labour costs low allowing it to find a niche for itself in the low-end markets of the world.

Taiwan's rapid rise to an industrialised centre is also because it was a base for international companies to set-up factories, allowing it to gain the knowledge and technology required to later branch out on its own and develop its own brand

names. Today, Taiwan is at a major cross-road of industrialisation. As it becomes more industrialised and standards of living and wages rise, it can no longer compete as a producer of low-cost goods. Enter the "quality revolution" — a campaign to re-launch "Made in Taiwan" products into the world market as high quality alternatives to existing brand names.



Major trade exhibitions featuring Taiwan products help promote the "high quality" image internationally.





THE TAIWAN EXPERIENCE

The economic miracle

IN the four decades from 1952 onward, the economy grew at an average annual rate of 8.8 per cent. Less than US\$100 at the close of World War II, per capita gross national product (GNP) in Taiwan by 1992 had risen to

US\$10,000. The economic progress during this period has been nothing short of remarkable.

Taiwan has a land area of only 36,000 square kilometres. It has very few natural resources.

The major resource that Taiwan does have is manpower. At the end of 1991, population stood at 20.6 million, a density of 571 people per square kilometre — making Taiwan one of the

most densely populated areas in the world. To develop the potential of Taiwan's human resources, the government has given special emphasis to education. Education for the first to the ninth is now universal, and educational and training programs are aimed at meeting economic needs.

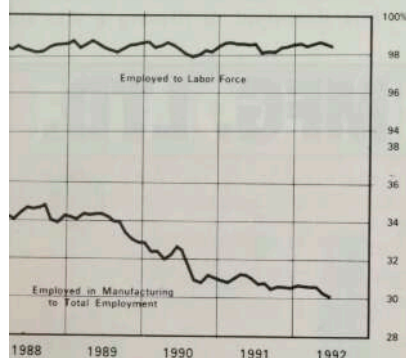
The first four year plan in 1953 sparked the economic growth that Taiwan has sustained.

Gross national product (GNP) in

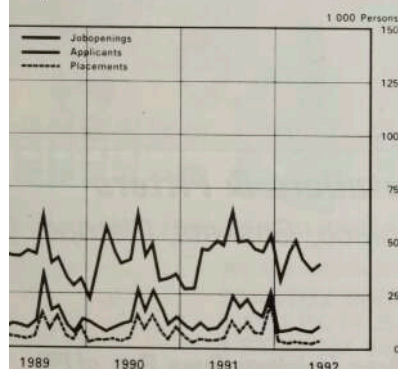
Employment trends

AT the end of June 1992, employment rate in Taiwan was 98.45 per cent, down by 0.17 per cent from the 98.62 per cent of March 1992.

In recent years the government has established service centres all over Taiwan to adjust man-power supply and demand. According to their figures, applicants totalled 30,429 and job-openings numbered 119,394 in the



second quarter of 1992. Demand for workers was almost four times greater than job-seekers.



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THE TAIWAN EXPERIENCE

real terms grew at an average annual rate of 8.2 per cent during the 1950s, 9.1 per cent in the 60s, and 10.2 per cent in the 70s. Economic growth slowed at the start of the 80s, as the world experienced a recession. In the 80s, however, Taiwan's economy advanced at an annual average rate of 8.2 per cent. In 1991 GNP grew to reach US\$180.3 billion.

Annual per capita GNP grew 4.7 per cent in the 50s, 6.2 per cent in the 60s, 8.1 per cent in the 70s and 6.6 per cent in the 80s. In 1991 it rose by 6.2 per cent and stood at US\$8815. By the end of 1992 it had exceeded US\$10,000.

How was all this made possible?

A land reform program was introduced in the early 1950s to stimulate farm production and exports of agricultural products. The land reform also promoted social justice and paved the way for industrialisation. In 1960, a Statute for the Encouragement of Investment was enacted to promote saving, capital formation, industrial development and export expansion. In 1966, Taiwan's first export processing

zone, with the combined features of an industrial park and a free trade zone, was opened to introduce foreign direct investment, to promote exports and to create employment opportunities.

These measures helped Taiwan overcome its economic disadvantages. They also provided a foundation for rapid and sustained economic growth.

The strategies adopted by the government to promote economic development and stability were guided by six key policies :

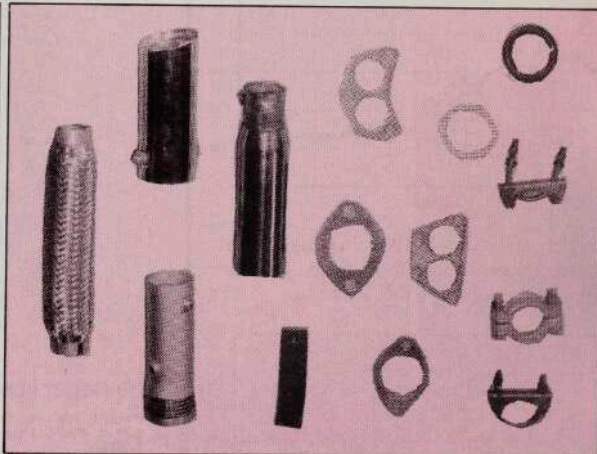
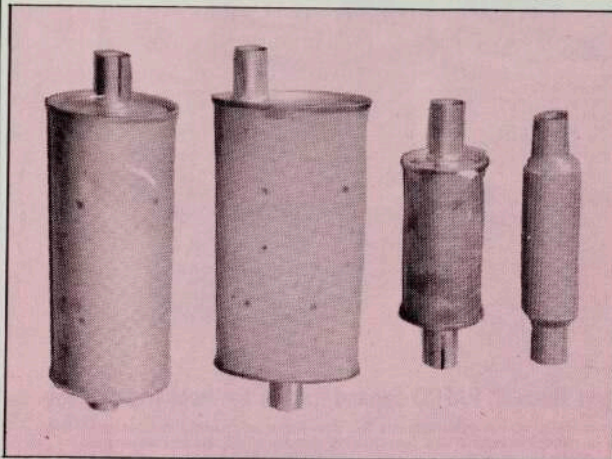
- Attaching equal emphasis to economic growth and economic stability;
- Promoting the growth of agriculture and industry;
- Developing light industry first and then heavy industry;
- Moving from import substitution to export expansion;
- Expanding the infrastructure to meet development needs;
- Narrowing the income gap between the affluent and less affluent.

These policies were implemented in four stages. The first stage, from around 1945 to 1952, saw economic



A high priority: high-tech industries and research and development initiatives

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rehabilitation and stabilisation as major concerns. Measures included a monetary reform program and land reform.

During the second stage, from 1953 to 1960, an import-substitution policy was adopted to save foreign exchange and channel limited resources to areas of production with a proven domestic market. The 1950s also saw the introduction of a series of four-year economic development plans and foreign exchange, economic and fiscal reforms. The New Taiwanese dollar was devalued against foreign currencies, and a unitary exchange rate system was adopted.

In the third stage from 1961 to 1972, the government shifted its emphasis to an export-expansion policy. During this period real GNP grew 10.2 per cent a year, consumer prices rose only 3 per cent — resulting in price stability and rapid economic growth.

From 1973 onward, the economy faced two oil crises, high inflation, and a rise in protectionism abroad. To sustain economic growth the government embarked upon a restructuring and modernisation of the economy. This saw a growth in high-tech and

value-added industries as electrical and non-electrical machinery, electronics and information. In 1973 an Industrial Technology and Research Institute was set up, in 1980 the Science-based Industrial Park, a newly created mini-town, was opened to

attract investment in high-tech industries. In 1990 the Statute for Industrial Upgrading was enacted offering tax credits for research and development, automation, pollution control and other activities that promote productivity and restructuring.



Taiwan stock market

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THE TAIWAN EXPERIENCE

Foreign Trade

OF all the sectors of the economy, foreign trade has shown the most dramatic growth. During the last 10 years it rose from US\$43.8 billion to US\$139.1 billion.

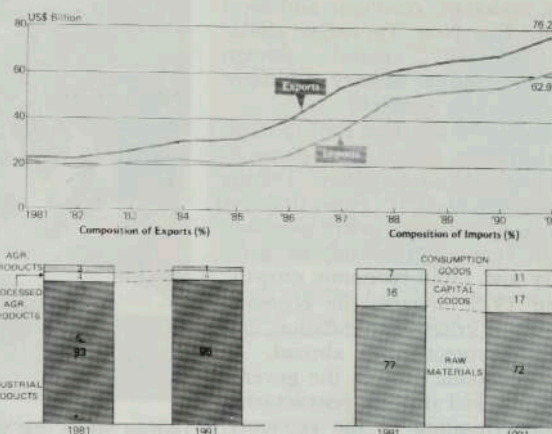
For nearly four decades foreign trade had expanded at an annual rate of 17 per cent. It was only about US\$1/3 billion in the 1950s. But by 1991 exports had risen to \$76.2 billion and imports to \$62.9 billion, making Taiwan the 14th largest trading country in the world. Since 1971, with the exception of the recession years of 1974-75, Taiwan's foreign trade has consistently recorded an annual surplus.

The surplus has become disproportionately large, especially during the past several years. To reduce this imbalance, the government has relaxed foreign exchange and import controls, and reducing customs tariffs on the one hand, and expanding domestic demand by stepping up investment in infrastructure and environmental protection on the other.

Taiwan's average tariff rate — total customs revenue relative to total imports — is expected to fall to 3.5 per cent by the end of 1992. In the meantime, the new Taiwan dollar has appreciated over 50 per cent against the US dollar since the fall of 1985.

To strengthen trade ties, the government and private businesses in 1970 co-sponsored China External Trade Development Council (CETRA),

which has set up 30 overseas branches and Taiwan Trade Centres in Rotterdam, Dusseldorf, and Hong Kong. C



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Moving into the future

TAIWAN'S emphasis on economic growth has also, however, meant attention has been diverted from some serious economic and social problems. These include traffic congestion, environmental pollution, a rising crime rate, lack of cultural and recreational facilities, and excessive preoccupation with financial speculation. In addition, a tightening supply of low-skilled labour and a declining work ethic are hampering business activity and slowing economic growth.

As a result, the six-year national development plan was formulated to address these problems. It covers the period from 1991 to 1996.

Policy goals of the plan are —

- To Raise the National Income — through continuous economic development and creation of job opportunities and to enter into the ranks of high-income countries. The plan aims to boost the nation's per capita gross national product (GNP) to US\$14,000.



Mass Rapid Transportation system in Taipei: under construction to ease the city's traffic congestion

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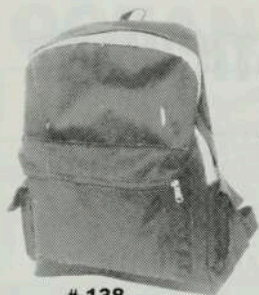
● To Strengthen Infrastructural Development — This includes proper planning of manpower, energy, water, land and other resources essential to industrial development; augmenting transportation, shipping and telecommunications facilities; and building Taiwan into a financial centre, transportation hub and technological stronghold for the western Pacific.

● To Pursue Balanced Regional Development — narrowing gaps in regional development to promote a regional balance; strengthening infrastructural, medical, cultural and educational facilities in isolated areas; building convenient transportation networks to shorten the distance between regions.

● To Improve the Quality of Life — involves planning the development of living perimeters, augmenting housing, cultural, educational, sports, medical, shopping and transportation facilities; strengthening social security and establishing social welfare; and, boosting Taiwan into the ranks of developed nations and creating a society of affluence and civility. □



Improving the quality of life: one of the goals of the national development plan



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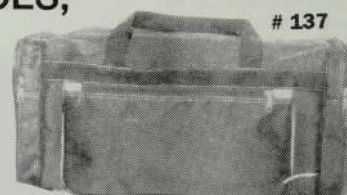


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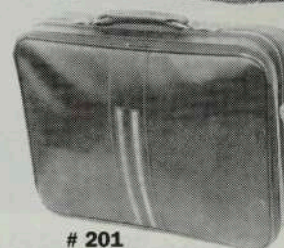
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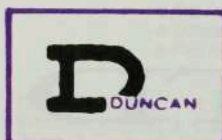


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SPORTS

Government funds dry up

By Jann Iorns

PAPUA New Guinea's sporting community is shell-shocked in the wake of the Wingti government's 1993 National Budget and its preclusion of an annual allocation to the National Sports Program. The PNG Sports Federation says it will no longer be able to send representatives to international competitions or to maintain the existing level of onshore competition.

Papua New Guinea is the South Pacific's number one sporting nation. It won more medals than any other participating nation at the South Pacific Games in 1991 (44 golds, 28 silver and 27 bronze). The PNG Sports Federation fears the country will lose its supremacy. Certainly, without representation at the Mini South Pacific Games in Vanuatu later this year, or the South Pacific Games in Tahiti in 1995, rival nations of New Caledonia, Tahiti or Fiji stand to claim Papua New Guinea's stronghold.

The PNG Sports Federation says it also had plans to send a representative team to the 1994 Commonwealth Games and the 1996 Olympic Games. But what of these plans now?

John Dawanicura, head of the PNG Sports Federation, says, "It's only the second year of a four-year plan. If the government bows out now, we undermine all that we've done to promote sports people and to establish Papua New

Papua New Guinea's future as a regional leader in sports is under jeopardy as the government excludes grants from its budget

Guinea as a country of sporting excellence."

"Giving our people overseas exposure is vital," Dawanicura says. "We have to send our top sportsmen and women to international competitions, and that requires a lot of financial support. In the past, government has understood and helped to provide some of this support."

Even if the Federation finds alternative support (say from the corporate sector) so that the country's sport people can, in 1993, compete overseas, there's still the pressing issue of having to meet the Federation's running costs and the expense involved in maintaining Papua New Guinea's seat on the international sporting committees' (the International Olympic Committee, the Commonwealth Games Foundation and the South Pacific Games Council) expenses previously met by government.

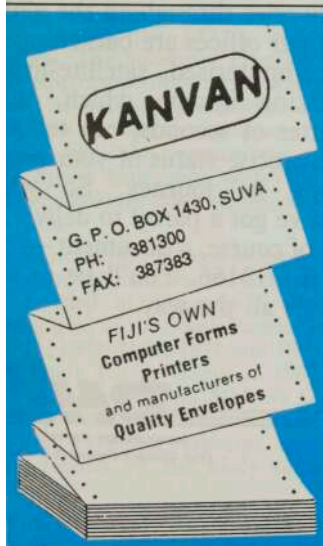
"The Federation has always attended the annual general assemblies of the international committees," Dawanicura says, "plus attended other meetings and seminars. We've always had a commit-

ment to making sure our people get to the major international events. Now, with the absence of national government support, we're not so sure we'll be able to."

From all accounts, the Wingti government seems to have slipped the carpet out from under the Federation's feet. The former Pangu government provided an annual budget of between K50,000 to K100,000 to the Federation (for running costs and for distribution as discretionary grants to individuals and clubs, and other special grants such as the K100,000 grant to the national rugby league team for its 1992 South Pacific tour). The former government also pumped some K34.4 million into the 1991 South Pacific Games.

The significance of this investment is simply that for the first time ever Papua New Guinea had world class sports facilities and equipment, and the advice and encouragement of overseas sporting specialists.

Two major stadiums — the Sir John Guise stadium in Port Moresby and the Sir Ignatius Kilage Stadium in Lae — were built especially for the Games.



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SPORTS

Other sports clubs and facilities (such as the Olympic pool in Port Moresby) were upgraded, as too were educational institutions (the Administrative and Inservice Colleges). Overseas experts developed skills in coaching, refereeing, sports training, administration and medicine training was held for a full 18 months preceeding the Games.

Investments like these become superficial if they are not given further support. Why provide facilities, equipment and expertise and promote Papua New Guinea's sporting excellence if at the end of the day the country's sportsmen and women cannot further their development and cannot compete and represent their country overseas?

The private sector also has a history of backing Papua New Guinea's sports development. It donated some K12 million to the 1992 South Pacific Games budget — no small figure when you consider that many of the companies that provided at this time also provide annual grants to national sports bodies and the National Sports Institute (an educational institution).

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provided annual grants to sports associations for many years and a separate K2 million contribution to the 1991 South Pacific Games. In 1993 it will also inaugurate the sportsmen-of-the-year award, costing K50,000 annually. The GBC (Papua New Guinea Banking Corporation) is another strong supporter, donating at least K35,000 each year to the National Sports Institute. The International Olympic Committee is another organisation demonstrating consistent support for sports development in Papua New Guinea. It contributes between US\$45,000 to 1,000 annually, and has done so since 1972 through the I.O.C.'s Solidarity Program. The Solidarity Program aims to develop competitors in Olympic sports as well as training specialists in related disciplines of administration and medicine. In 1992, the program assisted the PNG Sports Federation with clinics in athletics, boxing, lawn tennis, shooting and judo.

Athletics is likely to be one of the hardest hit by the decision. Papua New Guinea has excelled at competitive athletics, winning gold at the South Pacific Games in 1991, 1987, 1979, 1971 and 1969, the Pacific South Pacific Games in 1989 and 1985, and the Oceania Athletics Championships in 1990. Sama Sasama, the National Coaching Director for Athletics, reports on the likely future of athletics.

Our athletes need overseas exposure. But that the Federation has no finance

to subsidise athletes' attendance at international competitions, the PNG Athletics Union will have to rely solely on private sector and community sponsorship."

"The Union is going to have to do a lot more fundraising and individuals will be more responsible for raising finance than they've ever needed to be before," Sasama says. "If they can't find the money, they won't go."

Team sports like rugby league and basketball will also suffer from the absence of government support for the National Sports Program. Thirty-five different sporting bodies are affiliated to the Federation and they all require finance to hold inter-club and inter-provincial championships. Securing private sector support, as an alternative to the historic Federation grant, may prove difficult for some bodies, especially those not located in provinces with major industries.

Martin Adamson, President of the PNG Rugby League Association, predicts on the future of rugby league as a national sport. "We'll be pushing to maintain the standard we've achieved. This year, unlike last year, we won't be able to send the national team (Kumuls) overseas. We also won't be able to develop the junior players because we won't have the finance for training clinics and junior league championships. Junior development is important," Adamson says. "We have to promote new players up through the grades. We're already noticing a lack of new talent. If we don't watch out, rugby league will disappear."

The PNG Sports Commission, another body responsible for sports development, is also short-changed by the Wingti government's decision. The commission is a new statutory authority, established in February 1992, with the express responsibility of maintaining the two big stadiums in Port Moresby and Lae. It also has the role of developing sports at the community level, on a nationwide basis. A further task is to oversee the operation of the National Sports Institute where most of the training clinics, secondary school phys-ed teacher-training and other educational programs take place.

For 1993, some money is allocated to the PNG Sports Commission — K900,000 for stadium maintenance, K800,000 for the commission's internal running costs and K822,000 for continued operation of the National Sports Institute. But there's no allocation for sports development; no way of ensuring that the sporting facilities and institutions as established don't turn into white elephants.

John Kambuou, the commission's Executive Director, says there's dire need to develop sports in the rural communities. Equipment and training are sorely

needed. Jan Waddy, the commission's Director of Sports, exemplifies this — "Some schools have only one ball for say 30 or 40 students, and maybe a total of three or four balls in total. That's it for their sports equipment."

The tragedy is that sport and recreation are pivotal to Papua New Guinea culture. For centuries rural villagers engaged in traditional ceremony and dance, as well as hunting, spear and dart throwing. Coastal communities were active in fishing and canoeing. Most of these activities continue today, in much the same form as they always have. Combined with the traditional forms of recreation is the growing emergence of urban gymnasiums and clubs, offering a range of racquet, team and water sports. It is natural to expect the people of Papua New Guinea to want to participate in these new modern sports.

But the picture is bleak. Without adequate support there will be no sports clubs. The national identity may disappear as a result. Sport is seen as an important mechanism in uniting Papua New Guinea's 700 different cultural/lingual groups. Seven thousand of the country's 3.53 million people joined together for the 1991 South Pacific Games, people representing communities from all over the country. For the two weeks of competition, crime miraculously came to a standstill.

Kambuou and Dawanincura reiterate the role of sport in bringing people together, in instilling a sense of national pride and, to some extent, addressing the country's law and order problem.

"Also, we have a lot of natural flair and talent in Papua New Guinea," Kambuou says. "A lot of that talent isn't seen at national championships, where selection to international competitions takes place. Some of our most promising sportsmen and women aren't getting beyond the district and provincial competitions, either because their club can't afford to affiliate with the national association or because the individuals themselves can't afford to travel to participate in the selection trials."

There are many areas that need financial support if Papua New Guinea's sporting development is to continue. Both the PNG Sports Commission and the PNG Sports Federation have their hearts set on an era of development. The Federation is likely to move into some hard and fast campaigning among the private sector (seeing as the international competitions are drawing close), and it will also likely lobby Cabinet. Let's hope these efforts prove successful. There's still time. The Wingti government may even retract its earlier decision and help to mount a first-class challenge to secure the country's title as the number one sporting nation in the South Pacific. □

YACHTING

Land of Contrast and

By Sally Andrew

LIGHT winds and flat seas had given us a smooth ride from Fiji 500 miles west to Vanuatu. By late afternoon on the fourth day out, a tell-tale smudge of gray appeared on the distant horizon. Twenty miles ahead lay Efate Island. Port Vila, Vanuatu's southern port of entry and national capital, was still a good 40 miles away — too far to make it into port before sundown so we reduced sail and planned for a dawn arrival.

The wind completely disappeared before sunrise, so we fired up the Yanmar diesel and motored past Pango Point. We anchored near the yellow quarantine buoy in Vila Bay. Within the hour, two gentlemen from customs and agriculture had arrived and cleared us. Welcome to Vanuatu!

Port Vila is one of the South Pacific's most picturesque towns with many boats moored Mediterranean-style along the waterfront. The day had dawned warm and blue. The water inside the harbour was remarkably clear and was dotted with a few wind-surfers and para-sailors.

We motored past the Vanuatu Cruising Club and picked up a mooring off the beach at Iririki Island. *Fellowship* secured, we rowed ashore to pick up mail and meet friends Erja and Glenn off US yacht *Aku Ankka* at the Waterfront Restaurant.

The afternoon was spent walking around Vila — eating marvellous ice-cream, buying cheap baguettes and beef, and poking around shops. The museum/cultural center was filled with a wealth of artifacts and ethnological material. North of town, just beyond the village of

Vanuatu's unique culture blends with its natural wonders to give a special attraction

Mele Maat, we followed a trail to a fantastic waterfall with freshwater pools and cascades in a jungle-like setting. It was heavenly.

Vila Harbour was packed with boats. A French yacht *Fuli* was moored nearby. We had met her single-handed skipper, Jean Baptiste, in Fiji's Mamanuca group. *Limerick Lady*, out of Australia was making her last stop before completing a seven-year and 60,000 mile circumnavigation. On board were Lorenz, Janis, Yolly (age seven) and baby Fabienne, born in Suva the previous year.

Other sightings included *Insatiable* from California, *Gwalarn* from Alaska, *Whimbrel* from Colorado, *Sulieka* from England, *Free Spirit* from Canada, and more than 20 other yachts from around the world.

Market days in Port Vila are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Families and their produce arrive the night before and often you can make purchases as they set up their stalls. The following morning the market area comes alive with colour. Fruits, vegetables, flowers, seashells, carvings, bracelets, baskets and t-shirts are sold by village women dressed in bright (and often huge) Mother Hubbard dresses.

We filled our bags with pumpkins, pomeloes, chinese cabbage, green peppers, tomatoes and coconuts. Provisioned with plenty of food, we left Port Vila.

Devil's Point, 10 miles outside the harbour, has a nasty reputation for rough seas where wind and current clash. We must have timed it right. Conditions were benign and we anchored at Tukutuku. During the night the wind switched, and by early morning we were "rock and rolling" at anchor as a large westerly swell rolled straight into the bay. We weighed anchor at daybreak. The sky was clear as we sailed past "Hat" (Eretoka) Island and into Havanna Harbour via the Hilliard Channel.

With the winds behind us, we crossed tacks with a woman paddling from Lelepa Island to the mainland. Having only seen men and boys aboard outriggers in the past, I cheered her on with a smile and a wave, which she returned. Deep inside the harbour, we tucked into a small bay on the south side of Moso Island.

The next day we joined two other yachts, *Che'gar* from New Zealand and *Papa Kilo* from Hull, Great Britain who were anchored on the other side of the harbour. We had many visitors that afternoon as canoe after canoe stopped by to say hello. Men, women, children, even a dog who stretched across an outrigger thwart snoozing.

The villagers from Moso Island grow vegetables on the mainland and paddle back and forth across the harbour every day commuting to and from their village.

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On Saturday morning we were introduced to *aelan taim*. "Island time" meant that our eight o'clock rendezvous to visit someone's garden meant 10 o'clock. Tom finally arrived in his canoe and together we walked through the bush. Root crops, tomatoes, red and green cabbages, red and green peppers, lettuce, onions and carrots flourished despite a lack of rain. We filled our backpack with heaps of fresh vegetables and then came aboard *ellowship* for lunch.

Sailing to Nguna Island, one of several tellite islands north of Efate, we passed close inshore near the beautiful white sand beaches of Samoa Point, and then at the narrow entrance between Lelepa and Moso Islands.

A fresh "noser'ly" wind kept heading but we made it on one tack. We anchored in Na Ora Matua Bay off the village of Utanlang. The bay was edged by a long white sand beach. Holding was good with some sand patches amongst the coral heads.

Mount Taputaora rises in the center of this tall, volcanic island with spectacular views of the nearby Shepherd Islands to the north and Efate to the south.

After lunch, a school of nearly 50 dolphins swam through the bay, three times. When they came back for their second pass, we jumped in and joined them. Wearing a mask, snorkel and fins (glass, windpipe and *leg blong taktak* in *lama*), we watched them as they passed very close. At one point they all moved clear of the water in unison. It is magnificent!

The next day, Sam, the chief's son, told us there are sometimes sharks in the bay. Yikes! Sam is a Francophone *ninuat* who also speaks English, *lama* and his indigenous tongue.

Vanuatu's unique Anglo-Franco-Melanesian culture has blended with its natural wonders — blowholes, blue caves, bats, waterfalls, active canoes, white and black sand beaches and dugongs — to give the country a special attraction.

Each island in the group has something different to offer — custom villages, go cults, wreck diving, sailboat chartering, and fishing. Port Vila is at the centre of this land of contrast and adventure.



Sally Andrew

Mode of transport: everyone uses canoes to commute from village to mainland

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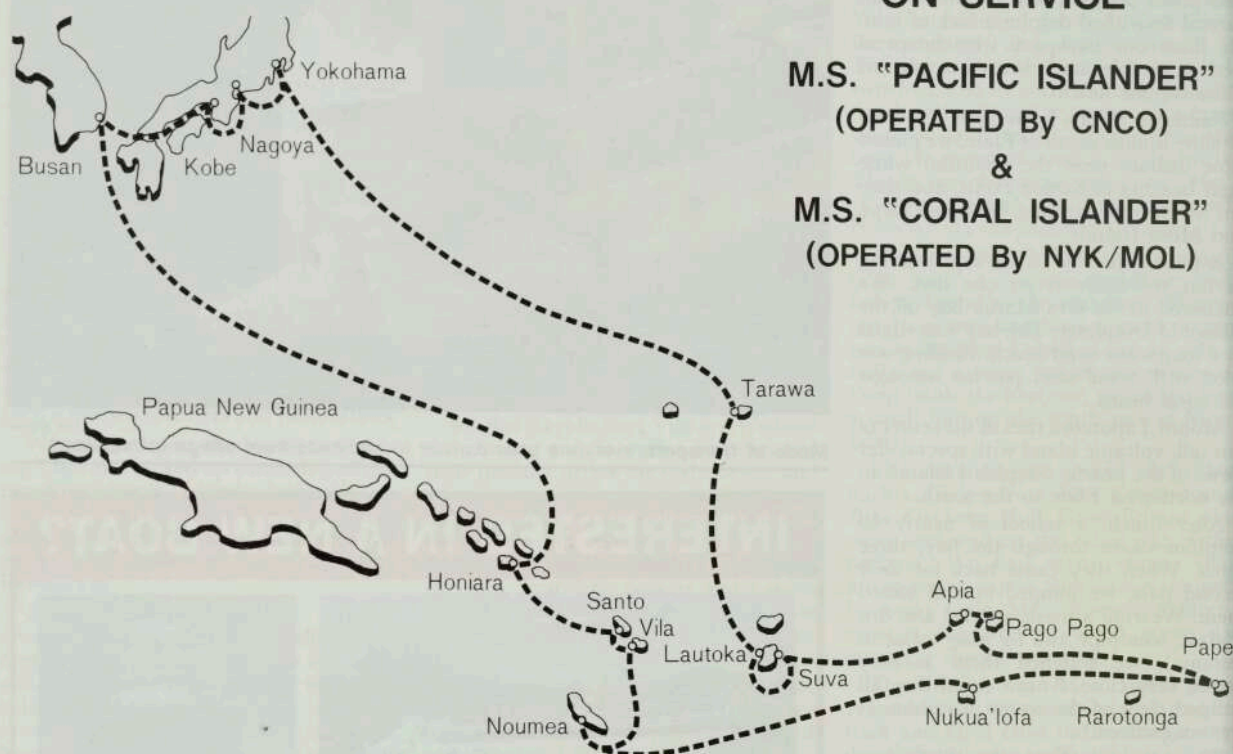
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Translink Pacific Shipping operates monthly sailing with Polynesian Link which carries Dry Container, reefers and breakbulk cargoes. NZ Agents McKay Shipping Shipping AKLD Ph 390229 Fax 3032931. Fiji Agents Campbell Shipping Agency & Ltd Ph 314189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

NZ - Noumea - Wallis - Futuna

Translink Pacific Agency operate container Breakbulk service once month from NZ through Fiji and Noumea to Wallis & Futuna.

South East Asia - Fiji - Noumea Papeete - Chile Service

"Seaspac" A joint Chilean CCNI/CSA Service offers a regular monthly sailing from Djakarta and Singapore to Noumea, Fiji, Papeete, and Chile. Cargo also federated to Singapore from Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Bangkok. Fiji Agents: Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd, ph. 314189, Fax 300144.

Australia - Fiji Service

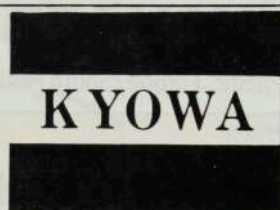
Barbican Line — operate a monthly container service from Australia to Fiji. Fiji Agents — Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd Ph 314189 Fax 300144.

Australia - Fiji - Noumea - Vila Santa

Marsmond Express Lines operate breakbulk service from Goodwood Island Australia to Fiji, Noumea, Vila Santo and Honiara. Continuous receiving depots in Sydney and Brisbane enable this vessel to bring cargoes from these parts. Fiji Agents — Campbell Shipping Agency Ltd, ph. 314189, Fax 300144. Brisbane Agents — Shippings & Marketing Ph (7) 2628082. Sydney Agents — Seaboard Agencies (2) 3172325.

Australia - New Caledonia - Fiji - Hawaii - North America

ACT Pace Pacific (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised/break bulk service every 17-20 from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. The vessels continue on to the West Coast of North America calling Honolulu at frequent intervals. Ships are ACT and ACT 12. Contacts: ACTA Pty Ltd, Sydney Ph 2869666, Tx 121369, Fax 2869610. ACTA Pty Ltd, Melbourne Ph 6112000, Tx 30949, Fax 6293055. ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane Ph 2213116m Tx 40719, Fax 2298143. SATO, Noumea Ph 281122, Tx 3163, Fax 278532. Burns Philp Shipping, Suva Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fax 301127; Burns Philp Shipping, Lautoka Ph 60777, Tx 5146, Fax 65850.



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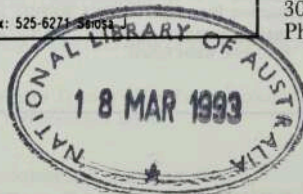
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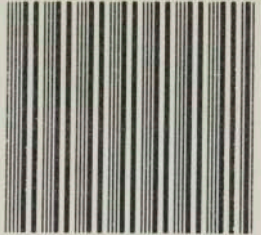
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GREENPEACE VACANCY

The environmental organisation, Greenpeace is hiring for the position of Coral Reef/Fisheries Campaigner for the Pacific region. The position will be based in our regional office which may soon be relocated to Fiji. Specific responsibilities would be to: assist in the development and implementation of model community — based management projects around the Pacific Islands; identify and promote sustainable alternatives to activities causing coral reef and coastal degradation/work with regional organisations and national governments to assist with the development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management policies; monitor and investigate fisheries aid and trade in the region.

Applicants should have experience working on coral reef/integrated coastal zone management/fisheries related issues. Technical background in marine biology, resource management or other related fields is helpful but not essential. Experience in education, public speaking or community organising is extremely useful. Good writing and computer skills are essential. Familiarity and experience with region conditions is desired. The successful candidate will be someone who can work in a team as well as independently. Willingness to travel is also required. Applications to: Greenpeace Pacific Campaign, Private Bag 92507, Auckland, NZ. Closing date March 20.

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GREENPEACE VACANCY

The environmental organisation, Greenpeace is hiring for the position of pollution prevention/toxic trade campaigner for the Pacific region. The position will be based in our regional office which may soon be relocated to Fiji. Specific responsibilities would be to: investigate, publicise and organise to prevent proposed schemes for disposing of wastes from outside the region in the Pacific; develop and implement pilot waste prevention programmes; and work to promote understanding of waste generation and opportunities for prevention in the region.

Applicants should have experience working on pollution related issues. Technical background in chemistry, biology or other related field is helpful but not essential. Experience in public speaking or community organising is extremely useful. Good writing skills are important. Familiarity and experience with region's conditions is desired. The successful candidate will be someone who can work in a team as well as independently. Willingness to travel is also required. Applications to: Greenpeace Pacific Campaign, Private Bag 92507, Auckland New Zealand. Closing date March 20.

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1967 Mitsubishi Colt 1000F
First of its class in Australia's 2nd Southern Cross Rally. The 3rd Rally one year later is won by its successor, the Mitsubishi Colt 1000F Sports.



1967 Mitsubishi Colt F 2-A
First in the Grand Prix of Japan. Following in the tyre marks of its predecessor, the Colt F 3-A. It is powered by a 1.6 litre engine.



1969 Mitsubishi F 2-C
First in the Grand Prix of Japan. Powered by a 1.6 litre fuel injection engine delivering 240 ps.



1970 Mitsubishi Galant GTO
First Galant to race in a rally, Australia's 5th Southern Cross Rally. Boosted by twin carbs, its 1.6



1970 Mitsubishi Colt F 2-D
First of its class in the Grand Prix of Japan.



1971 Mitsubishi Colt F 2000
First in the Grand Prix of Japan. Its 2.0 litre engine delivers 290 ps.



1972 Mitsubishi Galant 16 LGS
First in the 7th Southern Cross Rally of Australia.



1973 Mitsubishi Lancer 1600 GSR
First in the 8th Southern Cross Rally. Follow-up victories in the 9th, 10th and 11th rallies. It also finished first in the 22nd (1974) and 24th (1976) East African Safari Rally.



1985 Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero
First in the 7th Paris-Dakar Rally in unmodified 4WD production class. First in Australia's 1st Wynn's Safari Rally.



1988 Mitsubishi Galant Dynamic 4
First in the 9th Himalaya Rally.



1989 Mitsubishi Galant Dynamic 4
First in two WRC events, the 39th 1000 Lakes Rally in Finland and the 38th RAC Rally.



1992 Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero
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