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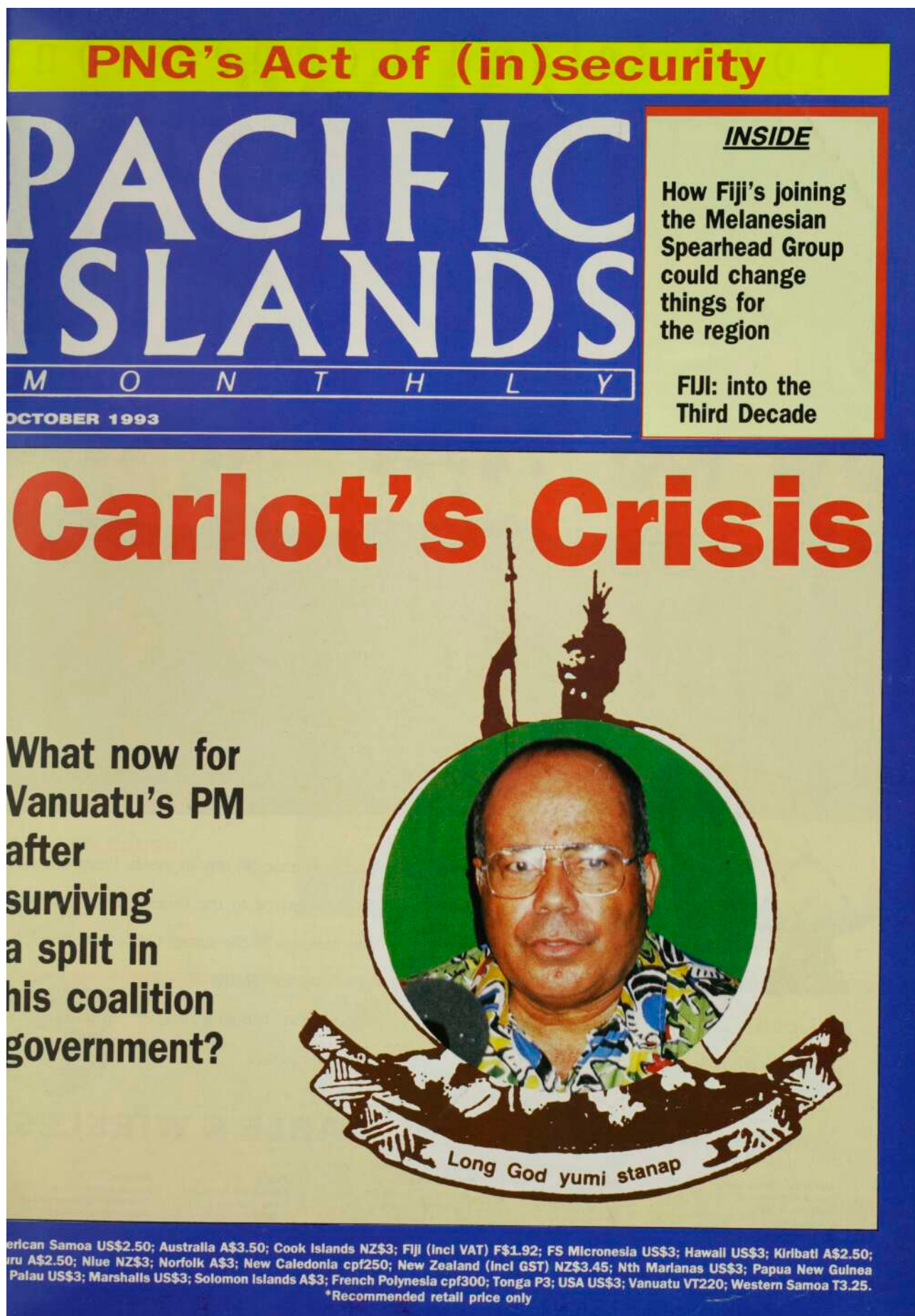
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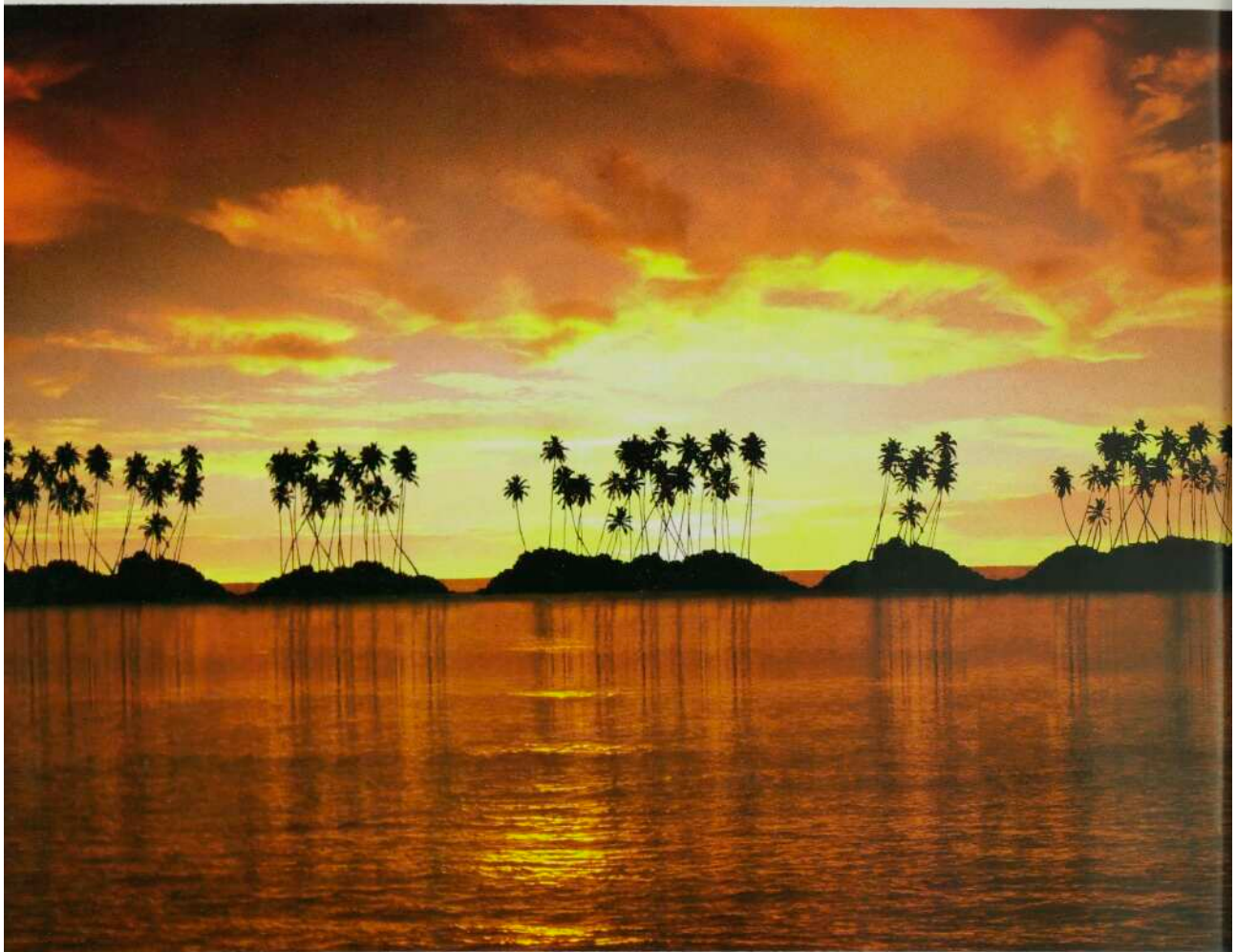
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Vol 63 No. 10

THE NEWS MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 1993

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BILO'S LOOKS AT THE
PROPOSED IDENTITY CARDS
IN PNG



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back home.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Security or humanity?

AT about the time you are reading this editorial the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court will be determining if the Internal Security Act passed by parliament in May is constitutional or not (see story on page 22). The Act, aimed at preventing terrorism, has caused much controversy since it was unveiled by the government.

The government tries to justify the Act by describing it as a "sensible approach to law and order". Said prime minister Pias Wingti: "The crime problem facing us warrants drastic action. The proposed constitutional changes are part of our commitment to making these important changes."

But many are against the Internal Security Act for two main reasons. Firstly, the Act lays the way for human rights abuses and secondly, many question if it will solve the law and order problems faced by PNG.

The Ombudsman Commission, led by Charles Maino, is seeking a Supreme Court review of the Act as it says the Act cuts through the basic human rights provisions of the constitution. Already the world champion of human freedom, Amnesty International, is condemning the Act. Amnesty says under the Act it will be virtually impossible to ensure human rights are properly safeguarded. It says it is concerned by the broad definition of what constitutes support for terrorism under the Act, and by sweeping powers for arrest and detention it confers upon the security forces. And the Act could all too easily be used to restrict

or repress internationally recognised rights to freedom of expression and association.

Another alarming aspect of the Act is it requires people accused of a serious crime to prove their innocence unlike at present where one is innocent until proven guilty. Also, the new laws allow people to be thrown into jail with greater ease. Far from being a solution to problems this will put a strain on the over-crowded, bursting-at-the-seams prisons. Already, it is notoriously easy to escape from jail in PNG. More prisoners will just add to the chaos.

The government also wants to curb people's freedom in the name of law and order. In July, it approved for ratification by parliament a law that all Papua New Guineans be issued identifi-



Wally Hiambohn
**Current airport security: will it be like
under the Internal Security Act?**

cation cards. It also proposes a Repatriation Act which will provide for the setting of Repatriation Courts to order people back to their home provinces if they do not have any visible means of supporting themselves and who are likely to turn to crime.

The government admits it has real law and order problems which it is trying to solve. The government, the national parliament and many community groups are naturally concerned and are trying to do something about the problems. But trying to find the solution in a country of almost four million people, more than 800 languages and many cultures is not easy. As Gabriel Dusava, PNG's secretary for foreign affairs, said in a recent letter to *PIM*; "...as large parts of the country are undergoing rapid, widespread and often discontinuing change, society in Papua New Guinea is certainly experiencing problems. The number, variety and gravity of these problems is inevitably greater than those which occur in much smaller, less heterogeneous countries where change is lower, slighter and more gradual — or in some cases, almost impossible to discern."

But nonetheless the government needs to take a long, hard look at the situation before allowing the Act to come into force. It does not seem to be the solution to law and order problems.

A lot more money and training for the police force, security forces, prison services and related areas would seem a more sensible answer rather than less and less being spent on them. □

LETTERS

Nauru Forum

Sir,

A NUMBER of issues you raised in your September editorial on the recent 24th Forum in the Republic of Nauru need to be commented on.

I think your editorial missed making the point that the Nauru government and its people had gone out of their way to ensure the Forum was a success — which it was. It was a team effort — from the Nauru government to the New Zealand contractors and everyone else who had a part to play.

It is not true that I was personally responsible for the good communications set up for the visiting media in Nauru. I did provide some input to the host government to ensure that the interests of the media were accommodated but there is nothing extraordinary about this as it is the sort of thing I do prior to and during the Forum every year.

If there's anyone worthy of mention in your respected magazine in respect of the media set-up for the Nauru Forum, it is local staff of Nauru Telecom. Without their untiring effort no reports would have got out of Nauru. They did the work. I only helped.

As many of your avid readers may know, my main concern at every Forum is to try to ensure that the media has all the necessary facilities so that it performs its duty effectively and with a minimum of fuss. It does not always work absolutely perfectly but that is not to say no one is trying.

I look forward to a continued close working relationship with your magazine and other news organisations.

Alfred Sasako
Information & Publications Officer
Forum Secretariat.

NZ heavy engineering

Sir,

I WAS angry at comment by your correspondent Roman Grynberg in the August 1993 report *What Future the Islands*. To say "New Zealand does not care whether the islands exist or not" is simply not true. For the heavy engineering sector, the South Pacific provides a significant export market. Unlike other countries which have served this market in an arrogant manner, for short-term gain, New Zealand companies are there for the long haul.

We have facilitated engineering training by New Zealand polytechnic tutors in Port Moresby and other countries. We

have facilitated travel of senior PNG engineering staff to New Zealand to work with NZ companies and to learn advanced engineering skills in our polytechnics. We are assisting basic infrastructure industries in both Fiji and PNG, and to a lesser extent in other island nations.

In short, the islands are important to the New Zealand heavy engineering industry.

Dr W L Richards
Director

NZ Heavy Engineering Research Association
Manukau City, NZ

Employment legislation

Sir

NEW Zealand's Minister of Labour M McTigue's letter in the July edition of *PIM* registering his "objection" to my April comment about NZ's Employment Contracts Act is heartening because it shows that (as a Tongan proverb says) the medicine has had some effect, even though the minister's purpose may have been to slam the lid back tight on this contentious issue.

I see the minister seems to regard bargaining at a shop when buying a suit or negotiating legal representation as being on par with transacting labour

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LETTERS

power with employers. They are not. The first is a simple market event; the second is for a function presided over by an institution whose basic principle is or should be justice. But the third kind of arrangement is — apart from the self-interest and profit motive — fraught with grave social and political implications. As such it is treacherous to encourage a person to enter this third type of relationship 'alone' or represented by another individual especially when facing employing companies, and much worse if they are transnationals.

The Employment Contracts Act is particularly vicious in assuming that the individual has effect in the sociopolitical domain. Of course we must recognise, respect and above all, always protect individual rights. But this can never mean that the individual has power vis-a-vis the powerful companies which are the usual employers in NZ. This legislation, in persuading the individual worker that he has effect and opening the way for him to be just by himself, can only destroy and working class movement and anything liberal that goes with it. The studies the minister cites, I'm afraid, are lost on me since I do not believe the basic nature of society can change and I accordingly foretell their imminent refutation. It is an elementary fact that any lawyer or politician worth his salt should never forget viz that politically speaking the individual qua

individual has not capacity and it is the movement, the institution, the organisation which are the real actors in any actual society.

Moreover, when the individual is encouraged — at his peril — to move in and out, as it were, of unions, the latter will surely suffer and wither away. They will become chaotic since they cannot be sure who their members are and can never put their act together. This law then is the stone that kills two birds at once — the worker and the union. It shall stand as a symbol of illiberality and infect all spheres of life. It shall be copied in the islands — I need not remind readers that the history of the islands is a story of copying what NZ does.

I, therefore, stand by my original description that "New Zealand in 1991 massively contributed to the erosion of liberal values ... demolished trade unionism and the right of association and collective bargaining".

I F Helu
Atenisi Institute
Tonga

Bully Beef Club

Sir,
I WRITE in respect of a report entitled *A Chapter Ends for Pangu* written by Wally Hiambohn in PIM May.

I must make it clear from the outset that the purpose of my writing is not to demean the report and the status of those whom the article featured, but rather to correct the record in so far as the Bully Beef Club and the establishment of the Pangu Pati are concerned. I feel obliged to do this before history becomes distorted.

As one who was at the Papua New Guinea Administrative College at the time, and more importantly, one who had a small hand in the setting up of the Bully Beef Club, I want to place on record the following facts:

Sir Michael Somare was NOT a co-founder of Bully Beef Club because he was not at the Administrative College in 1964 when the club was started; the name Bully Beef Club was a registered name of the students' canteen or tuckshop and not a political club as it is now being bandied around by journalists;

the Pangu Pati was created in 1965 as a consequence of the political discussions which often took place on the premises of the Bully Beef Club canteen rather than out of the Bully Beef Club itself.

I would like to urge the writers of contemporary history in the Pacific to research their facts well before putting pen to appear.

W NOEL LEVI (CBE)
PNG High Commission
London

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HEADLINES

AMERICAN SAMOA



Police officers charged

Three defendants charged in connection with the death of Tanu Peleti while in police custody last December and the beating of three others have been sentenced by the high court. The three, Fatua Maiava, Ronald Tui and Peniamina Wilson are among nine police officers implicated in the case.

Maiava, the only public safety officer charged in the second round of the Peleti murder trial, has been sentenced concurrently to one year each on two counts of assault in the third degree and one count of fabricating physical evidence. Former reserve police officers Tui and Wilson were each sentenced to concurrent terms of six months each for two assaults in the third degree. Tui also received the same sentence for fabricating evidence and Wilson for making a false declaration.

Wilson however received more leniency from the court after it accepted a probation officer's report. His sentence was suspended and he was placed on probation for one year. The *Samoa News* says because the law states that persons convicted to serve six months are not eligible for parole, Tui is required to serve his entire six-month sentence. But Maiava who has been sentenced to one year is eligible for parole and therefore will spend only about four months in jail.

Three other officers involved in the Peleti murder trial have already been convicted while the final three come up for trial soon.

VANUATU



Youths unhappy over logging

Over 40 youth representatives of Vanuatu's timber-rich Erromango island have questioned the government, foreign companies and custom landowners for rushing into logging operations without asking them for their say.

In a statement they say their island belongs to the people today and tomorrow and they are angry that neither they or the women have been consulted in previous and current logging developments on Erromango.

The group criticised their elders and the government for rushing into business without first evaluating maximum benefit to the landowners, and taking appropriate measures to safeguard the island's vegetation and environment for future generations.

They have also questioned the usefulness of the government turning against the destruction of sacred or "taboo" places on Erromango after the logging operations had started.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Malaysian company accused of destroying land

Cocoa farmers in PNG's East New Britain province have accused a Malaysian logging company of destroying their land. The farmers claim the logging company moved onto their block of land without warning last May and are destroying the remaining forest.

They say about four months ago bulldozers and timber jinkers owned by the Malaysian company Kerawara crashed onto their land and started felling stands of timber. The farmers protested but despite being told by the PNG Lands Department the Malaysian company had no right to be there — they say they can't get any action. Six farmers have filed court action against the company and the state.

Aid committee proposed

The PNG government is considering setting up a committee to deal with aid packages for smaller nations in the Pacific region. The deputy prime minister Sir Julius Chan has told parliament the proposed committee would consider requests for aid. It would also record the help given such as educating overseas students in PNG and sending magistrates to Vanuatu.

Sir Julius said PNG was not rich enough to provide large amounts of aid but felt it should assist friends who needed help. His comments follow an announcement by prime minister Paias Wingti at August's Forum meeting that PNG would provide about US\$150,000 in aid to Niue.

PNG is the largest recipient of aid from Australia receiving about US\$210 million a year from Canberra.

SOLOMON ISLANDS



Governor General under investigation

The Solomon Islands attorney general's office is to determine whether governor-general Sir George Lepping can be charged under the country's laws. Sir George is under investigation following complaints of alleged assault and an unspecified sexual offence.

A police spokesman says one of the charges relate to an alleged assault on one of the governor-general's security staff during which a rifle was broken. A young woman has also laid a complaint of sexual misconduct. The spokesman says appropriate charges could have been laid earlier but government house had sought clarification whether he could be charged under the country's laws.

HEADLINES

FIJI



Labour complains to ILO

The leader of the Fiji Labour Party Mahendra Chaudhry says racial discrimination is rife in the country's public service, armed forces and other areas. Chaudhry says the party is lodging a complaint with the International Labour Organisation on what he says are policies of discrimination.

And he says the political situation in Fiji is to be raised at September's meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. Chaudhry also says a resolution expressing concern at Fiji's 1990 constitution is being sponsored in the European parliament. He says the resolution calls for trade and aid concessions to be tied to a satisfactory review of the constitution.

Meanwhile, the Fijian nationalist Taukei Movement has warned of a repeat of "the events of 1987" if the Labour party continues what the movement calls its confrontational approach. 1987 was the year of two military coups which overthrew a democratically elected government as well as Taukei-organised riots and arson attacks. Taukei spokesman Sikovi Matenaniu says Labour has shown disrespect for Fijian chiefs and their culture by demanding the abolition of the 1990 constitution. Matenaniu says the coups restored the rights of indigenous Fijians which were formalised in the promulgation of the constitution. He says Fijians will declare war on anyone who wants to take the country back to the way things were.

AUSTRALIA



Torres Strait looks at self-government

Australia's Torres Strait Islanders are confident of forming a self-governing territory by the year 2001, according to an island leader. Gaetano Lui, chairman of the Torres Strait Coordinating Council, says the islanders have been encouraged in their search for self-government by the High Court decision in the landmark Mabo case.

Lui says the formation of a Torres Strait Authority separating islanders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission would be the forerunner to self-government. Lui added he is optimistic islanders would replace elected members of the Island Coordinating Council with representatives on a Torres Strait Island Authority as early as March 1994 when ICC elections are due.

The Torres Strait comprises about 7000 islanders and 2000 non-islanders on about 14 occupied islands between Australia and Papua New Guinea. Agreeing that the islands could not be economically independent, Lui says the self-governing territory would forge a bilateral aid agreement with Australia, similar to that with PNG. He says Torres Strait Islanders have looked for models of self-government in the Pacific, where lifestyle and culture are more compatible with Torres Strait islanders than was Australian society.

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BUSINESS BULLETIN**Fiji's tourism earnings soar**

FIJI earned an estimated US\$52 million from tourism in the three months to the end of June this year. This represented an increase of \$5.3 million or 11.3 per cent over the same period last year.

Tourist arrivals rose by 7.4 per cent to 66,358 during the quarter compared with last year which was 62,263. Tourism has continued to be Fiji's major foreign exchange earner since 1989. However, long dominant sugar exports are still important as more of its foreign earnings remain in Fiji.

Church buys bank shares

THE sale of National Australia Bank's 87 per cent stake in Papua New Guinea's Bank of South Pacific Ltd to a local Catholic Church-led consortium was finalised late August. Announcing the completion of the \$11.3 million acquisition by National Investment Holdings Ltd (NIH), chairman Alfred Daniel said the transition would be smooth with no disruption to the bank's operations.

He said National Australia Bank's (NAB) Noel Smith would remain managing director of the bank until the end of next year. "NIH will now begin formulating the future policies of the bank with emphasis on how the nation's first nationally-owned private sector bank can improve and broaden its services to business and individuals in PNG," Daniel said in a statement.

NAB chairman William Irvine has said the sale of Bank of South Pacific was agreed as it was peripheral to NAB's mainstream activities in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Continental pullout to help islands?

THERE'S hope among South Pacific island nations that they will benefit from the decision by American airline Continental to cancel all services to Australia and New Zealand. Continental is also terminating all airfare and accommodation packages out of Australia to Hawaii when the services cease on October 30.

Marketing director of the Fiji Visitors Bureau Bill Whiting said Fiji would definitely benefit from the end of the Continental services. He said cheap package tours to Hawaii from Australia had presented a tough challenge to tourist destinations in the South Pacific. Whiting said other airlines could move into the Australia/Hawaii market but did not believe they would copy the loss making fares of recent times.

He said Fiji, with 50 per cent of tourist accommodation available in the South Pacific, was well placed to win a proportion of the business that might have gone to Hawaii. Other regional

nations which could benefit from the Continental move include Vanuatu, the Cook Islands, French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

Solomons urges ties with Taiwan

SOLOMON Islands is encouraging other Pacific island countries to look to Taiwan for economic assistance and trade. Solomon Islands deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister Francis Saemala says Taiwan has become a major economic power and has a lot to offer developing nations in the region.

Saemala says the political differences between the two Chinas are an internal matter for them and there's no need for Pacific countries to get involved. Saemala said Taiwan had expressed willingness to assist in the establishment of the University of the South Pacific's School of Marine Study in Solomon Islands. Solomon Islands has full diplomatic relations with Taiwan along with Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Chinese looking at Marshalls investment

MARSHALL Islands ambassador to China Laurence Edwards said in the past year a flood of Chinese officials and businessmen had looked at investment in his country. China's primary interest in the Marshall Islands is the free access it enjoys to the American market.

Edwards says two groups from China are interested in bringing in up to 100 fishing boats. And he says a group from Hainan has plans to establish an industrial park with factories for canned coconut, pandanus juice and fish meal as well as business, recreation and other facilities. Another group wants to set up a joint venture brewery.

Edwards says once these are up and running, the Marshall Islands will be able to stand on its own feet with a non-artificial economy.

EIE creditors take control

CREDITORS of the Japanese company EIE International Corporation have taken control of the company's assets in Fiji. The EIE properties include The Regent of Fiji Resort, Sheraton Fiji Resort and the adjoining championship golf course which opened in June.

A report in the *Australian Financial Review* said the troubled Electronic Industrial Enterprises (EIE) had committed itself to about \$200 million investment in Fiji. The newspaper said the bulk of this sum had already been spent in developing a major resort and hotel complex.

The *Financial Review* quoted Keigo Fujii, a spokesman for EIE's main creditor, the Long Term Credit Bank of

Japan Limited, as saying the bank had exercised its right to take up voting rights in the shares in the Fiji company and now had control of the project.

The move, however, will not have any immediate effect on work on the multi-million dollar project and operations of the two popular resorts which employ hundreds of workers.

Winds, rain hit Tonga's pumpkin crop

IN Tonga, strong winds and heavy rain in mid-August damaged the kingdom's lucrative squash pumpkin plantations. Radio Tonga said medium-sized plants five to six weeks old had been particularly badly hit.

The radio said the current crop had also been hit by a fungus which attacks squash plants. It says revenue from squash exports is likely to be down this year. Tonga has rapidly built a squash pumpkin market in Japan and now earns millions of dollars a year from exports.

Solomon Airlines in the red

AN exchange of words between the Solomon Islands minister of finance Andrew Nori and former finance minister Christopher Columbus Abe has revealed the national flag carrier Solomon Airlines is in serious financial difficulties. A statement from Nori said the airline was more than three months in arrears on lease payments of its Boeing 737-400 and is facing repossession of the jet by the leasing company, International Lease Finance Corporation of California.

His statement came in response to an earlier claim by Abe that cabinet had endorsed the new finance minister's intention to borrow US\$1.3 million to help the airline out of its troubles. But the present minister has rejected the possibility of looking for domestic loan financing saying loans should be negotiated by the airlines legal owner, Investment Corporation of Solomon Islands or the airline itself.

Nori said the last government made a serious mistake when it decided to lease overseas jets.

Bank to upgrade lending services

THE Tonga Development Bank has launched a major project to upgrade lending and banking services to the people of the kingdom's outer islands. The project will be implemented over the next five years at a total cost of US\$6.6 million. It is being funded jointly by the development bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The major part of the project is a credit line of US\$4.4 million to finance the bank's lending to small farmers and fishermen, women's and other groups as well as small businesses in the outer islands. □



Pacific Diary



OCTOBER

- 01** Smaller Island States Committee Meeting, Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji
- 01-09** SOPAC Annual Session, Nadi, Fiji
- 04-08** Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Tonga
- 08** United States/Pacific Island Nations Joint Commercial Commission meeting, Washington, USA
- 14-18** Polynesian Music Festival, Rarotonga, Cook Islands
- 18-22** 19th CRGA Conference, Noumea, New Caledonia
- 25-27** 33rd South Pacific Conference, Noumea, New Caledonia
- ★ Workshop on Computerised Systems for Utilising Agricultural Information, Suva, Fiji

NOVEMBER

- ★(early) Forum Officials Committee 1993 Work Programme and Budget Session, Forum Secretariat, Suva
- 01-05** "World Coast": International Conference on Coastal Zone Management, The Netherlands

07-14

South Pacific Chiefs of Police conference (SPCPC), Madang, PNG

15-16

APEC Senior Officials Meeting, Seattle, USA

15-19

Regional Meeting of Heads of Rural Development Services, Noumea, New Caledonia

17-19

APEC Ministerial Meeting, Seattle, USA

22-26

Management of Public Enterprises, Nadi, Fiji

JANUARY 1994

18-26

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Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Countries, Barbados

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COVER STORIES

By Craig Skehan

A LOOMING stalemate over the appointment in Vanuatu of a new head of state could be used to force early national elections, according to legal advice provided to opposition political parties. And in any event, relative stability since 1991 elections has been eroded by recent defections from Prime Minister Carlot Korman's ruling coalition.

The next poll is not due until late 1995. However, opposition Vanua'aku Pati secretary general Sela Molisa says that in the interests of "stability", the country can't afford to wait that long. "We have a crisis coming up," he said. Vanuatu's politics were spotlighted in late August through premature reports that Maxime Carlot Korman's ruling coalition had collapsed. In fact, Carlot Korman survived a split in his junior coalition partner, former prime minister Walter Lini's National United Party (NUP) — retaining 24 seats in Vanuatu's 46-seat parliament.

But the prime minister went from a position of seeming strength to one of inherent weakness. In early August, Lini demanded that Carlot Korman remove four NUP ministers who had become increasingly estranged from their own party. However, Korman only sacked one of them. Lini's sister, Hilda (who was playing a negotiating role on behalf of her brother), and appointed NUP backbencher Robert Karie as agriculture minister.

Lini reportedly wanted to be deputy prime minister and minister for justice in a new line-up. When parliament resumed on August 23, Lini moved off the government benches with five NUP colleagues, including Hilda and Karie. Carlot Korman responded to a claim by Lini that he had been "provocative" over the reshuffle issue by stating that the bulk of the provocation had come from the Lini camp.

With Lini's group claiming a "centrist" role the official opposition is comprised of MPs from the Vanuaku Pati, the Melanesian Progressive Party (MPP), Lagriamel and Tan Union. On September 12, it became public that Carlot Korman had lured opposition Vanua'aku Pati MP Thomas Faratia to the government side. Opposition officials said that Faratia went temporarily into hiding because angry Vanua'ku Pati supporters were out looking for him. The defection improved Carlot Korman's parliamentary position for the time being at least.

But the need to replace the country's head of state, President Frederick Timakata, has thrown a wildcard into Vanuatu politics. The four-year presidential term of Timakata, who has been treated for a serious illness reported to be leukemia, expires in February next year.

Fresh poll looms?

The need to replace President Timakata has thrown a wildcard into Vanuatu politics

To elect a new president requires a two-thirds majority vote of an electoral college comprised of all Members of Parliament and representatives of local government councils.

Carlot Korman has said that, on the basis of an earlier agreement, he stood ready to nominate Lini as president. However, such a proposition is like a red rag to a bull as far as Lini's former colleagues-turned-foes in the Vanua'ku Pati are concerned. "He is not acceptable," Melisa said. "Even before NUP was split it was short of the two-thirds majority in the electoral college which is required. Our legal advice is that if a new head of state cannot be elected, parliament has to be dissolved and new elections held."

The Vanua'ku Pati has said it was willing to consider joining the UMP to form a new government without either of the NUP factions. But Melisa said such a coalition would only be acceptable if it was for the purpose of preparing for early national elections. Melisa said even if the government

reduced the number of local councils in order to gerrymander the electoral college, it was still unlikely to secure the majority margin it needed to choose a new president.

He maintained that, however the goal was achieved, new elections would be "stabilising" for Vanuatu because there was currently a deep-seated paralysis in government decision making. To understand the current situation, it is necessary to look back at series of schisms which have dominated Vanuatu's politics since the days of joint British/French condominium colonial rule. At independence in 1980, Lini moved further away from his past as an Anglican minister to preside over a long period of dominance by the Anglophone Vanua'aku Pati.

Lini ushered in a new brand of nationalistic "Melanesian socialism, supporting liberation struggles in various parts of the world and attacking remaining pockets of French colonialism in the Pacific. The Francophone UMP, which accused the government of being too leftist, languished in the political cold. By 1988, tensions had built-up within the Vanua'ku Pati, partly over the question of succession to Lini. Firebrand politician Barak Sope split with Lini to form the MPP in the wake of bitter infighting linked to disputes over traditional claims to urban land.



President: Timakata



PM: Carlot Korman



Rival: Lini

COVER STORIES



Parliament: in session in 1991 when Lini was PM

In 1991, there was a second split, as detractors of Lini — led by past party stalwarts Donald Kalpokas and Melisa — won a legal battle for control of the Vanua'ku Pati. Lini, despite health problems and alienation from many former political comrades, stormed off to form NUP. It was this bitter in-fighting which helped Carlot Korman's UMP

secure an election victory in December of that year. Machiavellian manoeuvring led to the formation of the post-election coalition between NUP and UMP but Lini himself took a back-seat role outside the ministry. Things went fairly smoothly for a while, then problems started. Carlot Korman has had difficulties with internal aspirants for his job, including ministers

Willie Jimmy and Serge Vohor.

And frictions developed between Lini and several of the NUP ministers over various government decisions, some of them said to have adversely affected various business interests. The ramifications of the latest political twist include the possibility of a court battle for control of NUP, mirroring what happened two years ago with the Vanua'ku Pati. Firm predictions are hard to make about Vanua'ku politics because there are so many variable, including double-crosses and pay-backs. But the bottom line is that pre-occupation with politicking tends to divert much needed attention from important social and development issues facing the country.

Political uncertainty also makes it harder for honest decision makers to bring into line, or sack, politicians and officials who might wish to corruptly pursue their own financial rather than national interest.

● **Attempts over five days to get comment from the Vanuatu government on the political situation were unsuccessful. Senior officials in the prime minister's office did not return calls.** □

Deals under scrutiny

By Craig Skehan

IN the rural areas of Vanuatu's 80-odd scattered islands, there is not a lot of money floating around but in the picturesque capital of Port Vila it is quite a different matter. While a handful of locals are regulars at the casino of the Radisson Royal Palms Resort, others prefer to stick to business wheeling and dealing.

But some of the deals, made in the shadows and allegedly overlapping with the interests of people in positions of public trust, are coming under scrutiny. In February this year, a commission of inquiry was given terms of reference covering matters ranging from the prices paid by government bodies for various buildings to the sale of government equipment and the awarding of tenders. The head of the inquiry is Clarence Marae. He is a law graduate from the University of Papua New Guinea, but not admitted to the Vanuatu Bar. Marae had his own problems back in 1989 when he was convicted of accepting a bribe from an Asian logging company and fined. He says he accepted a loan from the company involved and that this was found to be a technical breach of the law. "That was in the past but I don't have anything to hide. In my view I didn't do anything wrong," he told *PIM*.

In any event, Marae says he is now

enthusiastic about tackling corruption and irregularities in official decision-making. Marae has so far handed to deputy prime minister and Minister for Justice Sethy Regenvanu an interim report and two final reports. They are expected to be tabled in parliament in November or December. The reports cover purchase by the Vanuatu National

Provident Fund of Moore Stephens' House in Port Vila and allegations that politicians in the pre-1991 government of Walter Lini got personal loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It is understood that Marae had recommended prosecutions.

One term of reference on land sales involves former minister Barak Sope



Port Vila: one of the upper class residential areas in the capital

who is now an opposition MP. Others relate to government purchases of stevedoring equipment from local Dinh Van Than business family interests, 1978 government losses in relation to a Hong Kong company's involvement with Air Vanuatu, alleged irregularities involving European Community agricultural subsidies, shipping deals, and land purchases by the Vanuatu Development Bank. Marae says that prime minister Carlot Korman recently gave him some additional terms of reference involving other transactions and he now expects his inquiry to run until at least September of next year.

The big question is whether wrongdoers will be charged, allowing the courts to fulfil their function of protecting the public by dispensing justice. If both sides throw mud then agree to a trade-off whitewash, not much will have been achieved. Marae says he can only recommend that charges be laid, as the office of public prosecutions has the final say. He believes that it's time to make use of an existing unexercised provision of Vanuatu's constitution allowing for the appointment of an ombudsman. "My view is that some of these types of cases could, and should, be handled by an ombudsman," he said.

On another front, there is the perplexing story of plans by Vanuatu treasurer Willie Jimmy to raise US\$2000 million (two billion) foreign loan. Vanuatu's annual government budget is about US\$50 million.

The Australian Waratah Group has already been paid US\$75,000 by the Vanuatu finance ministry as a brokerage

In Vanuatu, a corruption commission of inquiry has presented finalised reports on 2 specific terms of reference, recommending prosecution in one of the cases

fee for the claimed loan. According to correspondence already exchanged, the huge sum would be delivered by a firm called Hannes Lenz Gesmbh and Co, which is based in the Philippines capital, Manila. A letter signed by Jimmy nominates three Vanuatu Government officials — Harry Collins, Wreath Bule and Edward Bani — as being authorised to carry out loan raising negotiations.

All three men have been seen in Suva, Fiji, where they have apparently held meetings with representatives of the Waratah Group. Another letter from the finance minister dated June 1, 1993 and addressed to Peter Johnston and Allan Bristow of the Waratah Group states; "Please accept this letter of appointment as your legal mandate to represent the Ministry of Finance, government of Vanuatu, in the effort to syndicate US\$2 billion to facilitate a loan for the development of projects in our country". The letter stated the money would be used for housing, power generation, oil refineries, telecommunications, agricultural projects and health programs.

According to Helen Fraser's Canberra-based *Pacific Report* newsletter, Peter Johnston — on behalf of Waratah — said Vanuatu would not be obliged to take up the whole loan and that a reinvestment package would be proposed. Fraser said Vanuatu had been told it would be paying a variable interest rate of around four to six per cent on the borrowed money but would receive 15 per cent on reinvested funds. Waratah maintains that the money available for lending consists of "good clean funds which have been cleared via world banking sources" and that CitiBank is part of the transaction chain.

According to other documents, the alleged Philippines lender linked successful conclusion of the loan to being given first right of refusal on oil and mineral exploration as well as fishing, timber and infrastructure projects. Sceptics wonder whether large scale loan funds will come through at all. They note that if negotiations break down, the US\$75,000 brokerage fee already paid will be lost. In other parts of the Pacific in recent years, there have been a number of cases of big foreign loans being offered to governments. But in many instances, the deals looked like a ploy by scheme operators to get up-front money then disappear.

Many people in the Vanuatu finance ministry have heard local stories about huge transfers of funds. After all, Vanuatu is a long-established tax haven and financial centre used by international money men. Maybe this has helped to foster a new political cargo cult which believes wealth can wash up on your shores if you have the right connections. □



Capital: the main street in downtown Port Vila

COVER STORIES

Controlling the airwaves

OVER the years, there has been a sort of censorship musical chairs going on in relation to government controls over political reporting of sensitive subjects by Radio Vanuatu. While government-owned, the national broadcaster is supposed to have editorial independence. But as the old saying goes, truth is the first casualty of war. So when political battles hot up in Port Vila, directives start hitting the desks of long-suffering administrators and editorial staff at Radio Vanuatu headquarters, which is perched on a small hill at the edge of town.

Back on July 10, 1991, then prime minister Walter Lini banned Radio Vanuatu broadcasts of statements from a dissident faction of his ruling Vanua'aku Pati. Regional media organisations weighed-in on the row with widely circulated statements criticising the action.

During the latest power struggle in Vanuatu, in which prime minister Korman was battling to keep a parliamentary majority, the boot was firmly on the other foot. Lini, having left the government with five supporters, found himself cut off from access to the airwaves. Korman's government instructed Radio Vanuatu not to carry statements from Lini or his group or to conduct interviews with them. The Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) reacted by saying it would be sad if Vanuatu had to revert to post media freedom restrictions which had tarnished the country's reputation.

The leader of Vanuatu's opposition Vanua'aku Party, Donald Kalpokas, told *PIM* that restrictions on Radio Vanuatu were affecting all opposition parties, and not just the Lini group. "When we issue a statement, we are lucky if a little bit of it gets on the air," Kalpokas said. "Anything which is sensitive seems to be cut." □

By Craig Skehan

A GOOD deal of mystery surrounds plans for a huge increase in logging on some of Vanuatu's remote islands. And this comes at a time of increased regional focus on an urgent need to avoid economic pitfalls and environmental degradation. A Malaysian group of companies, Delta/Premier/Parklane, was reported earlier this year to have been authorised to cut more than 70,000 cubic metres of logs annually on the islands of Erromango, Malekula and Santo. This compares with a current cut per year by all existing loggers of less than 25,000 cubic metres. There were suggestions that large-scale export of raw logs was to be allowed, overturning previous insistence on value-adding, at least to the point of producing sawn timber.

While the Delta/Premier/Parklane group had reputedly signed logging agreements with a number of island landowner representatives, others claiming traditional land rights objected. They said they had been left out of negotiations. In August, a quarantine row erupted over the arrival of two barges carrying hundreds of tonnes of heavy equipment for logging. Large amounts of soil, and vegetation were aboard the vessels and, after much fuss, the barges were ordered to leave the country.

In September, three government ministers — Finance Minister Willie Jimmy, Natural Resources Minister Paul Telukluk and former Forestry Minister Onneyn Tahy went to Malaysia to discuss future logging operations in Vanuatu. Their trip was at the invitation, and apparently at the expense, of Delta/Premier/Parklane. The *ni*-Vanuatu Ministers visited the Malaysian state of

Logging

Sarawak, where clashes between loggers and indigenous Penan and Berawan people have attracted world attention. A principal of Delta/Premier/Deltalane, Ting Jack Sang, was previously involved in Solomon Islands logging operations where disputes arose over environmental and financial issues.

The Vanuatu government was planning to re-examine Ting's Vanuatu plans in the wake of the Malaysian trip. On September 13, the day the ministers returned to Vanuatu, Willie Jimmy told Radio Vanuatu that company officials in Malaysia had been open in answering the ministerial group's questions. Jimmy said Delta/Premier/Parklane was "clean and honest" and that allegations made against the company were based on jealousy.

Earlier this year, there were reports of divisions in cabinet over how Ting's group should be allowed to proceed. And there was evidence that prime minister Carlot Korman was not entirely happy with some decisions made by Tahy when he had responsibility for forestry. Perhaps significantly, Tahy was moved to another portfolio in a recent ministerial reshuffle.

If the Delta/Premier/Parklane deal goes ahead, key issues will include whether raw log exports will be allowed, the size of the total cut and the level of environmental safeguards. Another hot issue is whether the government will scrap reported agreement by the former forestry minister to allow a big reduction in company payments to a reforestation fund.

Other companies from Malaysia, Singapore and the People's Republic of China have expressed an interest in beginning logging operations in Vanuatu. And there have been reports that a number of Asian companies have been looking at buying-out the owners of already-established Pacific Veneers which has a sawmill on the main island of Efate and logging operations on Erromango. This opens up the prospect of one of the new companies being able to make use of already negotiated logging agreements and export licenses.

The latest issue of the Port Vila based, environmentally oriented *Logging News* points to regional examples of disputes arising from logging companies giving gifts to selected traditional landowners and it notes, for example, there had already been logging related clan tensions and alleged attempts at intimidation.

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mysteries

Logging News criticised the practice of allowing logging company employees to keep record of the species of trees cut and log measurements. For example, Kauri logs had been recorded as the less valuable species, Melektri. "The company hides these logs at the bottom of the log heap to make it hard for people to check," the newsletter said. Another practice cited was that of transfer pricing to maximise profits with a parent company and then claiming that the subsidiary had lost money and could not meet infrastructure development and other obligations.

For the past five years the Vanuatu Department of Forestry, with Australian

Will foreign logging interests keep in check degradation of the environment?

aid assistance, has been compiling a national forest inventory. Recently a report of a study group found that a "national allowable cut of around 25,000 cubic metres should be considered".

And a meeting of the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) recommended that all member countries, including Vanuatu, review

sustainability of forestry practices to protect the viability of remaining forests and linked agricultural systems. Vanuatu's own National Conservation Strategy notes that even current logging operations are not being conducted on a sustainable basis.

In neighbouring Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, problems in the logging industry, including many involving Malaysian firms, have ranged from alleged kick-backs to politicians to serious soil erosion in water catchments and damage to marine ecosystems. Many Asian countries have moved to restrict exports of raw logs because of increasing environmental costs. Companies are travelling further afield to look for new native forest areas. As forest resources at home shrink and tropical timber prices rise, even relatively small island countries such as Vanuatu start to look inviting. The challenge for leaders in Vanuatu is to make sure that regional mistakes of the past are not repeated on their home turf. □

Computing in the Pacific

By Michael Le Grand

PACIFIC Islands Monthly has decided to take the brave step of commissioning a new feature column — Computing in the Pacific (CIP).

CIP will aim to be interesting, topical and useful and will offer **PIM** readers insights into computers and computing technology. We will cover what's happening in the information technology world, and more particularly what's happening in computing in the Pacific islands.

Make no mistake about it, information technology (IT) is increasingly penetrating every nation in the Pacific. While formerly the domain of the larger government agencies and departments or the banks and other large corporate and private sector interests, today, and more so in the future, the profile of the IT user is changing.

The change in IT user profile is being driven by many factors. Firstly, developments in the microcomputer area where what are termed 'PCs' are due to technological developments becoming increasingly powerful and faster with greater amount of storage. Secondly, developments in networking, communications and client server technology that effectively means relatively easy linking of machines, groups of machines or even groups of groups of machines. Often these networks can include local or remote mid range or mainframe compu-

ters, all in what can be in real-time (as in a voice teleconference session with people) link up.

The next major change factor stems from developments in the software used to develop applications. Once mainframe and mid-range systems needed large teams of dedicated professional programmers, microcomputers were regarded as toys. Languages used to develop large system applications were either very specialised (Algol, ADA, RPG or PLI) or semi generic (Cobol, Basic, Fortran). Today with languages such as C and in the development of 4GLs or pure database environments such as Xbase (Fox, Clipper, RBase, DBase III/IV) application developers can concentrate less on the "how" purely technical programming aspects and more on the "what" or functional productivity of programs. These two positions are for most IT users light years apart and the importance of this development should not be underrated.

Another important evolutionary change is economic. A fact of life in high tech multi-national manufacturing with a focus on volume production in countries with low labour costs and high commonality of products in intense competition. Hardware is decreasing in price, in real dollar terms at around 15 per cent per annum. If you find this hard to believe, check the price you paid 10 to 12 months ago for your last PC printer or plotter. Check your cost today for the same model and be prepared (after

accounting for inflation and currency fluctuations, increases in freight or duty) to be surprised.

Mind you, this effect when accompanied by the effect the pace of technological development has on the market value of used equipment is a very compelling argument to support the universal adoption by governments of accelerated depreciation being allowed on computer equipment.

Prices in the Pacific nations are often very high. While justifiable in some cases, it is unfortunately often because of lack of competition between suppliers or because of a market monopoly with the user bearing the cost.

This is even a sounder reason why initially buyers should shop around suppliers for the best price. Even more so today as manufacturers are compelled to move away from proprietary systems through either the need to offer semi generic system software which allows their machines to talk to other manufacturers (open systems) or to employ products that are or seen to be industry standards (MS DOS, Unix, Windows etc).

Next issue we will look at how these factors have affected one of the Pacific region's most successful users of computers, the Forum Fisheries Agency. Forum Fisheries has successfully implemented a phased approach to standardising compensation in every one of the 18 agency national offices. □

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Grassroots solutions

IN Gumi village in the Morobe Highlands in Papua New Guinea villagers are seriously considering an end to logging. Not because of destruction of their forests but because they are making more from butterfly ranching - an industry which depends on the forest for its existence and which, if the forests are preserved, will continue to make money long after the area is logged out.

Butterflies and insects, destined for collectors and zoos around the world, are now worth around \$A750,000 in export income to PNG each year.

They join a host of other non-timber forest products which hold enormous potential to stop forest destruction by replacing logging with grassroots industries which provide an income to cash hungry villagers.

Other non-timber forest products which are already, or could be, harvested directly from the forest include rattan, betel nut, gums and resins, massey bark, edible nuts, plants with pharmaceutical applications and plants such as orchids which are suitable for potting.

As well, additional income can be made from handicrafts, nature tourism and small-scale logging with portable sawmills which allow single trees to be taken in a way which does not jeopardise the future of the forest.

None of these alternatives are a passport to instant riches but they can provide a good income and one which will act as an incentive for people to stay in their villages instead of joining those clamouring for government services and job opportunities in the cities.

In PNG butterfly farming, which has a well established and efficient marketing structure, is probably one of the easiest industries to join.

According to Peter Clarke, manager of the Morobe based Insect Farming and Trading Agency (IFTA), which oversees all PNG's insect exports, anything which 'is big, beautiful or ugly is saleable'.

By far the most common insects ranches in PNG are the huge birdwing butterflies, one species of which ranks as the world's biggest.

Birdwings feed on aristolochia - a common vine which is easy to grow and thrives in secondary growth areas as well as its usual habitat deep in the forest.

To set up in butterfly ranching a villager needs only \$A30-40.

The IFTA or other environmental organisations such as the Wau Ecology Institute will send out a handbook. Then it is simply a matter of planting out some of the butterfly's food plants.

Once the caterpillars have turned into pupae the villager places them inside a small cage where they can hatch away from wind and predators which might damage their valuable wings.

The specimens are then sent to IFTA, which sells them to overseas dealers or frames them for sale in PNG or abroad.

A new and lucrative market is developing for live specimens or butterfly houses at zoos around the globe.

In an industry in which prices are easily damaged by oversupply this development, which requires the dispatch of fresh pupae stocks every month, is a boon.

Butterflies are ranches in 14 or 15 of PNG's 19 provinces

AUSTRALIA



JEMIMA
GARRETT

with around 800 villagers making between \$100 and \$10,500 a year.

Rattan also has great potential. In Indonesia rattan exports have been worth as much as \$80 million a year and total non-timber forest product exports, \$154 million.

Although no official figures are available in PNG leading non-timber forest product specialist, UPNG's Dr Simon Saulei, estimates there may be as many 50 PNG companies exporting rattan.

Betel nut from the forest is also sold widely for local use.

Portable sawmills are used in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and elsewhere.

So far they have proved their value in contributing to villagers' decisions not to allow large scale forest destruction by big logging companies and in providing timber for local communities.

As a source of sawn timber for a wider market or for export they have fallen short of expectations. This has been for a number of reasons all of which may be solvable. In particular there have been problems with milling not reaching the consistency or quality required for overseas market.

While there is undoubtedly a market for 'ecologically sustainably produced rainforest timber', for which the environmentally aware in western countries will pay a premium, getting into that market still presents problems. So does proving one's timber has not damaged the forests, particularly in the face of growing evidence that badly used portable sawmills are doing just that.

Both Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are attempting to deal with these problems.

PNG is supporting a major survey of its estimated 700 portable sawmill owners. It aims to establish just how the mills are being used and what can be done to ensure they are both profitable and environmentally friendly.

Solomon Islands is basing part of its strategy to curb the excesses of foreign logging companies around promoting small mills and has introduced new timber milling guidelines which ensure consistency in milling standard for export.

Right across the Pacific rainforests are being felled by big logging companies before scientists have had a chance to catalogue the resources they hold and before national government's have had a chance to consider whether, in the long run, more might be made from them through alternative uses.

The same traditional economic models which have failed to take account of the value of the forests in food, sustenance and shelter to the hundreds of thousands of people who still live a mainly subsistence lifestyle have also failed to measure the potential of resources being lost forever as the forests disappear.

A project being funded by Australia's overseas aid agency, AIDAB, is attempting redress that. It plans to catalogue all the resources with economic potential available in PNG's forests and to establish marketing plans for the most promising.

While the forest's economic value is only a small fraction of its total worth, for those who live and work there, and to humankind which depends on its existence to limit global warming, it is the factor which is most likely to preserve it for future generations. □

MELANESIA

FOR years Fiji has had a standing invitation to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) and for years the invitation was met with gracious silence from the Department of Foreign Affairs in Suva. For this reason the announcement by the Fiji prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka that Fiji are likely to accept the invitation was surprising to most commentators. The reason why Fiji has in the past been so reluctant to join the MSG has been because the country is so clearly both Melanesian and Polynesian.

While anthropologists often dispute the existence of a clear difference between Melanesians and Polynesians none who have sat drinking with Polynesian officials after a regional conference would ever doubt its existence. There exists a great divide between Polynesia and Melanesia and it runs right through the Pacific and right through Fiji. The divide in Fiji is more than just geographical — it is more than just Rotuma and the Lau group of islands. It is also very political



Rabuka: joining is inevitable

with the Lau group of islands to this day the traditional power centre in Fiji.

Throughout much of the pre-colonial era the Lau group of islands, located half way between Tonga and Fiji, were enormously influential in determining the direction which Fiji took through their contact and close relationship with the powerful, well armed and well organised Kingdom of Tonga. Many of the traditional chiefs of Fiji trace their lineage and connection to Lau and further to Tonga where the ties between the King of Tonga and Fiji's chiefs remain very strong even today. Perhaps more importantly the way power is wielded by the chiefs within traditional Fijian society is distinctly Polynesian rather than the looser 'big man' system that exists in Melanesia. So while most Fijians may appear very much like Melanesians, especially to outsiders, the society's structure and much of the culture remain distinctly Polynesian.

Forum meetings are, for many Pacific island leaders, a difficult and perplexing

Spearhead

Fiji's interest
in joining the
MSG has
surprised many

event because they are under the eye of the media and there is an enormous amount of pressure to actually do something. For a rare moment the region's media is focused upon the leaders and they are desperately looking for news and for some sort of evidence of a regional initiative that might make it possible to justify to their editors the cost of such a long journey. Increasingly the news worthiness of the Forum is making editors think more than twice about sending their staff. However, Sitiveni Rabuka announcement at the Nauru Forum of the inevitability of Fiji seeking membership in the Melanesian Spearhead Group could result in the most profound political and economic realignment of the South Pacific since the creation of the Forum over 20 years ago.

The fact is obvious that economically the future of the South Pacific lies very much in Melanesia. PNG with its enormous resource wealth, Fiji with its industrial sector and New Caledonia with its apparently limitless access to the French treasury make for an impressive political constellation. Add to this Vanuatu with its tourism potential and Solomon Islands with its low labour cost there can be little doubt that if there is any economic potential in the South Pacific it lies in Melanesia.

Almost immediately following prime minister Rabuka's announcement at the Forum the sounds of flip-flop and back-track could be heard in the corridors of power in Suva with senior government officials talking of the undesirability of the proposal. Even Rabuka was quoted as saying within two days of the announcement that this would not mean a down-grading of the links with Polynesia. The problem for the Fiji prime minister is that having now made the announcement at the Forum if he backtracks under pressure from the traditional elite he faces the possibility of irreparably damaging diplomatic and trade relations with Melanesia.

Just one year ago the MSG appeared to be almost defunct with the heads of government unable to even to decide to meet and while officials were still discussing a trade treaty the only trade that appeared to be of any significance was the trade in lead between the PNG Defence force and the Solomon Islands. However, with the full of Solomon Islands Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni and the rise to power of Francis Billy Hilly a new era in relations

between PNG and the Solomons appears to have begun. This was signalled at the recent MSG summit held in June in Rabaul where the heads of government signed the much awaited MSG trade agreement. The trade agreement between the three countries eliminates the import duties on three commodities - beef from Vanuatu, canned fish from Solomon Islands and tea from PNG. It is the duty free entry of the latter into the Solomon Islands that has already created difficulties on the Fiji side where tea exporter Hari Punja is facing increased competition from PNG tea in the Solomon Islands market as a direct result of the preferential access under the trade agreement.

The MSG trade agreement is a development that Fiji officials have eyed with both some trepidation as well as increasing interest. Fiji exporters and re-exporters have carved out small but important export markets in many of the small South Pacific island states. These markets are important to Fiji — well beyond their market value because they permit Fiji to purchase in larger quantities than is otherwise the case and as a result this lowers the cost of imports to both Fiji and the island states. The preferential access arrangement that is evolving between PNG and Solomon Islands and Vanuatu threatens to undermine the Fiji trade advantage in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Fiji traders have never been able to establish a serious foothold in the huge PNG market. This trade advantage is crucial to Fiji and its economy and it is for this reason that Prime Minister Rabuka may be willing to take the flack he will get from Fiji's polynesian elite.

While the politicians of the MSG may be officially and publicly applauding Fiji's entry into the MSG, their trade officials are a good deal less predisposed to the idea. There is a long standing and well justified fear that the advanced Fiji manufacturing sector, would, in the absence of tariffs, wipe out the fledgling manufacturing sectors in the other MSG counties. As a result, there is a great deal less enthusiasm at the official level for

surprise



Arthur Wate

Melanesian melody: Solomon Islands pan pipers in Honiara. The Melanesian Spearhead Group will be greatly strengthened if Fiji joins their fold

Fiji's entry into the MSG than there appears to be at the political level. However, entry of Fiji into the MSG does not necessarily mean that the MSG countries will immediately extend the MSG trading privileges to Fiji.

The MSG agreement at the moment is very limited covering only three goods but, as officials point out, so were most other trade agreements when they were first signed. Fiji knows that if it is to get on the ground floor of the only real trade game in the South Pacific it must join the MSG.

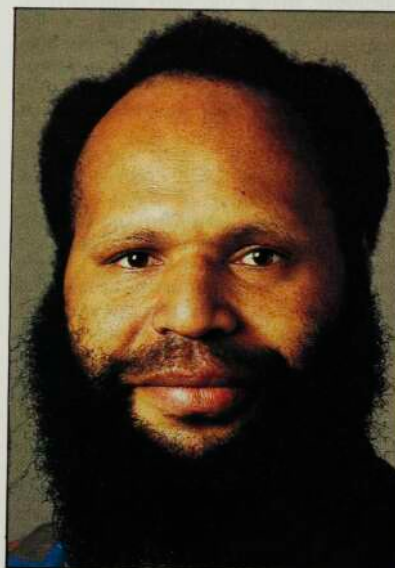
However, what has really been missed by the political commentators is just how internationally significant Fiji's entry will be to the political calculus of the Western Pacific. One of the reasons why the Pacific Islands Development Program annual meeting of islands leaders has been so popular is that it has permitted island leaders to meet without any metropolitan powers attending. The annual Forum and the meeting of the South Pacific Commission are meetings

where the metropolitans are present physically, financially and politically.

However, an MSG that includes the only five countries that really matter among the island states of the South Pacific, despite what the Forum officially says, may be the beginnings of a new very important political alignment that may change the nature of political power in the region and potentially undermine the Forum.

Both within Fiji and regionally the possible entry of Fiji as a full member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group is a major event. It is a case where the economics of the South Pacific dictate that Fiji should enter the MSG despite what may be some short term difficulties at home.

Outside Fiji an expanded MSG may finally signal the development of truly regional organisation that is, despite protestations to the contrary, not dominated by one or other of the former metropolitan powers. □



Palas Wingti: PNG's prime minister

US TERRITORIES

In search of a Pacific policy

By Tim Bruce and Mike Malone

THE American-flag islands of the Northern Marianas and Guam need a rational Pacific policy from President Bill Clinton. Located 1300 south of Japan, this Western Pacific archipelago offers a policy agenda to the new US president. Here is a prescription for success. No Bashing: Harsh US trade measures perceived as hostile by Asia, particularly by Japan or China, may reawaken irrational xenophobic sentiments. The results could be an economic Cold War or worse.

Proudly flying the stars and stripes, but looking to Asian neighbours for bread and butter, these flag-islands host up to a million Japanese tourists annually. Guam and the Northern Marianas hope mainland economic frustrations won't drive Clinton to a season of Asia-bashing. "Politically, each morning we face Washington DC," says Lorenzo Guerrero, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. "But by noon we're looking to Japan, the country that sustains our economy." Senator Joe T San Augustin, Speaker of the 21st Guam Legislature, put it much the same way: "Politically, we face east (Washington); economically, we face west (Asian Pacific Rim)."

The first casualty in a US-Asian Cold War will be loss of Japanese investment in the US flag islands. Last year, 900,000 Japanese tourists spent nearly \$1.2 billion in the Marianas. With a total land mass the size of Dallas, Texas, the islands receive only 33 per cent fewer Japanese tourists than annually visit the entire US mainland. The economy of the mainland United States might survive such a Cold War; in fact even be stimulated by it but

economies in Guam and the Northern Marianas will be devastated. Investment partnership with Asian neighbours has brought the islands close to economic self-sufficiency. A sour US-Pacific relationship will reverse the progress made since direct air links to Japan brought prosperity. Clinton must accept that in foreign policy Japan lacks a helmsman, is unpredictable and, if pushed, likely as not to veer into excessive nationalism.

Maintain a military presence: The United States now has fewer than 100,000 troops in Asia. A military pullout will remove the United States as key player in the Pacific and signal the end of US interest in the region's political future. The last time the US made a signal like that — setting a timetable for Philippine independence — Japan invaded Luzon. As the world fragments into trade blocks, there will be ever-increasing opportunities for hostile confrontations. A convincing American military capability is needed in Pacific East-Asia to keep peace among highly competitive Asian countries in times of aggressive economic manoeuvring. Case in point: China's designs on Spratly Island oil.

Get active economically: If the United States intends to be a Pacific power, it must be active economically. As US assistant trade representative for Asia and Pacific Affairs, Sandra Kristoff, said: "One of the major changes in the new world order is that economic policy is now foreign policy. Everything revolves around economics and will continue to do so." If the United States can't play in the Asian-Pacific economic league, it will be a second rate power. Some believe World War II never finished. What we see is a lengthy battle in a century-long competition between the US and Japan

for control of the Pacific and Asia. Japan's economic victory at the end of this Century may become as significant as the American military victory in the Forties.

Japan's pre-war finance minister, Korekiyo Takahashi, understood well: "It is much harder to nullify the results of an economic conquest than those of military conquest." If Clinton means to see the US a Pacific power, he should: back the efforts of outfits like the Overseas Private Investment Corporation which encourages American investment in the Pacific; ask Congress to expand the Trade and Development Program; make good on Bush's much ballyhooed and unfulfilled promise to establish a Joint Commercial Commission for cooperative development of Pacific nations. Lastly, put some real resources into the Pacific Basin Development Council, key to stimulating political-economic development in the US flag islands.

Respect local sovereignty. Loyal outpost of the United States from the Spanish-American War through the horror of World War II, the territory of Guam asks for a well-earned elevation to unique Commonwealth status within the US political family. The Northern Marianas, the newest member of the American political family, bargained for full autonomy under a Commonwealth Covenant. Yet, Uncle Sam's inflexible paternalism has denied islanders in Guam and the Northern Marianas real control over local affairs. The 15 islands in the Marianas chain found the Bush administration largely deaf to requests for custom made political arrangements. In search of respect, the NMI has been forced to litigation, and Guam forced to negotiate a bureaucratic labyrinth to Commonwealth status. The Republican White House let the "one size-fits all" mentality of the Department of the Interior deal with the islands. Some local leaders hope for a repeat of the Carter days, when Democrats opened with fresh ideas and dealt sympathetically with the islands' desire for local marine jurisdiction.

Asian nations watch to see if they can live with Clinton. If the man from Arkansas means to announce a sincere interest in new forms of Pacific cooperation, he can start with his own US flag islands. To demonstrate to Asia that the US means to lead in innovative political arrangements for the 21 Century, it should grant Guam the Commonwealth status it has so long desired and withdraw Federal claims to the Northern Mariana's ancestral marine resources.

In a stroke, and without spending a dime, the new Democratic administration can establish its leadership in flexible political arrangements in the Asian-Pacific. Economic success will follow.

● **Tim Bruce is special legal counsel to the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Mike Malone is senior assistant to the Commonwealth's Lt. Governor.** □

THE UNITED NATIONS

Pacific nations begin UN moves

By Ian Williams

THE Pacific island states have now entered the world of geopolitical manoeuvring at the United Nations. During the summer, the Asia group of states made a bid for more chairmanships of UN committees, because, they claimed, the coming accession of Nauru, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Tonga to the UN would mean the Asia group would outnumber the Africa group.

However, it all seems to have been based on a misapprehension. A Pacific ambassador had said that *if* they were to join they would join the Asia group, which would *then* become the biggest regional grouping. In fact, only Tuvalu is currently considering joining, and membership will be a big domestic electoral issue. Nauru, in some way, should now feel less embarrassed by its size and should consider applying. Having successfully done a David and Goliath imitation by securing a settlement of \$73 million from Australia at the International Court of Justice it would also no longer be quite so much smaller than other member states. This year the tiny European states of Andorra, and Monaco each with about 8,000 citizens, were admitted to the United Nations.

The Asian Group however, may yet get their enhancement soon. Australia and New Zealand are in the increasingly anomalous "West European and Others" regional grouping, and are expected to make a determined bid to move to the Asian group. In the meantime, Forum member New Zealand has been on the Security Council, where power in the United Nations is increasingly concentrated, since January. It enhanced its reputation by being one of the few members of the council, along with Britain and France, to be up to date in its dues payments. However there are some ripples on the waters. Despite persistent attempts in Vila to replace Robert Van Lierop, Vanuatu's Ambassador to the UN, the rumors of his departure so far seem exaggerated. He is still in office, and active in the corridors of the organization. None the less, the prospect of his removal is causing concern among island members who point out that Vanuatu's international

standing, and the Pacific's, has been greatly heightened by Van Lierop's efforts on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

AOSIS now has a formidable block of around 40 members, and their pressure at the Earth Summit in Rio last year led to recognition of their special problems. That in turn has led to the most significant event for the Pacific in the coming year, — the Global Conference on Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States, to be held in Barbados next year. The conference is expected to seek financial and technological aid from the developed world, as well as building regional cooperation, to deal with their particular needs like transportation, communication, fishery protection and preparedness for natural disaster. Of course, global warming and its consequences such as sea level rise and coral bleaching will loom large on the agenda.

According to the UN the islands have in common "a small land area, and are constrained by a paucity of natural resources. Their populations are small and their age composition is strongly affected by the tendency of islanders to emigrate to seek work." But that does not stop the populations densities being very high with consequent environmental stress. Their economies are "small, lacking in diversification." All that smacks of truism. The real question is what can be done about countries which would, if the World Bank types had their way, be wound up as inherently unprofitable. At the beginning of September, the Preparatory Committee meeting in New York revealed some fission lines between the two biggest groups, the Caribbean and the Pacific, but they were on matters of presentation rather than substance and the conference itself is unlikely to see any stormy debates between the two.

Indeed the gathering itself will be the largest ever held in the Caribbean and certainly, say the organisers, the largest ever to take place in a country the size of Barbados, which is rushing to complete its conference centre in time for the occasion. Since one of the problems of the island states in the small size of their economies, it may seem that the last thing they need is to spend large proportions of their budgets sending



Solomon connection

: former Solomon Islands foreign affairs minister Sir Baddley Devesi at the UN

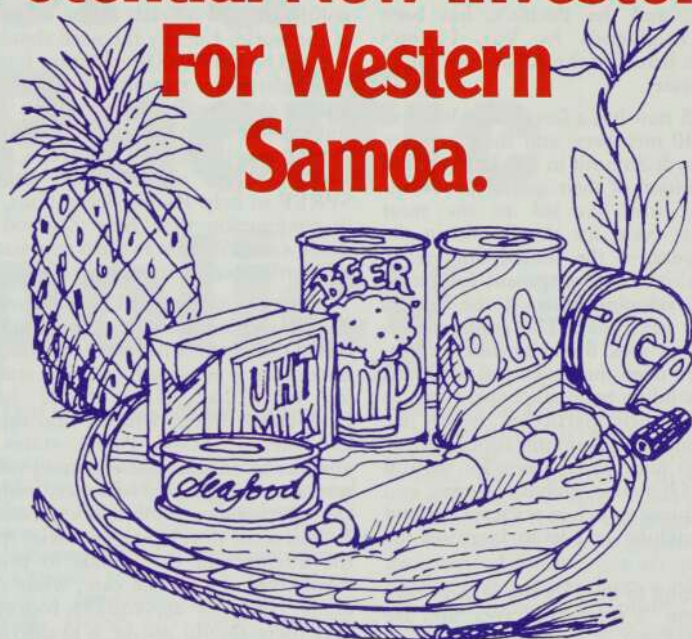
politicians and officials to the other side of the world. Luckily the need should be averted by a \$950,000 voluntary fund by which the richer nations of the world will finance their small island brethren. Even tiny Liechtenstein has contributed a 1000 Swiss francs to the fund. Australia, for its part has put up \$200,000 through SPREP to help Pacific delegations, and in conjunction with New Zealand has made a contribution to the cost of staffing the conference secretariat in New York.

However, as with all UN Conferences, the "Island Summit" has to persuade the rest of the world of its relevance. The UN bureaucracy is already coining stultifying terms like SIDS (Small Island Developing States) which could rapidly kill interest. Many Pacific states are anxious to ensure that it should not be seen as a "begging" conference, trying to tap the donor countries' treasures. Indeed some developing countries resent the attempts of the islands to present themselves as a special case, while some donor countries are equally concerned that there should not be a proliferation of categories of aid recipients.

The various preparatory conferences so far have produced some 250 separate recommendations, but there is concern that the conference shouldn't just produce a long shopping list. "We want a brief plan of action that sets out the methods — an overall strategy, from which those 250 recommendations would flow" one Pacific diplomat told *PIM*.

The Caribbean and Pacific states are already developing regional approaches to their problems, so the Conference has to interest the rest of the world if it is not just going to add further gusts of hot air to the problem of global warming. The question then is how to interest the developing countries. By concentrating on the role of the islands as reservoirs of biodiversity, and custodians of their surrounding maritime resources, it is hoped that the islands will persuade the rest of the world not to leave them all at sea. At least this part should be in good hands. One of the officers for the conference is Lelei Lelaulu, Samoan president of the Pacific Islands Association in the US who, despite having been a UN civil servant for many years has a grasp on reality because of his many years as a journalist. □

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LAW AND ORDER

By Wally Hiambohn

ARNOLD Amet, 40, became chief justice of Papua New Guinea on August 6, the second Papua New Guinean to ascend to the country's highest judicial position. He took over from Sir Buri Kidu who has served with distinction for the past 13 years and established an internationally reputable independent judiciary for the country.

Amet, who was the surprise pick, has foreshadowed sweeping changes to the judicial system and legal practices to conform with PNG's social, political and economic organisation rather than the "too formal, complex, expensive and inaccessible" system adopted at independence 17 years ago. "Essentially, my philosophy about legal and judicial service to the people of this country is that it should be simple, less formal and less complicated as possible and less expensive so that it is far more accessible to the vast majority of the ordinary people of this country," Amet said when he took office.

Simple and less complicated he may want laws to be but Amet has come in at a time when laws with far-reaching effects have been enacted in parliament and are being proposed by the Wingti government to address the country's law and order problems.

By the time you are reading this story, the Supreme Court, of which Amet is a member of the bench, will be deciding whether the government's controversial Internal Security Act is constitutional or not. The Ombudsman Commission, led by its chief Charles Maino, is seeking a Supreme Court review of the Act which, they say, cuts through the basic human rights provisions of the constitution.

The Act passed by parliament in May is aimed at preventing terrorism. It is intended to —

- specify offences related to terrorism and the encouragement of terrorist activities and provide heavy penalties;
- outlaw organisations engaged in or likely to engage in or promote terrorist activities;
- provide powers to exclude persons likely to engage in terrorist activities from the country;
- provide powers to declare areas prohibited and exclude entry to such areas;
- provide powers of arrest and detention in such areas.

Finer details of interest are that —

- people who encourage or support terrorism could be fined up to K100,000 or jailed for up to 14 years under new legislation passed by parliament;
- it provides for "exclusion" of people the national executive council considers likely to engage in terrorism. In the case of citizens, this can mean barring that person from particular parts of the country.

Act of (in)security?

In the case of non-citizens, it can mean deportation and a bar on re-entry;

- the law is meant to prevent acts of terrorism against the state and to safeguard against the setting up of illegal groups such as the Bougainville Revolutionary Army;

- the law provides for fines of up to K10,000 and/or jail terms of up to seven years for members of the organisation the NEC considers to be terrorist groups and for people who provide any kind of aid to such groups.

- Anyone displaying support for the activities of such groups by wearing any item of dress or carrying articles of such kind as to arouse "reasonable apprehension" that he is a member of an organisation involved in terrorist activities, is also guilty of an offence and can be fined up to K10,000 or jailed for up to three years.

Other supplementary laws proposed include amendments to the Bail Act, Criminal Code Act, Dangerous Drugs Act, Firearms Act, Police Act and Summary Offences Act. The Repatriation Act will provide for the setting up of Repatriation Courts to order people back to their home provinces if they do not have any visible means of support and who are likely to turn to crime. Courts will order people to stay in the villages for a specified period. The Bail Act provides for only the national court to grant bail, not the lower courts.

The Criminal Code is to be amended so that police will not need warrants to make arrests for prescribed offences. Heavier penalties for drug use and possession and use of firearms will be imposed under the Dangerous Drugs and Firearms Act. In July, the government so approved for ratification by parliament two new proposed laws — that all Papua New Guineans be issued identification cards and that onus of proof be reversed so that people charged for offences as serious as rape, murder or armed robbery are automatically guilty and have to prove their innocence unlike now where one is innocent until proven guilty.

Said police minister Avusi Tanao when he introduced these measures: "This government is talking about a sensible approach to law and order."

Prime minister Wingti said of his government's total law and order package that it was a comprehensive approach to the problem which was making all sectors of the society "sick to death". Said Wingti — "The crime problem facing us warrants drastic action. The proposed constitutional changes are part of our commitment to making these important changes. We will not stop here. Our directions are quite clear to our law enforcement agencies to implement all the laws we have changed, and all the laws that we will change in the future."

Amet's predecessor Sir Buri Kidu, after keeping silent, spoke out against the Internal Security Act and related bills the moment he was replaced. He said the Act would cause chaos in the community, the judiciary and the country as a whole. There would be human rights abuses, innocent people would be jailed and people's movements would be restricted, he summed. "This is a very dangerous trend and would work against the people," he said.

Chief ombudsman Charles Maino sounded the biggest warning when he said it would create civil unrest when people's lives are being frustrated. He described the laws as being "stupid" and "unconstitutional". Maino instructed his lawyers to challenge the Internal Security Act during the Supreme Court's October hearing. "In my view the Act is unconstitutional; it is stupid to say the least," he said. "If our leaders abuse their powers then the people may be frustrated and go up in arms to protect themselves. Civil unrest will then become our daily event because people will be fighting for their rights."

Opposition to the laws came from all sectors of the community, and from Amnesty International and Australian, Belgian and Canadian lawyers and even a judge of the PNG national court. On the shifting of onus of proof, Judge Brown said in a letter to the *Post-Courier* newspaper; "I write to sound a warning to the executive arm of government now apparently considering the proposal, by academic advisers, to change the constitution by doing away with the presumption of innocence in serious criminal cases. An American, Thomas Jefferson said that all men are created equal but we know that not to be the case. Some

people have more opportunities than others, some are smarter and some accumulate riches more easily than others. The constitutional imperative to treat all men as equal is acted upon by all our courts (while recognising this reality), by applying this presumption of innocence. But this proposal may work to the contrary if the change is carried by parliament. A class of people will be created who will not have the protection the present constitution affords them. The under-class, I venture to say, will not be the rich and famous but ordinary Papua New Guineans who may not be as smart as some. The change will condone an injustice. It reflects an impatience and arrogance in the proposals to seek efficiency in the pursuit of order to the detriment of justice for all. This wish of the academic ignores to my mind, the morality of its methods for by undermining the precept, that "all men are equal before the law" the conscience of all Papua New Guineans must be unsettled. I ask the executive and all parliamentarians to look to their conscience in this matter, for the proposal is fraught with risk."

Philip George Scales, an Adelaide lawyer in a letter to Chief Justice Amet said there was considerable concern that the provisions of the Act were likely to lead to human rights violations occurring." He quoted Amnesty International as saying "The Act will be virtually impossible to ensure that human rights are properly safeguarded. He said Amnesty was concerned by the broad definition of what constitutes support for terrorism under the Act and by sweeping powers for arrest and detention it confers upon the security forces. It said it believed the Act could all too easily be applied to restrict or repress internationally recognised rights to freedom of expression and association.

"The new legislation grants the head of state power to ban organisations which are, in his opinion, 'prompting or encouraging, or (are) likely to or about to promote or encourage terrorism', Scales said.

"Likewise, individuals alleged by the government to support banned organisations or who display support in a public place may be subjected to terms of three to seven years imprisonment. Appeals against the banning of an organisation can only be addressed to the head of state and national executive council — the bodies which issued the decrees — and not to an independent judicial authority. Most worrying, a document signed by the police commissioner certifying that an individual is a member of a prescribed organisation constitutes *prima facie* evidence of membership of the organisation.

"The government has said that the Act is necessary to combat law and order problems. But the Act specifically defines 'terrorism' as including the use of violence for political ends. Amnesty

LAW AND ORDER

International is concerned that the vague language used to describe support for or encouragement of "terrorism" may permit a wide range of interpretation by the authorities.

"When vague terms such as these are employed, the risk of the law being invoked to suppress non-violent political dissent is greatly increased," said the organisation. It added that "in any case, problems of criminality can never justify the application of laws which may lead to human rights violations.

"The act also gives the police powers to arrest without warrant and detain suspects without charge for a period of 10 days, renewable for a further 10 days. Amnesty said that the long experience of security legislation in countries such as South Africa, Malaysia and Northern Ireland had shown that when the security forces had power to detain suspects without charge or trial, further violations — such as torture or ill-treatment — frequently occur."

The Act was rushed through parliament in May. However, since some provisions of the Act restrict constitutional rights, a parliamentary majority agreeing each provision is required before the proposed legislation becomes law. Amnesty International is urging the government to reassess as a matter of priority the terms and provisions of the Act and to ensure that any national security legislation refers only to

recognisably criminal offences and does not violate the rights to freedom of opinion, belief, expression or association.

Amnesty said: "It is alarming that as the world gathers in Vienna to discuss increasing safeguards for human rights the PNG authorities are planning to remove existing safeguards, thereby potentially undermining the rights of their citizens. Many of those gathered at Vienna are themselves survivors of human rights violations; some were victims of internal security legislation in other countries and could provide eloquent testimony of the ways in which such legislation has been used to suppress basic freedoms; and of how it has resulted in torture and ill-treatment."

Opposition leader Jack Genia, who died recently, described it as an ill-conceived Act thrown together in haste. "The Act is a confusing bundle of ad hoc knee-jerk reaction to a major national problem. The ISA is suppressive, repressive and inhuman and its constitutional validity is open to question. It is already receiving widespread criticism," he said.

Opposition frontbencher John Momis said it was "draconian" and a move towards dictatorial rule and could be used against political opponents. Momis' fellow Melanesia Alliance politician Bernard Narakobi said it restricted freedom of movement guaranteed under the constitution. The PNG Trade Union Congress, the umbrella body of all

workers unions in PNG, said it was a "cut-throat" Act designed to cut off democracy and deprive the people of PNG their rights to freedom.

Of ID cards, general secretary John Paska said it would be a costly and impractical exercise which would imprison Papua New Guineans in their own country. "It reduces Papua New Guinean status to that of dogs who have to go around with tags on," he said.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace said that the proposal to shift the burden of proof from the prosecution to the defendant and the question of ID cards went against the fundamental rights of the citizens. Perhaps a better approach to the issue of law and order is one former prime minister Rabbie Namaliu called for in a recent address to a technical school in Port Moresby. He spoke of instilling personal discipline to children so that they learn to grow up with respect for themselves, others and their country. "I believe the lack of personal discipline is a major problem in this nation today," he told students.

"Too many people think that freedom means doing exactly what you want, without thinking what it might do to others. Stop and think. If you agree that everyone should be free, then what about the people who suffer because you are not self-disciplined." "You cannot allow your freedom to take away somebody else's freedom. So personal responsibility calls for personal discipline." □

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Pacific Paradox

HOW to solve "The Pacific Paradox"? That is a question vexing governments of the island states, New Zealand, Australia and the World Bank.

"The Pacific Paradox" was phrase used by the World Bank in a study on the island economies published earlier this year. It defined it as follows: "Virtually no growth occurred in average real per capita income during the last decade or so despite a favourable natural and human resource endowment, high levels of aid and reasonably prudent economic management."

It noted that per capita real GNP grew by only 0.1 per cent a year, while the Caribbean islands, for example, posted 2.4 per cent growth over the same period and those in the Indian Ocean 3.7 per cent. This despite healthy inflows of foreign aid, investment and emigrant remittances, relatively stable exchange rates and control over inflation.

The World Bank's report covered only its member countries - Fiji, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Kiribati, Western Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia. But its comments are equally applicable to other island states in the region, which also have reasonable basic subsistence incomes and good, if not over generous, human and natural resources.

Why then, given their intrinsic potential, have they failed to capitalise on these pulses in comparison with other island communities around the world which share the negatives of small internal markets, narrow production bases, high infrastructure costs, heavy dependence on overseas trade and vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters?

From a Wellington perspective, there is a suspicion that the island nations tend to blame the South Pacific Regional Trade Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA) for failure to turn their economies around.

It is certainly true that SPARTECA has not achieved the export growth envisaged when it came into effect 12 years ago. There have been some successes, but as I have noted previously, total Pacific island exports to New Zealand in 1992 were down on the figure achieved four years earlier and \$35 million under the peak reached in 1990.

New Zealand can justifiably ask what more it can do than offer duty-free unrestricted access to all Forum country goods and finance an office in Auckland to encourage their entry and facilitate investment in the island states.

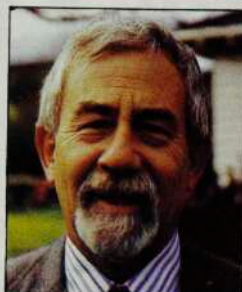
So is tinkering with SPARTECA, as the Forum countries, lead by Fiji, are asking, going to solve the problem?

New Zealand and Australia have been given a breathing space to make their response, with the postponement of this month's (Oct) scheduled Committee on Regional Issues and Trade (CREIT) meeting until next March.

It is time they badly need, for as Trade Negotiations Minister Philip Burdon admitted to me, it is one of the most difficult items on his agenda.

New Zealand - and no doubt, Australia - desperately want to help the island nations improve their economic viability. It is not just a question of preserving their own regional

WELLINGTON



DAVID
BARBER

security and economic interests, they recognise that as major powers in the area, they have a responsibility to help their neighbours.

The question is: How best to do that?

Fiji, backed by the other Forum members, has proposed relaxation of SPARTECA's rules of origin provisions that require their exports to Australasia to have at least 50 per cent regional content to qualify for duty-free entry.

The main reason is that Fiji's clothing industry (one of the region's undoubted successes in recent years) is suffering as New Zealand and Australia cut their tariffs on imports from the rest of the world, reducing the price advantage the Fijians once enjoyed. As a result, New Zealand's imports of Fijian clothing are falling and Asian manufacturers, once edged out by SPARTECA-aided products, are regaining lost ground.

The Fijians, told to lift their quality to compete at the top end of the market, are finding the cost of the better cloth they have to import forces them out of the 50 per cent local content category. They want a range of other costs, including packaging, administration, insurance and freight to be included when assessing regional content.

This, Burdon says, is being considered in conjunction with Australia, but both countries are reluctant to foster artificial subsidies which will not in the long run help the island nations stand on their own economic feet.

The best way to do that, he suggests, is to help them broaden their trading horizons beyond New Zealand and Australia. In this, he is in agreement with the World Bank, which said: "Development of the small and scattered economies can come about only through effective economic engagement with the rest of the world."

"In pursuing growth, they have little option but to seek export opportunities (and efficient import substitutes) to drive domestic economic activity."

It can be done. Fiji's clothing exports (so successful to the United States that they attracted quota restrictions), Tonga's squash sales to Japan and Western Samoa's automotive wire assembly plant, have proved this. It means the island states have to become (italics) internationally competitive (unitalics) - able to sell around the globe, not just to markets like New Zealand and Australia, protected by a benign SPARTECA.

To this end, New Zealand is offering Fiji assistance with trade promotion activities and is prepared to help others with fishing management and afforestation expertise.

The World Bank has talked before about top-heavy public sectors in the region, outdated inward-looking policies and lack of encouragement for private enterprise. It's a refrain Pacific Island leaders may get tired of hearing, but it's a message they should heed if they want the prosperity their people deserve. □

HAWAII

By Ed Rampell

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's July 11 Waikiki Beach speech was disrupted by protesters chanting "Justice for Hawaiians", forcing the president to respond: "I hope we can provide it (justice)." Seeking justice, Hawaiians have become the first ethnic group to put America on trial inside of the US for human rights abuses. Hawaiians marked the 100th anniversary of the US's Year of Indigenous People with *Ka Ho'okolokolonui Kanaka Maoli*.

The People's International Tribunal Hawaii 1993 finally gave the have-nots their day in court, charging America with: interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation; aiding a foreign coup; annexation; incorporation; illegal land appropriation; genocide and ethnocide; environmental destruction. An international panel of nine judges of academics, attorneys, and activists with human rights backgrounds heard testimony from expert and grassroots witnesses at five Hawaiian islands. Judges included Moana Jackson, the Maori legal services director who led the indigenous contingent at July's UN Human Rights conference in Geneva and has advised Bougainville's revolutionary government; Ward Churchill, American Indian Movement co-director and University of Colorado professor; Asma Khader, a Palestinian journalist and lawyer who won the 1990 Human Rights Watch Award. Mililani Trask, head of Ka LaHui Hawaii (the sovereign

America



Presidential address: Clinton address 35,000 people on Waikiki Beach. Protesters later disrupted the speech

Hawaiian nation) noted: "no judges are Hawaiians, so they are impartial."

Ka Ha'okolokolonui does not have the force of law. As Judge Richard Falk points out: "this concept emerged out of the Bertrand Russell tribunal against the Vietnam War, which led to the establishment of the Permanent People's Tribunal at Rome. Tribunals locate law in people, not government institutions." Tribunal Convenor Dr Kekuni Blaisdell said: "Its main reason is educating the

world regarding the truth about Hawaii." The tribunal opened at Honolulu's Iolani Palace August 12, the 95th anniversary of American annexation of Hawaii. Flanked by activists holding "Yankee Go Home" and "US Out of Pearl Harbor" signs, judges were introduced. Khader compared the Hawaiian and Palestinian causes. US representatives were invited to speak but only a lone with New Jersey honeymooner did. The tourist was heckled by natives, including one renouncing US citizenship. Then, a rally protesting annexation kicked off the tribunal.

Testimony began August 13 at a Honolulu church. Throughout the proceedings, a chair with the sign "US Representative" was empty, mute testimony that the federal and state governments declined to defend themselves. Expert witnesses included the "group of 1898," the other islands seized by America the same year Hawaii was annexed: Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa (taken in 1900). The Cuban witness mysteriously did not appear, despite being sent a ticket. Angel Santos of the Chamoru nation denounced the US conquest of Guam during the Spanish-American War, when the US became "imperialist." Santos said "in the name of Christianity 95,000 Chamorros were killed by Spaniards" and now "the US military owned one third of Guam." Santos declared he'd be arrested when he returned to Guam because of land struggles there. Educator Caroline Sinavaiana critiqued colonial rule of "US — occupied Samoa".

Tribunal staffer Maivan Lam, a City

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on trial

International tribunal finds mainland guilty on eight counts

University of New York law professor, testified — “Let the Australian high court Mabo ruling (granting Aborigine land title) guide you. Mabo proves Western courts can change and reverse their minds and policies.” Attorney Mililani Trask attacked annexation and statehood, declaring “the US Congress could not pass a law to annex Hawaii (via a two-thirds Senate vote) so a Joint Resolution by both Houses of Congress was used instead. Unlike Texas, the only other formal nation-state to become a part of the union, Hawaiians were not allowed a plebiscite to approve annexation ... international law was violated by statehood ... The US made fraudulent claims to the United Nations in order to have Hawaii removed from the UN's list of non-self-governing territories in 1959. Natives were not given a referendum on statehood ... To remain a territory or



Protest: Academic Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa addressing a rally

become a state were the only options on the federal ballot. Independence and other choices were never presented ... There's no evidence the UN committee on decolonisation ever met to consider



Protesters: Hawaiian flags flying upside down as a mark of distress



Introduction: tribunal judges and witnesses being introduced in downtown Honolulu

Hawaii. Only the Hawaii records are missing. The US just withdrew Hawaii from UN consideration”.

Trask also charged America with “breach of trust” regarding two Hawaiian land trusts, and alleged “half a million acres are unaccounted for”.

But perhaps the most moving testimony came from grassroots Hawaiians. Illiterate Raymond Kamaka claimed the US military used his Windward Oahu land for target practice and then reneged on promises to clean the land, that were deemed too expensive. Marie Beltran brought onlookers to tears, testifying police posted eviction notices on her North Shore campsite. Breaking down, Beltran said — “What really hurts is when they call me ‘squatter’. How can I be a squatter when I’m a Hawaiian living on my native land? It’s the government who’s the squatter.”

Mary-Ann Bennett’s account was even more heartbreaking. Testifying that the authorities separated her from her parents upon birth because they suffered from leprosy, the 51-year-old Hawaiian said the government neglected to provide her with medical and other care and gave her to a relative who sexually abused her. Bennett is suing the government for millions.

The tribunal travelled to Maui, Molokai, Kauai, and the Big Island to hear more testimony. It returned to Honolulu to render its unanimous verdict August 20, read by the panel’s only Polynesian, Moana Jackson: America was guilty as charged on all 8 counts. The tribunal recommendation that all Hawaiian trust lands “should be returned to control of Hawaiians” brought applauding onlookers to their feet.

August 21, 34th anniversary of Hawaii’s admission to the union, the tribal tribunal closed with an anti-statehood rally. Blaisdell declared “we’re not Americans. Statehood is theft”. Social outcasts, the homeless, poor, lepers, and arrested, found their court of last resort as the judged became judges. The People’s International Tribunal Hawai’i created an indigenous record of wrongs which Hawaiians could bring to bear on America in international bodies like the UN, as Hawaii seeks reinscription on the list of non-self-governing territories, like New Caledonia was. Pacific islanders have found a new decolonising tool. As an Aotearoa chief observing the people’s court told *PIM*: “I came to observe the tribunal because Maoris intend to make a claim, too.”

So far, Presidents Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley, and now Clinton have failed to provide the justice the tribunal promises.

CULTURE

Back to their roots

By Edwina Flershannon

IF there is one message from the 2nd World Indigenous Youth Conference its that tribal customs and culture are the way to go. Promoting unity, young Aborigines from 29 countries held conference in Darwin, Australia for 7 days — and nights.

1500 delegates turned out. Australia's 'Kakadu Man' Bill Neidjie proved a highlight of the conference. But it was indigenous women whose impact totalled greatest affect.

Dynamic speakers from the adult world stage took a back seat when Hinemoa Awatere delivered her paper on the role of young indigenous women. Awatere not only spoke but sang. Her message — "For many polynesian women, the arguments againsts you are you're dumb, your people deserved to be colonised. To believe this, or to buy into this is absolute rubbish. But we deal with the legacy of this ideology daily in Aetearoa — massive drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy for which we rank second



The Nundirbala clan: from Australia's Gulf Region



Papua New Guinean dancers: beating the drum for youth

Wayne L. Miles

highest in the world, and, teenage suicide for which Aetearoa has the highest rate in the world.

"We have a Maori term for such a condition," she told the forum. "It means 'spiritual low' — an inability to participate in society..... We have now entered a new phase. We have a great honour to uphold. Maori women are dedicated to the deprogramming, decolonising and nurturing of our youth. "This is our spiritual growth our sovereignty."

Delegates from the Cree Nation — initiators of the first World Indigenous Youth Conference held last year in Quebec — kept the energy high. Their speakers and dancers a powerful presence in and out of the auditorium.

The world's youth were unanimous in support of Greg Phillips, Aboriginal exchange student and one of the most moving speakers in an action packed week.

Urging his peers to get a 'two-way education' the young Queensland student deferred praise for his wisdom and paid homage to the role of women. "I learnt from my mother" he said. "She is strong in the community. Today she opened the first diversionary centre of our region for Aborigines taken drunk into custody."

"Indigenous women" he continued "are the culture keepers. And the issues we now face are not human rights but human responsibilities. ...The reality of who we are and where we're going is — we have to educate. We have to go to our elders. And we have to go there 'clean'. Not bombed, not high but clean. If we're really, really interested, we can change everything, ourselves."

Reviving language and promoting unity as an alternative to conflict, the children of two worlds sang and danced long into the night on the conference ground's outdoor stage.

Tribal dance and traditional costume held pride of place. While young Aborigine from Darwin, launched Koloured Kollection, a fashion industry based on traditional designs, tribal elders launched two new flags; one for the seafaring people of Torres Strait and one for mainlanders, based on the land rights symbol with the addition of celestial configurations.

The enormous energy, required to keep such a conference a happening thing for youth, was recharged by the dancers of Melanesia, Polynesia, East Timor, Lapland, Philippines, Torres Strait, Arnhem Land, Australia's Gulf Region, and Tanami Desert who depicted legend in the language of song.

For dynamic Solomon Islands delegate, dancer and theatre director, Patrick Francis Kekea, the issues boiled down to awareness of the world stage, values for traditional ways — and land. "We're in a struggle" he said. "It is the selling of The Solomons. We have an indigenous government, but foreign industry. It is important now to see youth access at all levels of decision making. It is we who must devise ways of creating industry for ourselves. This is the future of the Solomon Islands."

Melanesian delegates also put forward a solution for the Bougainville conflict — "We ask for the tribal chiefs to be instated as a third party to any and all negotiations on Bougainville" delegates told the conference's final session.

Saturday July 11 ended the week long conference, in which the high energy of youth was matched by a continuous 'flame of freedom' a sacred fire, lit in the dawn opening ceremony between Aborigine Australia's Larrakia and the Cree Nation. □

Nauru's Forum

THE tiny, phosphate-rich nation of Nauru stole the limelight of all regional gatherings when in August it was the host for the 24th Forum — the annual summit of South Pacific leaders. There, prime ministers, presidents and officials of all 15 Forum countries gathered to discuss a wide range of relevant regional and international issues.

They were later joined by strong delegations from the seven post-Forum dialogue partners - Canada, France, Japan, the European Community (EC), United Kingdom, the United States and China. A separate informal dialogue was convened for a delegation from Taiwan.

For Nauru, the wealthy Central Pacific republic, the August 4-14 gathering was of special significance. First, the Forum coincided with the country's silver jubilee, and second, Nauru felt particularly proud of the fact that Forum leaders honoured it by coming to Nauru for the summit. In recent years, Forum leaders had been unable to assemble together in one place at the same time — even for the Forum. This was due largely to either the Forum dates clashing with elections or domestic matters preventing attendance.

The presence of all 15 leaders in Nauru appears to signal that regionalism is taken seriously. As in previous years, traditional issues such as economic and trade concerns dominated the two ways of discussions, along with population and sustainable development and environmental issues. Fisheries, the region's continuing concerns over nuclear testing and plutonium shipments, special needs of the Smaller Island States and the potential danger from hazardous wastes were also discussed. In the final communique, sustainable development heads the list of the important issues covered. In it the leaders said the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters, environmental degradation and high population growth "underlined the need for careful and sustainable management in order to meet the needs of future generations".

Emphasis was on sound environmental practices, as this constitutes an integral part of the development process. Hence, all activities pursued in the region must be both economically and ecologically sound. Poor economic performance in the region, despite high aid per capita and high ratios of total investments to gross domestic produce (GDP) over the last 10 years, remain a major concern to the leaders. They noted the importance of trade in promoting sustained economic growth in each Forum country member. Australia and New Zealand have undertaken to help improve some provisions of the special trading arrangements they have with FICs under the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA).

Also the meeting gave recognition to the need for increased intra-regional trade amongst FICs and commended Fiji for having offered to consider non-reciprocal trading arrangements with its other island neighbours.

On the international scene, the communique emphasised the critical importance for achieving a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round negotiations later this year. This, the Forum leaders believe, would provide the much-needed thrust to get the world economy moving. Noting encouraging progress being made in establishing effective links with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other

THE FORUM



**ALFRED
SASAKO**

Asia-Pacific-rim countries, the communique said the dynamic economies of East Asia provides hard-to-ignore economic opportunities.

On population and sustainable development, the Forum stressed the fundamental link between population growth, the environment and sustainable development and that added focus should be given to improving the availability and quality of family planning services to all, taking into account cultural tradition and values. The region's population now stands at 6.3 million (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and is growing at an average of 2.3 per cent annually. On this trend it is projected this will double in 20 to 30 years time, impacting severely on each country's ability to provide adequately for its people.

Accordingly the leaders have called for a South Pacific declaration on population and development and urge regional participation at the UN Inter-

national Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, next year, be made at the highest possible level. The Forum is encouraging similar participation at the Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GCSIDS) to be held in Barbados next April.

On fisheries, the Forum reiterated its strong opposition to driftnet fishing, urging remaining eligible countries to sign and ratify the Wellington Convention which bans the practice in the South Pacific.

Nuclear issues were also extensively discussed with the Forum warmly welcoming the decisions by the United States, Russia and France to extend their testing moratoriums. It urges an indefinite ban. At the same time, it calls on China and the United Kingdom to join the moratorium on testing. Closer to home, the Forum called on France, the US and the United Kingdom to accede to the Protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, commonly known as the Treaty of Rarotonga. Just as deadly is the prediction of global warming and sea level rise which threatens the survival of many FICs. In this regard, the communique urges all states to sign and ratify the Framework Convention on Climate Change as soon as possible.

On political and security issues, the communique noted the encouraging signs in New Caledonia and reiterated its hope that France would facilitate regular visits there by visiting missions from the United Nations. It also welcomed the formal conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing the United States/Pacific Island Nations Joint Commercial Commission (JCC). A preparatory meeting under the JCC umbrella is to be held in Washington later this month (8 October).

On other issues, the secretary general of the Forum Secretariat is to investigate ways of broadening the Forum's exchange of information and consultation with the UN secretariat in New York. This may mean the secretary general making annual visits to New York to brief his counterpart on the Forum's discussions and the option of seeking observer status with the UN.

The Forum has also agreed on establishing a Pacific Award (a country initiative by Nauru) to be given at each Forum in recognition of longstanding service to the region. All in all, it was a Forum whose outcome, remains the domain of future generations. □

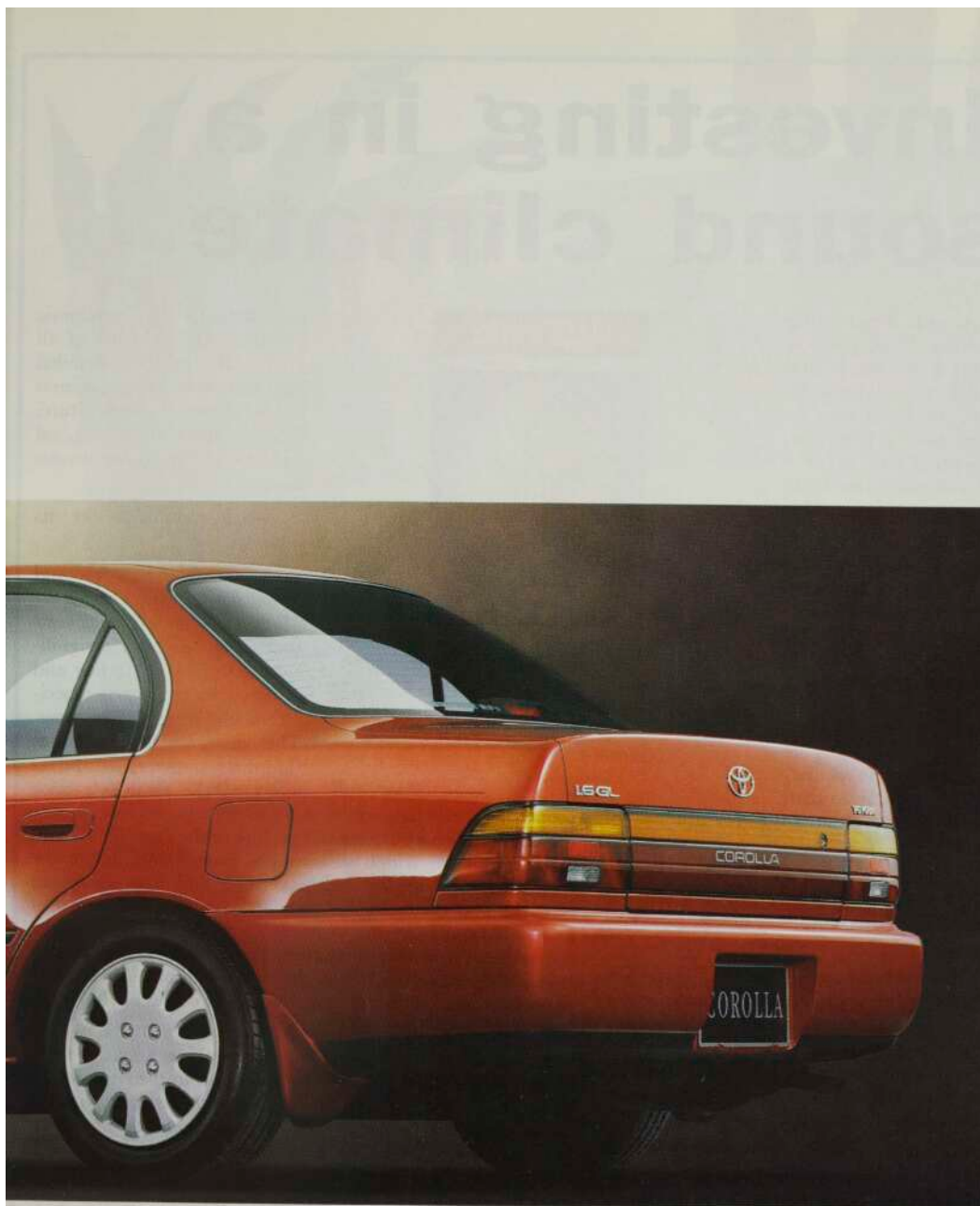
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Investing in a sound climate

IN only the second Tradewinds column I wrote for *PIM*, back in 1991, I discussed a big trade and investment forum that was about to be held in Fiji. I made the point that no matter how well organised it might be, any investment forum "will achieve little if the country it is promoting lacks one essential element — a favourable investment climate".

I said a forum might bring potential investors face-to-face with a thousand opportunities but they wouldn't take them up if closer investigation suggested problems with land titles, restrictive labour requirements and industrial procedures, high taxes or repatriation of capital and dividends, to name a few. Potential investors were not going to waste too much of their time if they couldn't get firm, quick answers to their questions, or they were hedged about with only promises of supporting legislation.

I added "serious investors looking for opportunities to expand need to know not just what a government is offering but to feel that the offer is secure before they devote time and expense on the finer details".

No forum country has worked harder than Fiji to establish a favourable investment climate. It regards private sector investment as the key to economic growth. It has a long track record of officially encouraging investment, recognising that no investor can afford to spend serious money unless the rules are spelt out. Because of it, Fiji has built up a comparatively broad industrial base despite its political upsets.

Its success has been encouragement to others. In recent well-supported investment seminars in Australia, the Tongan government stressed that its investment rules could be depended upon, and that investment decisions were made quickly. Tonga, like Fiji, has a "one-stop-shop" that enables investors to get all approvals through the one department.

Papua New Guinea has recently streamlined its services for investors with the establishment of the Investment Promotion Authority which replaces the old National Development and Development Authority. The IPA grants approval for foreign investors to carry on business in PNG, acts as matchmaker for overseas and local venture capital, and works with them in dealing with government departments. The IPA is run by a managing director and a board on which the private sector is strongly represented and its main emphasis now is on promotion and assisting foreign investment.

The IPA is distributing to potential investors the best summary review of Papua New Guinea that I have seen anywhere. Dated March 1993, its 80 pages offer every type of information any investor could want to know about the country, including its population breakdown, system of

TRADEWINDS



**BILL
McCABE**

government, its economic prospects and statistics of all kinds. It includes detailed information on small business opportunities, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and gives key investment contacts.

But I especially like its honesty.

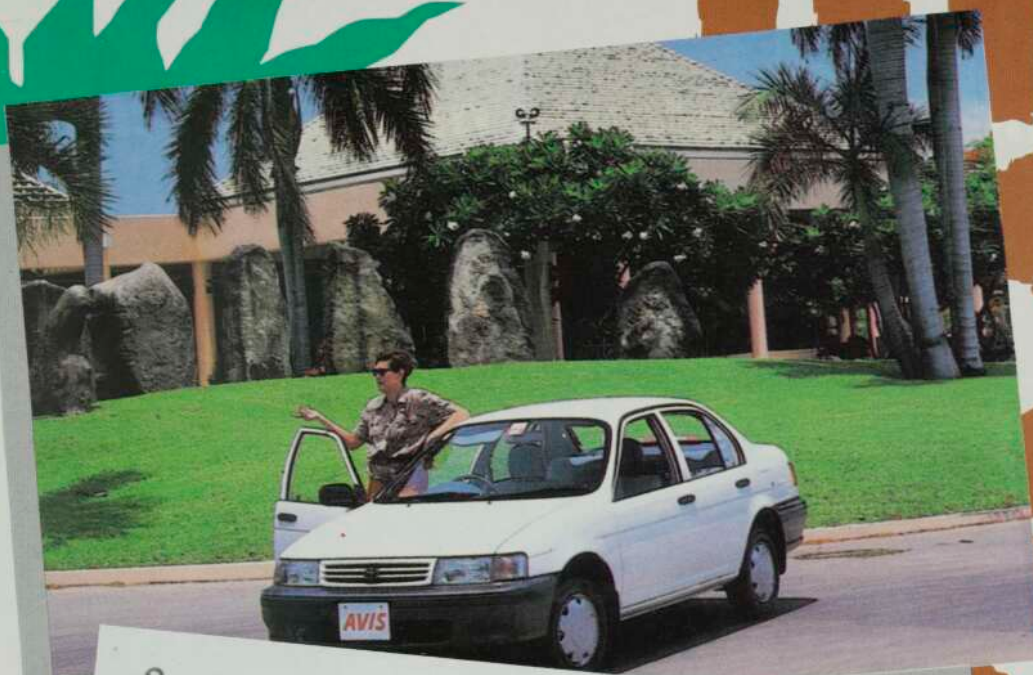
On the matter of law and order, for example, it says — "It is a commonly held view that there has been a significant deterioration in law and order in recent years, especially in the main urban areas. The government recognises that this is both a cause and an effect of the country's poor

economic performance over the past decade. A priority over the medium term is therefore to improve the current law and order situation, which discourages investment, deters the recruitment of needed technical skill, and imposes severe financial and psychological costs on government, enterprises and individuals. At the same time, the whole focus of the government's development strategy of encouraging a faster rate of economic growth and the creation of productive work opportunities, will reduce the pressure of economic hardship that generates crime."

The PNG government is doing something about the law and order problem but to draw attention to the situation so frankly, the IPA is certainly approaching its task with an honesty that will be applauded by potential investors. Facts, not make-believe, are vital in business, and the IPA approach to investment gets my personal commendation.

The successful Tonga investment mission, by the way, created interest with its long, detailed list of "industrial investment opportunities" thought suitable for overseas investors. They are listed under headings such as agri-based industries (which include grinding and packing of spices, production of snack foods, coconut oil refining), marine industries (fish canning or processing, lobster processing); import substitution (stationery) items such as envelope production, tile production, assembly of auto radiators); export oriented industries (including fashion garments and production of essences from flowers) and general opportunities (bamboo furniture, fibreglass products, a small dairy plant). There is some opportunity there for just about everybody. Phone or fax us at the Trade Commission if you want the full list, or any other information on opportunities in Tonga.

● **Bill McCabe is Senior Commissioner of the South Pacific Trade Commission, Sydney, an arm of the South Pacific Forum.** □



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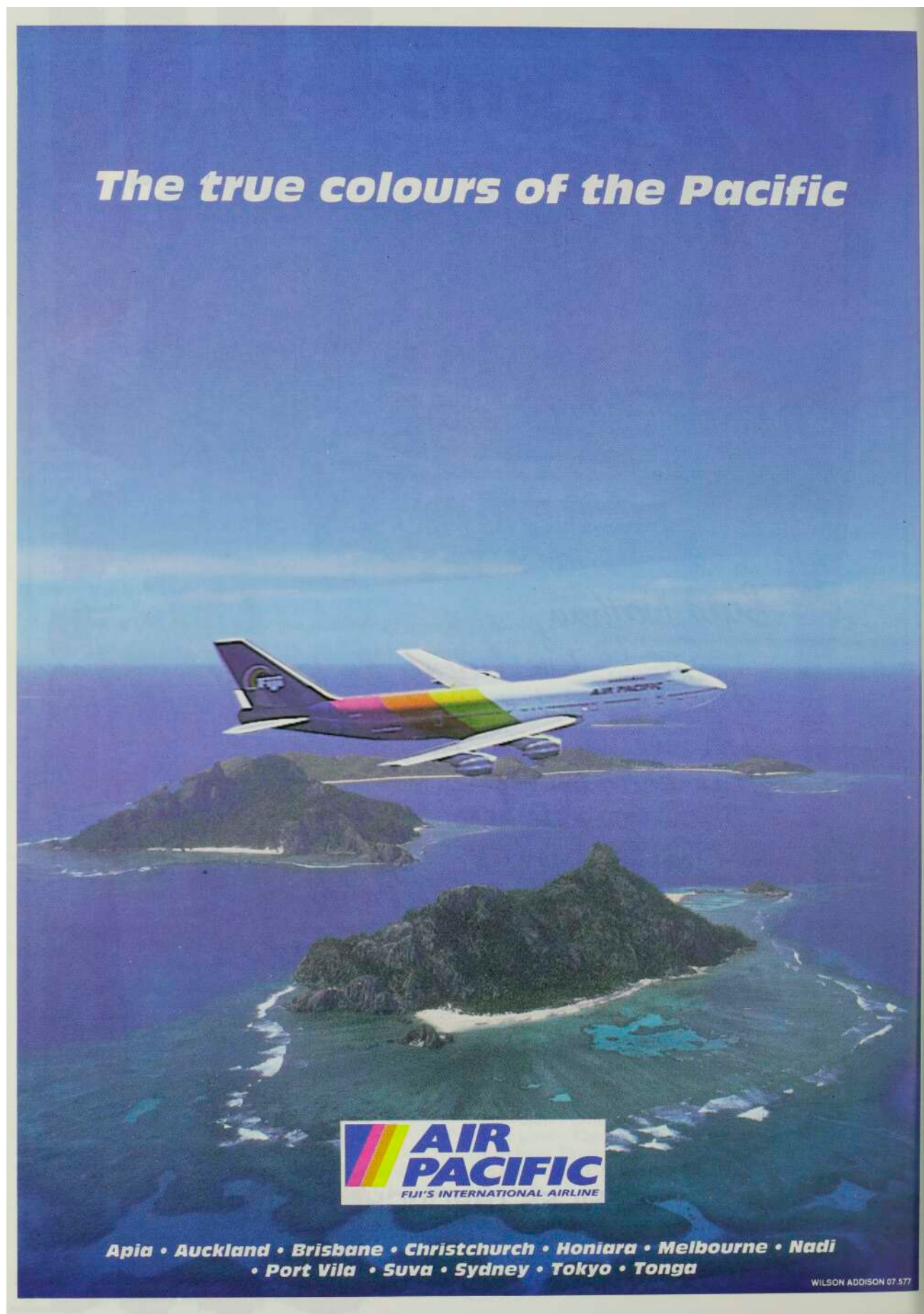
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FIJI — Into the Third Decade

A nation on the move

ON the 10th of this month, Fiji marks its 23rd year of independence from its colonial ruler, Britain. Since those years the country has grown from strength to strength, becoming the hub of the South Pacific. Independent Fiji's first prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara then said "What independence does is put our future destiny firmly in our own hands and gives us the opportunity to solve our own problems for ourselves and develop our own country to provide a better and happier life for our people. We are already, through our rural development programme, giving our people in the country the opportunity to participate in planning and their ready response augurs well for participation by all on a wider scale. For we all have our own part to play. To follow the words of the late President Kennedy, 'let us not think what my country can do for me but what I can do for my country. And then let us proceed to do it'."

Mara and his Fijian-dominated Alliance Party remained in power for 17 years from independence. It was ousted in the April 1987 general election by the Labour-National Federation Party coalition which was dominated by Indians — descendants of indentured labourers first brought from India by the British government in 1879 to work on cotton and sugar cane plantations. The coalition government, headed by prime minister Dr Timoci Bavadra, was removed at gunpoint by soldiers led by then Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka who became prime minister following the 1992 general election. Mara is now one of the two vice-presidents to head of state Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau (governor-general before the coups). Fiji became a republic on October 7, 1987 after Rabuka's two military coups (May 4, September 25) abrogated the 1970



Mara: first prime minister



Rabuka: now at the helm

constitution and removed Queen Elizabeth II as head of state.

In July 1990, president Ganilau promulgated a new constitution which gave indigenous Fijians, who make up slightly more than half the 760,000 population, a permanent majority in the 70-seat parliament with 37 seats. This did not go well with the Indians who were allocated only 27 seats although they number almost 46 per cent of the population. Five seats were for other races and one for Rotumans. The controversial 1990 constitution is still the major bone of contention for the Indian parties, Labour and NFP, in their quest for equal rights and unity among all communities.

The Indian parties, which could well remain on the opposition benches permanently, are seeking a review of the constitution. Labour entered parliament after last year's election following a pact with Rabuka; promising him support for prime ministership in return for a review of the constitution, the Agricultural Landlords and Tenants Act, Value-Added Tax and the Labour Reform Laws. The party walked out of parliament in June and withdrew its support for Rabuka, claiming the prime minister had not kept his word on the promised reviews. Rabuka has since set up an extended cabinet sub-committee, which includes opposition leader Jai Ram

Reddy, to look into the review of the constitution.

Fiji is regarded as the most active South Pacific nation in international affairs. From 1970 to 1975, it was the first and only Pacific island member of the United Nations General Assembly. British colonialism from 1874 to 1970 left a legacy of peace, law, government institutions and economic infrastructure. The rising standard of living was a consequence of the introduction of the Indian in-

dentured labourers to cultivate sugar for export. Taxes from this and other foreign-oriented enterprises financed health and education facilities. The harmonious colonial relationship with Britain-led Fiji on independence to join the Commonwealth.

Trade, aid and investment flows from Britain were predominant during the 1960s but have declined relatively as Fiji diversified its economic relations with other bilateral and international partners. The country's international economic policies are geared to its national development objectives which stress growth of production and jobs; equitable distribution; improved social conditions; financial stability; and unity between ethnic groups.

Savenaca Siwatibau, former governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji and currently the head of the Pacific Operations Centre, ESCAP, in Port Vila, had this to say in a report in *The Future of Asia-Pacific Economies — Pacific Islands at the Crossroads?*: "the Fiji economy was subjected to a series of domestic and external shocks in 1987. The domestic shocks came in the wake of the two coups of that year. The economic and psychological climate changed dramatically following these events. Investment and consumer confidence evaporated quickly. Capital flight became the preoccupation of many."

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FIJI — Into the Third Decade

Most attempted capital flight through the banks but others sought avenues outside the banking system. Exporters deferred the repatriation of foreign exchange receipts but importers, because of expected falling consumer spending, delayed import orders and attempted to run down stocks. Residents who held short-term external debts sought accommodation from their banks to settle them early.

"The number of tourists declined sharply as their home governments advised them to avoid visiting Fiji until further notice. Sugar harvests were delayed through a strike and export products were black-banned in a number of economies of destination. Foreign exchange receipts fell dramatically accompanied by falling imports. The import substituting businesses soon realised it would be difficult to survive within a contracting market and that long-term survival required a change in attitude and reorientation towards exporting. Many business firms were forced to lay off workers and/or reduce salaries and wages.

"The overall deficit in the balance of payments widened sharply. External financing sources were effectively closed. The government, which used to have long queues of international bankers wishing to lend to it, found its overtures for external accommodation politely ignored. Only two banks, both with branches in Fiji, responded positively and concluded stand-by arrangements, each for A\$10 million, with the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

"The government and public sector enterprises whose financial positions had deteriorated rapidly sought accommodation from the Reserve Bank. The bank's claims from the public sector increased from zero in April to over \$50 million in October 1987. That trend needed to be reversed quickly through drastic expenditure policies. The government announced a 15 per cent reduction in public service salaries and the public sector enterprises had their budgetary allocations cut by 50 per cent. They were required to reduce operating expenditures, including salaries, and were informed that further requests for government assistance would not be accommodated."

Traditionally, Fiji's most valuable resource has been sugar, generating up to three-fourths of export earnings, followed by coconut products and gold, generating up to half the remainder (Fiji government 1985, appendix D). The government's policies of diversification and industrialisation have modified the pattern by raising fish products from zero in 1970 to six per cent in 1990, and timber products from less than one per cent to five per cent, and by exporting new manufactured goods such as cement, paint and boats. Garment exports

doubled and redoubled in the 1980s.

The success of Fiji's post-coup policies has been mixed. No state broke off diplomatic relations with Fiji save India, whose mission in Suva was expelled in 1990. Relations with international organisations not affiliated with the Commonwealth continued uninterrupted. The island state leaders of the South Pacific Forum were disinclined to put Fiji's deviation from constitutional government on the Forum agenda, regarding this as a domestic, not a regional, issue and Tonga, Marshall Islands and the Melanesian states early stated their intention to work with the new government in spite of Australia and New

Zealand's disapproval. South-east and East Asian governments likewise dealt with Fiji pragmatically. By the end of 1987, Indonesian and Malaysian delegations had visited Fiji and entered into negotiations to enhance trade and economic cooperation with Fiji.

The return to constitutional and elected government last year has salvaged Fiji's standing in the eyes of democratic partners, and raised its chances of reinstatement in the Commonwealth. Fiji will continue to be a significant trader, a desirable venue for international organisations, an important hub for regional transportation and a strong player in South Pacific foreign affairs. □



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FIJI — Into the Third Decade

1290BC — Carbon-dated Lapita pottery provides evidence of complex civilisation evolving from a confluence of Melanesian and Polynesian migrations. Regional and tribal wars were endemic.

1643 — Dutch explorer Abel Tasman was the first European to see Fiji.

1700s — English explorers James Cook, William Bligh and Wilson sighted various Fiji islands.

1800-14 — The chiefs of Bau assisted European traders' exploitation of sandalwood and hosted the first European settlement.

1820-40 — Russian explorer von Bellinghausen, French explorer d'Urville, and American explorer Wilkes examined various islands; the latter making the first reliable charts.

1822 — US ships began calling to buy *beche-de-mer* (sea slug) for the China market.

1830-35 — Wesleyan evangelists established churches and schools, bringing Christianity and English and an alphabet to the Fijian language.

1840 — The United States appointed a vice-consul in Levuka.

1844 — Marist missionaries commenced evangelising, raising the possibility of French penetration.

1854 — Seru Cakobau, chief of Bau, converted to Christianity and appealed to Britain for assistance in his wars with rivals, including a Tongan chief.

1858 — Britain appointed a consul who assisted Cakobau to fend off Tongan, French and US intervention.

1871 — Cakobau established a national a national monarchy. Blackbirding, alienation of land and commercial swindling by Europeans led him and the paramount chiefs to seek British protection.

Political evolution

1874 — Cakobau and 11 paramount chiefs signed a deed of cession to Britain in return for pledge of protection of Fijian rights, privileges and welfare. Tribal wars and land alienation were halted and British law was established.

1879-1920 — The Australian Colonial Sugar Refining Company imported about 60,000 indentured labourers from India to build the sugar industry. Their descendants remained to become tenant farmers, petty businessmen and numerically the largest ethnic group.

1929 — The first Indians were elected to the colonial Legislative Council.

1937 — The revised Legislative Council assigned equal numbers of seats to Europeans, Fijians and Indians.

1960 — The National Federation Party, representing Indian voters, was established.

1964 — Universal adult suffrage, on the basis of racially separate rolls, began.

1966 — The Alliance, representing mainly Fijians, was established. Its leader, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, became the first chief minister under the self-government constitution of 1966.

1970 — A new constitution was adopted and Fiji attained independence on October 10 — 96 years years after cession. Fiji joined the Commonwealth and the United Nations General Assembly. Mara led the Alliance to victory in the election of 1972, 1977 and 1982 and

served as prime minister and foreign minister for 17 years.

1971 — Fiji joined the South Pacific Commission — the third Pacific island nation to do so.

1972 — Fiji led the movement to establish the South Pacific Forum as an independent political counterpart to the South Pacific Commission. Capital Suva became the venue for the Forum Secretariat, the University of the South Pacific and other regional and international organisations.

1978 — Fiji contributed troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

1980 — Fiji joined the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA).

1987 — The Federation-Labour coalition won the general election and its Fijian leader Dr Timoci Bavadra became prime minister. Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka led two army coups and declared Fiji a republic.

1988 — Fiji turned to France, China, Taiwan and Malaysia for new military and economic aid and markets. Australia restored ministerial level contact.

1990 — The government closed the Indian Embassy in Suva in retaliation for India's lobbying against readmission of Fiji into the Commonwealth. A new constitution, biased in favour of indigenous Fijians, was adopted and the general election was scheduled for 1992.

1991 — New Zealand and the United States restored ministerial level contact and some aspects of defence cooperation.

1992 — General election was held in May. Coup leader Rabuka became prime minister following backing of Labour Party.

Source: *The South Pacific Foreign Affairs Handbook*.

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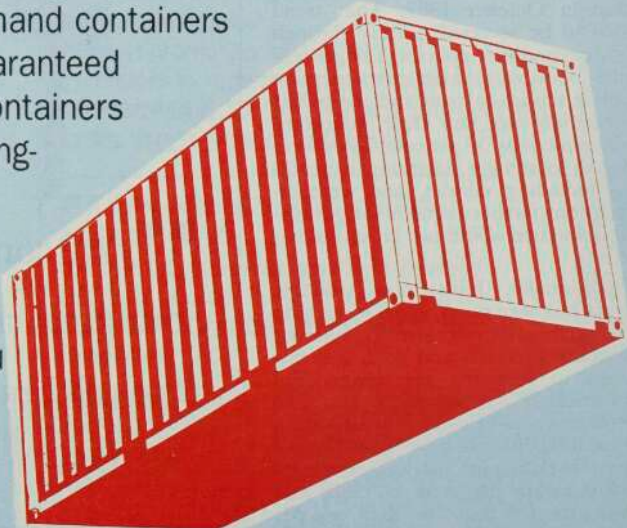
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FIJI — Into the Third Decade

Sweet success

The lifeblood of the economy is sugar

THE story of the sugar industry in Fiji over the years is one of sweet success. Thought to be indigenous to the South Pacific, sugar cane was found growing in Fiji by the early European discoverers and settlers. Fijians grew sugar cane for chewing and they are known to have used the juice for sweetening food. The first sugar in the country was produced on Wakaya Island, in Western Fiji, by David Whippy in 1862. The following year, Brewer and Joske erected a small experimental sugar mill in Suva, followed by a larger mill a year later. About 640 acres of cane were planted on the site now largely occupied by the city of Suva.

Now, revenue from sugar and molasses accounts for between 60 per cent and 70 per cent of Fiji's export earnings. Weathering some turbulent times over the years, the sugar industry had alone shouldered the responsibility as the backbone of the economy. Because of sugar's importance today, many people are often surprised to learn that it was the second choice to cotton when early Fiji planters decided which crop would bring them the most money. Cotton production in the United States had slumped during the civil war of the early 1860s and world markets opened to new producers. Prospects for cotton growing in Fiji looked bright; and when the civil war ended and American plantations began to recover, cotton enterprises in Fiji began to fail.

The Start

Fiji turned to sugar about 1870 and by 1883 the crop had displaced copra as the country's main export — a position it has held to this day. In 1879, the British government brought indentured labourers from India to work on cotton, coffee, sugar and other plantations. Most of them stayed on when sugar became the main crop; and more Indians came to Fiji until the indenture system stopped in 1916. The Indian migrants had a right of free journey back to India but the majority chose to stay. Today, most of the country's cane growers are descendants of those early indentured labourers.

Labour on plantations became scarce after 1916 with no further migrants entering Fiji. To solve the problem, several schemes were tried before the small-farm system was developed. Indian farmers were settled on farms averaging

4.05 hectares, with the farmer and his family doing most of the work. In 1880, a well-established Australian firm — the Colonial Sugar Refining Company — started in Fiji and it brought more resources and experience than any previous entrepreneur. CSR's first mill started at Nausori in 1882 and closed in 1959. In the following years two more

mills were established by CSR — Rarawai Mill on the bank of Ba River in 1886, Labasa Mill, on Vanua Levu, in 1894.

The company's largest mill (one of the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere at the time) commenced crushing at Lautoka in 1903. Penang Mill, founded by the two Chalmers brothers in 1881 at



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FIJI — Into the Third Decade

Rakiraki, was acquired by CSR from the Melbourne Trust Company in 1926. Today, the four mills represent the manufacturing side of the industry. In 1961, CSR formed a subsidiary, South Pacific Mills Ltd. SPSM shares were offered to people and only two per cent of shares were purchased by the public.

Following an award by Lord Denning on the sharing of proceeds with growers, which was deemed unacceptable, CSR Ltd withdrew from the Fiji Sugar industry on March 31, 1973. The government bought CSR's interest in the company for \$10 million. The Fiji Sugar Corporation was incorporated in Fiji by an Act of Parliament in 1972 to take over the milling activities with effect from April 1, 1973. At present, of the 44,399,998 fully paid shares, the government owns 30,239,160 shares and the rest are owned by statutory bodies, local public companies and individuals.

The four sugar mills have the capacity to crush over four million tonnes of cane per season. Being the country's largest employer, the FSC provides direct employment to over 40,000 people.

The four mills crushed a total of 3,380,324 tonnes of cane during the 1991 season, a decrease of 635,279 tonnes compared with the 1990 season. A total of 388,962 tonnes of sugar was produced in 1991 — considerably below expectation — attributed to mainly the decline in cane production and the lower sugar content of cane. The consolidated profit before-tax for the year ended March 31,



After harvest: loading cane to be taken to the mill in Western Fiji

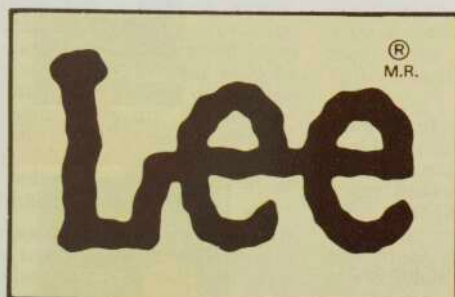
1992, is \$10.2m compared with \$12.1m for the previous year. The total revenue generated from sugar and molasses amounted to \$250.8m, an increase of \$4.1m over the previous year. The increased revenue is inclusive of the 20 million European Currency Units (ECU).

A total of 355,600 tonnes of 1991 season sugar was exported to the following countries: United Kingdom 183,200 tonnes; Malaysia 88,000; United States

14,600; Japan 44,700; and China 25,200. FSC managing director Jonetani Galuinadi, in the 1992 annual report, stresses the efficiency of the company and the need for increased production: "the Fiji Industry is at present relatively efficient. It makes good sugar. But we cannot become complacent. We have to become a better producer. We must thoroughly appraise every part of the industry, from farming methods to harvesting, transport and milling. What we need is more sugar at the lowest cost." □

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FIJI — Into the Third Decade

SINCE its inception in 1987, the Tax Free Factory/Tax Free Zone Scheme, has contributed significantly to Fiji's economy by stimulating investment and encouraging export oriented enterprises. The scheme has also contributed substantially to the growth of the manufacturing sector. The scheme was introduced by the interim government in late 1987 to stimulate investment and foster foreign exchange earnings through the diversification and expansion of exports.

The scheme is administered by the Fiji Trade and Investment Board (FTIB) and is in line with government's policy to shift production from import substitution to export oriented industries. A Tax Free Zone (TFZ) is a collection of factories, within a specific location, enjoying preferential conditions, while individual factories, enjoying the same conditions, are known as Tax Free Factories (TFFs). The scheme combines an elaborate package of incentives with financial concessions and subsidies to attract companies to establish operations in Fiji. An enterprise qualifies for TFF status if it exports 95 per cent of its annual production or is engaged in re-exports of at least 95 per cent of its output.

As in all such schemes, TFFs in Fiji enjoy a number of advantages designed to enable their products to successfully compete and gain a foothold in overseas markets. The import of capital goods and other production materials are exempt from licensing and import duties. Exemption from customs duty is given for the importation of raw materials and items required for establishing a TFF enterprise. Products manufactured under the scheme are also exempt from excise duty. Operations, moreover are exempt from paying tax on corporate profits for a period of 13 years with no tax on interest, dividends and royalties. Foreign owned firms are allowed to repatriate capital and profits and all firms including non-TFF enterprises are given opportunities to recruit specialist personnel from overseas. Other additional advantages include an accelerated depreciation allowance on capital and equipment, carrying forward losses and losses incurred in any year may be offset against profits earned during the next succeeding six years, double taxation agreements and in certain circumstances the Minister of Finance may waive or reduce dividend, interest or royalty withholding taxes.

As a Forum island country, Fiji enjoys preferential treatment when exporting to the Australian and New Zealand markets, under the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA). Exports from Fiji, complying with SPARTECA rules of origin, enter duty free giving exporters some advantage over competitors. Fiji also benefits from exports to European countries under the Lome Agreement and to a number of other countries under the General System of Trade Preferences. A special derogation clause in the Lome

Investment opportunities



Tax Free Factory: workers at a garment factory in Suva

IV Convention gives Fiji's exports preferential treatment. As a result, Fiji's garment exports to the European Community in 1991 amounted to around \$5 million and increased over the next few years. Employment in the manufacturing sector increased from 16,120 in 1988 to 21,914 in 1991. The share accounted for by the TFFs in total manufacturing employment increased consistently from 4207 in 1988 to 11,381 in 1991. Employment in the garment sector rose substantially from 3022 in 1988 to 9555 in 1991.

Investment

Investment in the TFFs has grown rapidly since the scheme's inception. The total accumulated investment in the TFF sector increased from \$13.7 million in 1988 to \$62.0 million in 1991. In 1988, as 50 per cent of TFFs were existing enterprises, subsequent increases in 1989 to 1991 were a result of new Investment.

Exports

Total exports of the TFFs in 1991 are estimated at \$205 million, of which garments accounted for \$131 million, food \$55 million and other sectors \$19 million. Garment exports which amounted to \$30.1 million in 1988, increased dramatically to reach \$131 million in 1991. In order to assess the real contribution of TFF exports, it must be remembered that there is a considerable

import content in TFF production. An estimate used to calculate net earnings accruing from the export of garments is the cut-make-trim value.

Future

The Fiji government intends to invest some \$13.4 million to develop a tax free zone at Kalabu near Suva. Estimated to take three years to complete, the project includes the purchase of 32.4 hectares of land and the construction of 10,000 square metre of factory space. Moreover, the site will include the development of modern amenities and relevant infrastructure to attract new manufacturers to the area. Sites at Laqere and Naulu outside Suva and Navutu in Lautoka are also being considered for development as TFZs.

It is estimated that the established of the zone will initially provided employment for some 2000 people and, over time, is expected to generate up to 8000 jobs. The garment sector is in the process of shifting from a cut-make-trim basis to full manufacturing of garments. Recently there has been an increase in exports to the United States and to the European Community countries and the key to further growth is to explore new markets. The tax free zones are also the first step in the long process of reversing the inward-looking policies of the past in particular those relating to import substitution. □

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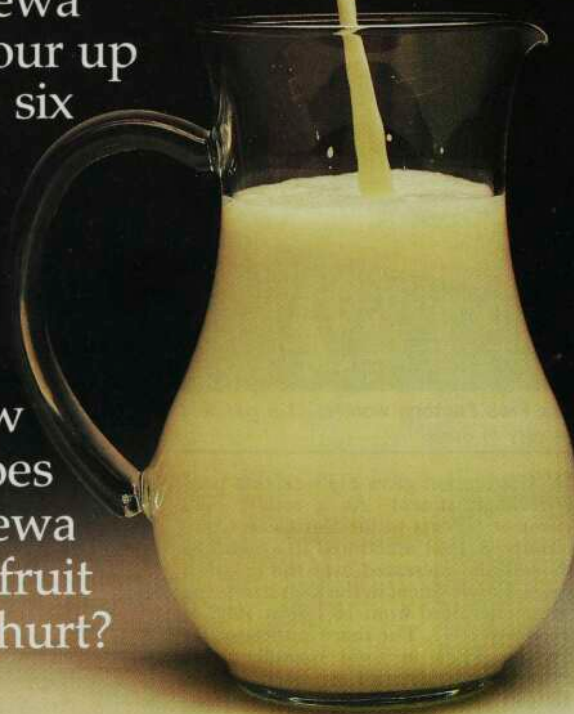


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Tourism thrust

By Stan Ritova

THE Fiji Visitors Bureau has come a long way from its beginning as a committee in Suva in 1924 with a budget of about F\$2000 to \$4.5 million in 1992, and is now by far the main foreign exchange earner surpassing sugar. All of the \$4.5m is provided by the government as a grant and of this \$2m goes towards operating costs and \$2.5m for marketing including promotion and advertising. Members of the industry itself contributed \$2.5m for marketing, promotion and advertising.

But the budget is inadequate in comparison to what the FVB is achieving in the way of visitor arrivals. Already tourism has taken over from sugar as the main foreign exchange earner and it will continue to grow if the climate is right. In 1992 tourism earned \$328.5m compared with \$138.3m 10 years ago while sugar brought in \$221.3m. "This is a commendable achievement on our part especially when we have to operate on a very limited budget compared to what other countries like Australia and New Zealand contribute to their tourist industries," the bureau's chief executive, Isimeli Bainimara, said.

"Tourism, as figures show, will continue to grow because we have a beautiful country to show off and share with visitors," he said. "What we need most is more government and industry financial support to be able to step up our marketing program overseas," Bainimara said.

Tourism earnings from visitor arrivals have increased markedly over the years. In 1980 there were 140,000 visitors who spent \$109.5m. This figure increased to about 48,000 in 1981 and they spent \$122m. The visitor arrival figure rose to 195,400 in 1986 and they spent \$185.4m but the figure dropped to about 149,000 in 1987. Visitors that year spent only \$145.7m, \$39.7m less than they did the previous year.

However, it picked up again in 1988 when 208,000 tourists came our way averaging behind \$181m. There was a remarkable jump to 250,656 visitors who spent \$280m in 1989 and 278,996 in 1990 who spent an estimated \$335m. The visitor arrivals figure dropped a bit in 1991 to 199,350 who spent \$329m and increased dramatically to 278,534 in 1992 when they spent \$328.5m. But 1993 looks like a promising year. Visitor arrivals for January to June were 127,027, the highest for the period in the past four years, and could be a lot more for the current six months.

Australia remains the main source of Fiji's tourist arrivals rising from about 100,000 in 1989 to about 105,000 in 1990 and dropping down to about 82,000 in 1991. Europe, including Britain, was second

followed by the United States a close third. According to a paper prepared by senior tourism officer (research), Samisoni Sawailau, of the Ministry of Tourism, the industry did not develop from tourist demand within the economy nor simply from demand citizens to visit Fiji. In fact tourism originated from the trans-Pacific shipping trade in the early 20th Century. Australia and United States shipping lines used Fiji as a principal transshipment port. Passengers on the ships disembarked in Suva for the north or south bound section of their voyage either to North America or Australia. Ships were rarely ever able to keep to their advertised time table, hotel board housing other services were established.

In line with this drive for tourists, government abolished passports for ships' passengers. The country's fledgling tourist industry started to flourish in leaps and bounds with the support of government and finally in 1952 the name of Fiji Publicity Board was changed to the Fiji Visitors Bureau and this into effect on January 1, 1953. The number of visitors continued to rise from the bureau's early beginnings and began to shape the destiny of the industry. The Fiji Publicity Board was demanding for improvements to Nadi Airport from 1946 to 1961. The board's demands paid off and in 1946 the first commercial flight into Nadi Airport in the way of a Pan American Airways airliner touched down a day after the Second World War spread to the Pacific. There were no passenger facilities of any significance at Nadi Airport. But just across the road from the first terminal building located near where Sunflower Airlines have their offices and hanger at Nadi, was the Fiji Mocambo Hotel run by the late Barry Philp, a colourful figure and one of the pioneers of the building of tourist hotels in Fiji and who later built the present Fiji Mocambo overlooking the airport. The Mocambo quickly acquired a reputation for friendliness — and discomfort at times — in about equal measure. As part of the development of the industry in Fiji and as an added incentive for people to come to Fiji, the government introduced duty-free shopping in 1962. Encouraged by what duty-free shopping had done to the tourism industry almost overnight, government passed a Hotels Aid Ordinance in 1964 to encourage investors to construct new hotels. And this it did and the end result was that a number of hotels came up on what is now popularly known as the Coral Coast of Viti Levu. To mention a few, the Fijian, Naviti Resort, Paradise Point (now defunct) right next door to the "old lady of them all", the Korolevu Beach Hotel which unfortunately, is also defunct, and the Reef in Korotogo. Later ones were The Warwick of Fiji, the Regent and the Sheraton and other smaller places.

Tourism accounts for 22 per cent of Fiji's gross foreign exchange earnings according to the 1990 figures and will no doubt have

risen to a much higher level.

According to Sawailau's paper, tourism is estimated to provide employment directly and indirectly for 28,000 people which is about 22 per cent of total paid employment in hotels, or 90 per cent full time, as at September 1991. The sector is now the major source of paid employment in the country. The establishment of the major international chain hotels in Fiji has given local entrepreneurs the opportunity to initiate small road tours in association with accommodation businesses. Tourism annual earnings in foreign exchange compared with sugar are as follows:

1989, sugar earned \$212 million, tourism \$280m; 1990, sugar earned \$223m, tourism \$335; 1991, sugar earned \$220m, tourism \$329m. According to the tourism ministry, using a more simple term to weigh the significance of the tourism industry, if the average Australian visitor normally spends 10 days in Fiji with an average daily expenditure of \$146 a day in 1990, by the time he goes back home, his holiday package would have cost him \$1460.

Social Aspect

According to the Ministry of Tourism paper there are obvious social costs to the country in relation to tourism development. Social interaction between tourists and the local people would, over time, lead to behavioural changes. "However, it is argued that not all social changes can be directed at tourism when one seriously considers the impact of the media, video/television, education and the development process itself," according to the paper. The FVB, like government feels that there should be "controlled tourism" because it would "enhance and definitely preserve and enrich authentic culture and tradition."

"Although a lot of pessimistic perception of tourism emanates from ignorance and misconception, a cautious approach to tourism would definitely advocate the preservation and enrichment of authentic culture and tradition."

Future of the Industry

For the future of the tourism industry there is a need for an additional 1500 hotel rooms by 1996. This is to add to the 4000 rooms that exist. The additional rooms are to include: 1000 premium resort rooms; 200 premium city hotel rooms; 200 mid-scale resort rooms; and 100 rooms related to special interests such as diving and tracking.

According to Sawailau's paper, in terms of visitor arrivals, a target for the next five years was set with an average growth rate of 8 per cent a year. The 1989 and 1990 actual arrivals figure was short of the forecast figure of 266,000. The need to encourage the landowners and locals to actively participate in small tourism business is strongly emphasised, according to Sawailau's paper.

In this regard, a new strategy in Secondary Tourism Activities (STA) has been vigorously pursued to widen and diversify local tourism activities base. STA is all for tourist activities that are conducted outside of the main hotel perimeters. The major constraint lies in capital financing and technical advice. There are currently three pilot projects on the ground initiated by Fijian landowners with no financial assistance from the government. □

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Front view: of Capitol Complex during dedication ceremony

CELEBRATION TIME

MAJURO was bursting at the seams — with people and with pride — in August during two days of joyous, Marshallese-style celebration when the US\$10 million Capitol Complex was officially dedicated. Thousands of well-wishers thronged to the Capitol Complex to participate in the dedication ceremony — everyone from heads of state from neighboring countries to Marshall Islanders living both in the outer islands and abroad to Majuro residents from one end of the tiny island to the other.

It was billed as the biggest celebration since independence in 1986 and no one was disappointed, as the festivities on August 12-13 continued into the wee hours of the morning with an island feast and entertainment for all.

Colorful striped awnings and folding chairs were set up in front of the building to shield at least part of the audience from the blazing heat and humidity. But neither the heat nor a schedule change

caused by the delayed Air Nauru charter flight carrying President Amata Kabua and visiting dignitaries who had been attending the South Pacific Forum in Nauru could dampen the spirits of this crowd.

VIPs, who were escorted to shady seats beneath the overhang of the building and presented with beautiful handwoven Marshallese necklaces and fans, included members of the Marshall Islands *Nitijela* (parliament) as well as representatives from a dozen nations. The program included official presentation of the key by Jerry Kramer, CEO of Pacific International Inc, who developed the Capitol Company as a joint venture with McConnell Dowell; acceptance of the key by President Kabua; and remarks by President Bernard Dowiyogo of the Republic of Nauru. Also on the programme were the national anthem led by the Laura Youth Choir and a prayer of dedication by Reverend Enja Enos,

president of the Council of Churches on Majuro.

President Kabua, after thanking everyone who had helped make the Capitol a reality, commented, "Let it be a shining symbol of the democracy which we have built unto ourselves, a democracy that will endure to affirm and uphold the principles of fundamental human rights and freedom."

President Kabua added, "Let it be the epitome of our national pride that is always seen by all to radiate brilliantly the spirit of love and care, understanding and fairness, decency and integrity in the governance of this nation as well as our relations with other nations."

"Let it be a symbol of trust and affinity, premised on the principle of a government of the people, by the people and for the people," the President concluded.

In turning the complex over to the president, Kramer thanked the President



Dance: part of the performing group from Southern California entertaining at the opening

and his cabinet for their faith and trust in PII and McConnell Dowell, thanked the many subcontractors who worked on the project and also extended his appreciation to "the over 200 Marshallese craftsmen and workers who comprised over 70 percent of our work force."

First Lady Emlain Kabua was at the forefront of the ribbon cutting, with assistance from the *leiroj* (queens), from the various atolls in the Marshalls. With the speeches spoken and the ribbon cut, it was time to tour the building to view the modern space for the *Nitijela* and government officials — and to enjoy a few minutes of cool air conditioning!

Foreign dignitaries participating in the celebration included FSM president Ailele Olter; Nauru president Bernard Dowiyogo; Kiribati president Teatao Teanaki; Tuvalu prime minister Ikenibeu Paeniu; Maori queen Te Arikinu Dame Te Arirangikaahu; Ratu U'uakitau Cokanauto, president of the Fiji Senate; Dr. Andrew Theophanous, minister for health, Australia; Jim Gerard, deputy speaker of New Zealand House of Representatives; John Kaputin, PNG minister of foreign affairs; Zhou Nming, Chinese ambassador; Masao Mede, Belau minister of health, and David Fields, US ambassador.

The visiting dignitaries, together with the Marshallese senators and other local VIPs, enjoyed a buffet dinner inside the new building, with food dishes provided by local restaurants. They dined on delicacies such as roast pork, lobster, sashimi and breadfruit. Outside, the festivities continued with island-style food plates filled to the brim for all who wished to participate. And as dusk settled over the new Capitol Complex, the enthusiastic audience settled in for an evening of performances that dazzled the eye and soothed the ear. Clearly, the biggest crowd-pleaser was the *Jobwa*, sometimes referred to as "the war dance"

or "the stick dance," performed by a large group from Ujae Atoll. With sticks thrust together in an elaborate choreography and grass skirts flying as the dancing became more frenzied, the boys and young men impressed all. The *Jobwa* is a very special dance in Marshallese custom that can be performed only with permission from the high chief, in this case President Amata Kabua, who is also the high chief of the Ralik Chain. President Kabua enjoyed the performance from his front row seat in the audience.

Entertainers journeyed to Majuro from as far north as the Marshallese community living in California to as far

South as Fiji. Many of the outer atolls in the Marshalls sent performing groups; others had representatives perform from among those currently living in the capital Majuro. Altogether, more than 30 groups performed.

And whether you were physically at the Capitol Complex to witness the performances or were at home anywhere in Majuro, you were bound to hear the melodies as the local radio stations broadcast the performances live.

Whether the visitors to Majuro were VIPs or "just plain folk" the consensus seemed to be that the Marshallese "throw quite a party!" □

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THE new \$18 million Capitol Complex is a fascinating blend of modern technology and centuries-old tradition. The buildings bring further prestige and recognition to the two companies that together built the complex, Pacific International Inc (PII) of Majuro and McConnell Dowell Constructions Ltd of New Zealand.

PII and McConnell Dowell have created the most modern, technically and aesthetically pleasing building complex in the Central Pacific region. The beautiful, four-story structure has a reflective gold-tinted glass exterior that, during the day, reflects billowy white clouds and swaying palm trees and, towards dusk, turns a soft golden color reminiscent of the sunset colors of the sky. Inside the 67,000 square foot complex are a variety of technologically advanced systems, many designed specifically to deal effectively with the island environment as this central Pacific nation is poised to take its place in world affairs in the 21st century. The developers also had to be aware of Marshallese culture to assure the buildings were both culturally and politically pleasing, according to Jerry Kramer, CEO of PII.

"During the design phase, we realised that the two buildings of the complex, the administration building and the *Nitijela* Hall (legislative hall) had to have entrances of equal stature to assure equal prominence to both arms of the government," Kramer explained. "And the offices of the Council of *Iroji* (chiefs), the traditional leaders of the country, had to be located on the top floor equal in height to the president's office, the elected leader of the country. Both had to be on the top floor, with no one over their heads."

Kramer complimented the Auckland-based Worley Gillman Architects for its tremendous design effort together with McConnell Dowell. Mike Sheffield, general manager of McConnell Dowell, noted the design of the four-story building is based on an open "U" shape, symbolic of an "open arm" Marshallese welcome, and the courtyard is landscaped to reflect the traditional Marshallese navigational stickchart. Kramer further noted the island environment played a significant role in how the building was constructed. Energy conservation systems, in addition to the reflective exterior glass, are found in the chilled water air conditioning systems, which incorporates refrigeration com-



Speech: President Amata Kabua accepting building

pressors that automatically shut down or turn on when the load changes.

The project was also a boon to the local work force with more than 200 Marshallese workers participated in the construction project — roughly 70 per cent of the workforce.

PII is the largest local construction contractor in the Marshall Islands and is also regarded as a major Marshalese employer. According to Kramer the local workforce benefited because there was sufficient work over the length of the project to allow skills to develop among the local workers in a variety of construction disciplines. Kramer added, "The rough and finish carpentry in the *Nitijela* Hall was done by all Marshallese workers under the guidance of a Maori supervisor."

The administration building, about 44,000 square feet, houses the President's Office, Cabinet Ministers, Foreign Affairs, Attorney General, Finance, Immigration, Customs, Chief Secretary, 10 of the Senators, Planning, Disaster Office, and Clerk of the Cabinet. The adjoining *Nitijela* Hall houses a 19,000 square-foot modern legislative chamber, plus nearly 4,000 square feet of office space. The hall may also be used to host Pacific area conferences while the *Nitijela* is not in session.

The building of the complex has not been without obstacles, the worst being

the discovery in late 1991 that the buildings under construction were sinking. Despite proper soils investigation and sub surface drilling being undertaken prior to breaking ground, and later deemed "prudent and reasonable", a relatively solid coral reef shelf, about 18 to 20 feet below the surface, unexpectedly broke through to a level that was loosely condensed with considerable voids. The original foundations were properly designed using the combined investigations from several sources, yet additional supports still needed to be engineered. According to Kramer, there wasn't an easy answer, even among experts of coral atoll geology. Several repair methods were tried before the final method was developed. Ultimately, several hundred epoxy-coated steel pipe piles were driven to a founding level over 100 feet below the surface. Every pile was tested to confirm its capability and then groups of piles were capped together. After the piles were capped, the entire administration building was jacked up onto these piles. Steel reinforcing cages were fabricated to tie the building into the pile assembly and then cast in concrete.

Kramer's PII, besides being the largest local construction contractor, is the exclusive producer and supplier of quarried crushed rock for concrete aggregates, redi mix concrete, machine shop facilities and the manufacture and bottling of oxygen. The company is also becoming known for its "waffle-crete" projects, in which a precast concrete modular system permits exterior construction in just hours and days rather than weeks and months. Kramer constructed the exterior of his three-story, 24-unit apartment complex in six days this past March, and recently constructed the exterior of a house on Majuro in just five hours.

Together with McConnell Dowell, PII has built numerous projects in Majuro and Kwajalein, as well as outer atoll projects. They range from Army housing in Kwajalein to the US Embassy and sewer projects in Majuro to a dock construction project in Jaluit. According to PII and McConnell Dowell, all of the projects in the Marshall Islands outer atolls are particularly challenging due to the extreme remoteness of the islands and the low resource levels. Power and water supply must be shipped from Majuro and all communication is via short-wave radio. □

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SPORT

Schoolboys show how

NZ side walks away with top honours in Pacific rugby tourney

By Shailendra Singh

FROM the onset, it became clear that the others would have to make way for a New Zealand-Western Samoa grand finale in last month's Shell Pacific Rim Secondary Schools Rugby tournament in Suva. With two of the world's mightiest national teams as role models, the Kiwis and the Samoans were more than a match for the other four aspirants in the two-week event from August 24 to September 4.

Represented by a Northern Region Secondary Schools selection, New Zealand displayed a coolness and clinical efficiency synonymous of the mighty All Blacks; and the Samoans — with the formidable reputation of the Manu Samoa bearing down on them — did not lack in aggression or determination. Fielding the heaviest forward pack (816kg) of the six teams, New Zealand won the inaugural event on a boggy National Stadium pitch, subduing the very Samoans 15-8 in the final. Host, Fiji, whose forwards (720kg) were only second in size to the Kiwis, clinched third place over traditional rival Tonga with a 15-11 victory.

The two Australian entrants — North Queensland and Tasmania — ended up tournament minnows, finishing fifth and sixth respectively. Regardless of how the teams finished, the tournament was unanimously successful with all participants and will be held every three years from now on. It was the sports event of the month in Fiji and was lavished with television, radio and newspaper coverage throughout its duration.

Despite the rainy weather and glum conditions most of the two weeks, the event was well patronised by an expectant Fiji rugby public which has been waiting for a win after its premier national team's dismal performance in

recent years. Shell has jumped to sponsor the next event again in 1995 to be hosted once more by Fiji. The second event will be bigger with teams from South Africa, Japan and Hong Kong expected. Fiji's former prime minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who is president of Fiji Rugby Football Union, set the pace for what was to be two weeks of exciting rugby when on the opening day he flashed back a decade, retracing the steps of



Samoan assault: fending off against Queensland

Atu Rasea



Dumped: but not out. Tonga finished fourth

Atu Rasea

SPORT

a young Australian side that toured Fiji. Mara said the Alan Jones-coached team was motivated, showed great individual intelligence and stuck to its game plan in winning all its four games in Fiji.

Later members of the same team toured the British Isles where they achieved a grand slam. Among those in the team were Nick Farr-Jones, Michael Lynagh, David Campese, Mark Ella, Simon Poidevin and Bill Campbell who are now part of Australian rugby folklore. Speaking out aloud what must have been his keen listeners' dreams, Mara said: "I hope that many of the names we see in the program today will be famous in the near future."

That statement could well be an accurate prophecy, judging from the players' performances later. The Western Samoan team, for instance, had three players which played in their Development team which dished out an embarrassing 40-18 thrashing to Fiji's World Cup side in Apia in June. The trio — flanker and captain Seini Setiti, half-back Faupaia Feteneiai and winger King Kong Matantia — featured prominently in all their teams' appearances and caused a lot of trouble for the Kiwis both times they met.

There were no tries in their pool encounter with New Zealand outkicking the Samoans 9-3. In the final, the two sides were locked 5-5 at half-time with a try each with the Samoans scoring through Setiti. A series of infringements and the awesome power of the Kiwi forwards who outweighed the opposition by a massive 169kgs saw the Samoans concede two more tries. In the dying moments, the Samoans launched a spirited attack but New Zealand, which had seven Samoans and two Tongans in its squad handled the pressure well to escape with a well-deserved win. An interesting feature about the Fijians was their big forwards — a factor that has been missing from their national team.

In comparison to their national side which rates behind both Western Samoa and Tonga, the schoolboys did well to win third place. The host's first try was



Alu Rasesa

Tonga charge: against Tasmania at the National Stadium, Suva

scored in typical Fijian flair with the ball moving from one end of the field to another before captain Bogisa Rasolosolo dived over. Fiji bagged two more tries but the Tongans, who hate losing to Fiji as much as they do to Western Samoa, were always in the game.

They managed an unconverted try and a penalty to narrow the gap to 15-11 and were unlucky in the last minute when a drive for the Fiji line failed. Fijian prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka was heartened enough by Fiji's performance to predict a bright future for the

country's rugby at the closing ceremony. Rabuka said Fiji rugby had reached its lowest this year when the national side failed to qualify for the 1995 World Cup but the schoolboys showed that the game was not dying out in Fiji. The tournament opened the eyes of Fiji Secondary Schools Rugby Union and the national body to the potential in their schoolboys and they resolved to keep track of them for the 1999 World Cup.

Tasmania was butchered during the event, conceding 95 points in its pool play with a 53-0 loss to Tonga and a 42-0

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drubbing from Fiji. But manager Mark Lawler said the losses did not matter so much since they participated with the aim of improving their game and developing the players' skills. The loss of their bid to host the 1995 event was what mattered most to Lawler.

Staging the event in Tasmania — where Australian Rules Football is the overwhelming number one game — would have been a big boost for rugby, according to Lawler. He said it was important the tournament was rotated because it would not only benefit rugby but also race relations and cultural understanding. "Our players have become life-long friends of the Tongans and Fijians," said the Hobart company director.

"In the same way that our boys have come here and experienced Fijian culture, we would like the other countries to come over and

experience Tasmanian culture and benefit from it," said Lawler. Fiji has been given the next event as a reward for its initiative in introducing the tournament. Fiji will also be in a better position to advise and to lend a helping hand to the next host country with the experience that it will gain by hosing the event twice.

Tasmania may not get to host the event until the year 2001 with the 1998 event going to Western Samoa. Island delegates felt the event should be confined to the area to avoid high travelling costs. Lawler, however, feels that the argument doesn't hold, saying that if they could raise \$30,000 in three months to bring their 20-member team over, there's no reason why other countries should not be able to achieve more. Despite their government and local rugby union proposal being knocked back, the Tasmanians have vowed to return in 1995. □



Atu Rasea
Fiji surge: in control against Queensland

Fiji soccer wins series

Fiji soccer's arduous Mini South Pacific Games campaign kicked off in August with three warm-up games against a New Zealand President's team. Host Fiji took the series, but just barely, against veteran All Whites coach Ian Marshall's youthful team. Fiji won the first match in Labasa 2-1 under sweltering conditions but could manage only a 1-1 draw in Suva and a 0-0 draw in Lautoka.

The Fijians won their first SPG gold in 1991 in Papua New Guinea and the Fiji Football Association is sparing no effort or money to ensure a repeat performance at the December Mini

Games in Vanuatu. Fijian coach Billy Singh said the games against the Kiwis were a good workout for his side. New Zealand, made up of mostly under-23 players, dominated in all three matches.

Singh wants more warm-up games for his side and negotiations are under way for games in Australia against the Canberra state side. Singh expects a serious challenge from not only Tahiti and New Caledonia but also from the Solomons and Vanuatu. He has chosen a squad made up mostly of 1991 games veterans for Port Vila. Under Singh, Fiji has not lost to any Pacific nation since 1987. □

Squash tourney attracts 50

NORMALLY, squash players from the South Pacific get to play each other only once in two years, mainly because of financial constraints. When they do manage to meet, players make the most of it — both on the courts and socially. Fiji hosted the Sixth South Pacific Cup Squash Championships from August 20-27 — attracting 50 players from six countries.

Fiji's Sports Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola opened the event with a cocktail welcome for the players at Suva's National Stadium. Frenchman Etienne Marziac headed a

New Caledonian assault in the men's division, claiming the singles gold for himself and featuring prominently in his team's gold medal win. Marziac beat fellow countryman Phillipe Martin 3-1 in the final.

The Fiji men's team, headed by senior government official Winston Thompson, took silver and Papua New Guinea bronze. The PNG women's team won the gold to make up for their men's loss, beating Western Samoa by 2-0. Fiji-born Asinate King was a prominent member of the PNG side. In the women's singles final, New Zealand-born Vanuatu resident Victoria Hillman crushed Imong Brooksbank 3-1 to capture gold. □

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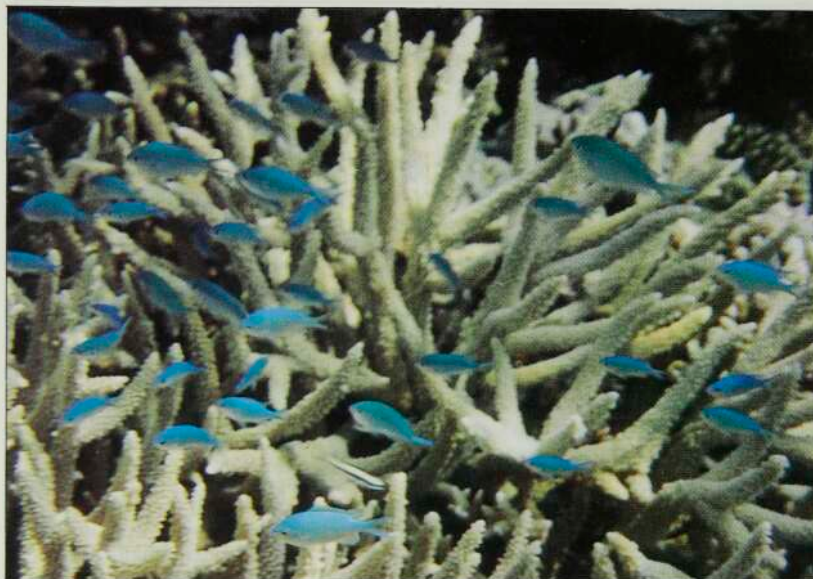


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YACHTING



Underwater delights: coral on the magical Rainbow Reef

Pictures: Sally Andrew

By Sally Andrew

ARRIVING in good light, I inched the boat closer and closer towards the turquoise water dead ahead. On the bow, Foster was looking for a patch of sand to lay the anchor in. I called out the readings from the depth sounder until he motioned: "Stop!"

"34 feet," I hollered. He let go the anchor chain.

Like other cruisers who love the sea, we always try to anchor in sand. Having the option of retrieving our anchor quickly if the wind shifts or pipes up is purely good seamanship. From a conservationist standpoint, anchoring in sand is simply good manners. Anchors and anchor chains can wreck fragile coral environments.

The Rainbow is part of the barrier reef surrounding Vanua Levu in the north-eastern district of Fiji, and is well-known as a world class dive location. As a snorkelling site, it is superb. Arms by my sides, fins providing propulsion I was overwhelmed by the kaleidoscope of colour. It was like swimming through an enchanted rainbow forest of amazing shapes and colors — horns and fans and flowery corals in bursts of red, pink, orange, yellow, green, blue and lavender. We drifted over the top of the reef as schools of fish swam past in clouds of colour. Myriad soft corals waved hello. We swam around and inside of the leaves of gigantic cabbages.

In reality these giant green leaves are fold upon fold of green plate coral which curl and rise enclosing one another like the leaves of a cabbage. We spent several days anchored in Viani Bay, making

Magic of the reefs

daytrips out to the Rainbow Reef. The weather was very settled and in the lee of Taveuni, conditions couldn't have been better. Another good all-weather anchorage can be found around the corner at Naqaiqai Bay, across from Kioa Island.

Not surprisingly, there are several dive-oriented resorts 20 minutes away on the island of Taveuni. Dive boats zip across the Somosomo Strait on day trips, and for more extensive liveaboard diving the *Matangi Princess* operates out of Matangi Island Resort. The most famous dive of the area is the Great White Wall. The Wall begins at a depth of 50 feet and drops straight to 240. It is home to a unique colony of foot tall, ice-blue soft coral which only bloom in the outgoing tides.

The Somosomo Strait between Taveuni and Vanua Levu is like a funnel — a lot of water rushes through on the incoming and outgoing tides. Sailing north through the strait, the current gave us a bit of a push towards the sandy anchorage at Naselesele Point, and a few days later round the top of Taveuni.

On our way to Vurevure Bay in north-eastern Taveuni, we poked our nose into Naivivi Bay to take a look. As we approached, the wooden runabout *Marama* came alongside and motioned us to enter the pass. Two men and a woman directed us through the pass and showed us the best place to anchor — right in front of their very picturesque village. Traditional thatched bures dotted the hillside. We decided to let fate take its turn and after lunch we went ashore to perform a *sevusevu* (traditional presentation of gifts).

Just before dark, a Kiwi yacht came in the pass loaded with two dozen Fijian passengers returning to the village after a day's outing of fishing and swimming.

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It was the yacht *Tuatara* from Tauranga, New Zealand. We met the skipper, Rune, the next day at the local school bazaar where we had iced kava.

On the first clear, calm day we hauled our well-set anchor out of the mud and headed to the village of Diodio on the eastern side of Qamea. We needed good visibility to navigate between the reefs and coral heads which rise more than 60 feet from the bottom. Dangerous as they are if you hit one, "bommies" are often blanketed with soft corals in shades right off Neptune's palette. They make good diving.

We anchored in the north-west corner of a bay formed by Qamea and Laucala Island. On the beach, Waisea greeted us with a basket of breadfruit, coconuts and plantains fresh from his garden. We had met Waisea on Taveuni the previous year, and he was pleased that we had accepted the invitation to visit his bay.

Our nautical chart shows a high plateau between two peaks where a village was located in days of old. After lunch, "Wise" told us about the ancient village site. In those days, the Fijians kept careful seaward watch for invading Tongans. When the enemy was sighted, the Triton-shell horn was blown. Thus rallied, his ancestors would sail out to "meet them, beat them and eat them". Waisea's forefathers are buried on two islets in the bay. We visited the grave sites and remarked on how well-fed his ancestor's must have been — the stone borders demarked very long people.

We hiked around the islands, and the best view was from the lookout on Laucala Island. Down on the beach we discovered the secret to opening a prouting coconut — you just grab it by the sprout and bash it on a rock. Who needs a machete!?

With southerlies threatening, we had to leave our fair-weather anchorage. We came round to a bay on the protected north-west side of Qamea. Ashore we met George Mitchell and his family who



Coral cabbage: part of the 'vegetation'

'It was like swimming through an enchanted rainbow forest of amazing shapes and colour'

welcomed us to their small piece of paradise. They told us to help ourselves to the abundant freshwater and to enjoy the snorkelling. We did both. Surrounded by white sandy beaches, the bay is loaded with corals and fish of all shapes, colours, sizes and markings. One fish was remarkable — he held onto the coral with his fins and "walked" from fan to fan.

Throughout the South Pacific, coral reefs and their colourful marine life and major attractions for tourists as well as a source of food and/or livelihood for the locals. All of us should be conservation conscious so that future generations can enjoy the magic of the reefs. □



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Sofrana Unilines operates a fully containerised/breakbulk service every 21 days from Auckland, Tauranga, Lyttelton to Suva and Lautoka. Loading every 21 days, ro/ro service, containers - reefer. Contact Sofrana Unilines, Sofrana House, 101 Customs Street, Auckland, PO Box 3614, Fax (09) 393874, Ph (09) 773279, Tlx NZ 2313. Direct toll free line 0800 659-922, Contact Alan Foote. Compass Shipping Agencies, PO Box 921 Wellington, Tel (04) 382 8206, Fax (04) 3828239, Tlx NZ 4769. Contact Steve Brannigan. Sofrana Unilines Agencies, PO Box 22046 Christchurch, Tel (03) 366 7180, Fax (03) 366 8868, Tlx NZ 4769. Contact Tony Newell. Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji, Tel (679) 312244, Fax (679) 301572, Tlx FJ 2199. Sofrana Unilines, Suva, Fiji, Tel (679) 315645, Fax (679) 300057.

Australia - Fiji direct

Sofrana Unilines operates a container breakbulk service every three weeks from Melbourne, and Sydney to Lautoka and Suva. Contact Sofrana Unilines (Aust) Pty Ltd, PO Box Q136, Queen Victoria Building, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia. Tel (02) 2648944, Fax (02) 2676547, Tlx (71) A170090, Contact Sam Attaway/ George Lopez.

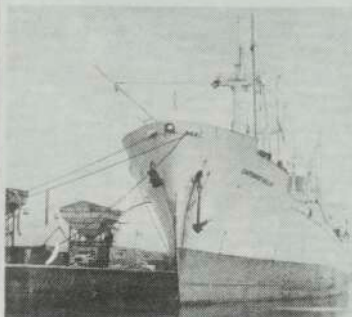
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Australia - Fiji monthly service

Sofrana Unilines (Australia) Pty Ltd operates a regular monthly service with *MV Capitaine Wallis*. Contact Sofrana Unilines, Sydney, Tel (02) 2648944, Tlx AA170090, Fax (02) 267-6547. Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Fiji, Tel (679) 312244, Fax (679) 301572, Sofrana

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Fax: 300 951, 300 057.
Postal Address: C/- Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, Suva.

Unilines, Suva, Fiji Tel (679) 315645, Fax (679) 300057, Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka, Tel (679) 63988, Fax (679) 664896. Sofrana Unilines, Lautoka, Fiji, Tel (679) 662921, Fax (679) 664896.

Far-East - Fiji Service

New Guinea Pacific Line (NGPL) operates a monthly service accepting containerised and break-bulk cargoes from Manila, Keelung, Kaoshiung, Hong Kong, Lae to Suva, Lautoka (via Suva).

Contact Carpenters Shipping Suva, Fiji, tel (679) 312244, fax (679) 301572. New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customs House Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington. Tel 727865, Cables Enzue Man, Wellington, Tlx NZ31340 Nedluz or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney, Tel 20522.

Japan - South Pacific Service

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Japan - South Pacific Service - Kyowa Shipping Co Ltd

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

Europe - Pacific Service

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

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South East Asia - Fiji Service

Nedlloyd Lines Service (Wellington, New Zealand) operates regular fast cargo service from Jakarta, Pt Keelang, Singapore, Bangkok, Surabaya via Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Contact Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel 312244, Tlx FJ2199, Fax 301572. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka Tel 663988, Tlx FJ5215, Fax 663988. Nedlloyd New Zealand, Wellington Tel (04) 472 7864, Fx (04) 473 9201

South East Asia - Mid South Pacific

Columbus Line operates a regular container and breakbulk-heavy lift service from/to Hongkong/Taiwan/Manila/Singapore/Malaysia/Thailand/Indonesia to Port Moresby/Lae/Rabaul/Kimbe/Madang/Newark/Honiara and Noro. Contact Express Freight, Lae, POB 3398, phone 423913 or 423822, fax 425193.

Far East - Mid South Pacific

China Navigations New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container and breakbulk — heavy lift service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara. Cargo from the same eastern ports to the South Pacific Ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Nukualofa, Rarotonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai Service. Contact Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby, PO Box 634, Tel 220283 or 220289. Tasman Asia operate a 20-day frequency fixed date service, shipping breakbulk and containerised cargoes from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong to Suva and Lautoka (via Suva). Fiji agents are Forum

Shipping Agencies in Suva, Tel 315444, and Lautoka 660577.

Australia - New Caledonia - Fiji - Samoas - Tonga

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Sydney. Cargo centralised from Adelaide and Melbourne. Contact: Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 796, Auckland; Union Bulkships, 333 George St, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne; Union Co, Lautoka; Pacific Forum Line, Suva, Nuku'alofa; Pacific Forum Line, Apia; Polynesia Shipping, Pago Pago. Sofrana Unilines operates a ro-ro container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transshipment to the Samoas and Tonga.

New Zealand - Australia - PNG - Solomon Islands

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

NZ - Fiji

Translink Pacific Shipping Fiji Agents are: Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd, Ph 314189 Fax 300144 Suva; Ph 662231 Fax 662251 Lautoka. Auckland Agents: McKay Shipping Ph (9) 390229 Fax (9) 3032931. Tauranga Agents, searade agencies Ph (75) 754989 Fax (75) 758380. □

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SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

VACANCY — PROJECT OFFICER (SPECIES PROTECTION): SOUTH PACIFIC BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PROGRAMME (SPBCP)

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) seeks applicants for the position of Project Officer (Species Protection) for the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).

The SPBCP helps participating countries establish and initially manage a series of diverse conservation areas (terrestrial, marine and combined) to enable the sustainable use of those areas' natural resources. Subsidiary activities support project objectives through provision of information, species protection and action-oriented policy studies. The SPBCP is executed by SPREP on behalf of the Global Environment Facility and its partners namely, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

The Project Officer, manages the regional species conservation programmes for turtles, marine mammals and birds. In addition, this officer is responsible for facilitating the implementation of regional and global biodiversity conventions in SPREP member countries and initiating regional policy studies and activities related to biodiversity conservation such as biotechnology, biodiversity property rights, training, education, research and institutional development.

The appointment will be at Project Officer level and will be for two years in the first instance renewable by mutual agreement for a further one year. An attractive remuneration at this level and other employment benefits will be offered with the actual starting salary dependent on qualifications and experience. For non-Western Samoan citizens, salary and allowances will be tax-free in Western Samoa.

Applicants must possess a University degree in a relevant field, preferably at post graduate level. Extensive (at least five years) experience working on environmental conservation, resource management, land use management or related fields in or on behalf of developing countries, preferably within the Pacific Islands, will be important. Proven skills and experience in dealing with complex land tenure systems are desirable. Applicants must be nationals of a SPREP or United Nations member country and must be fluent in spoken and written English. Knowledge of a Pacific Island language and of French would be advantageous.

Applications must be accompanied by detailed curricula vitae containing full information on qualifications and experience relevant for the position as well as names, address, telephone and fax numbers of three persons associated with the applicant professionally and who would be prepared to provide testimonials when required. Applications should be addressed to:

The Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PO Box 240
APIA

Western Samoa
Telephone: (685) 21 929

Fax: (685) 20 231

Further information, including full duty statement and conditions of appointment can be obtained from SPREP's Senior Administrative Officer, Mr Ueligitone Sasagi, at these numbers.

Closing date for all applications will be 31st October 1993.

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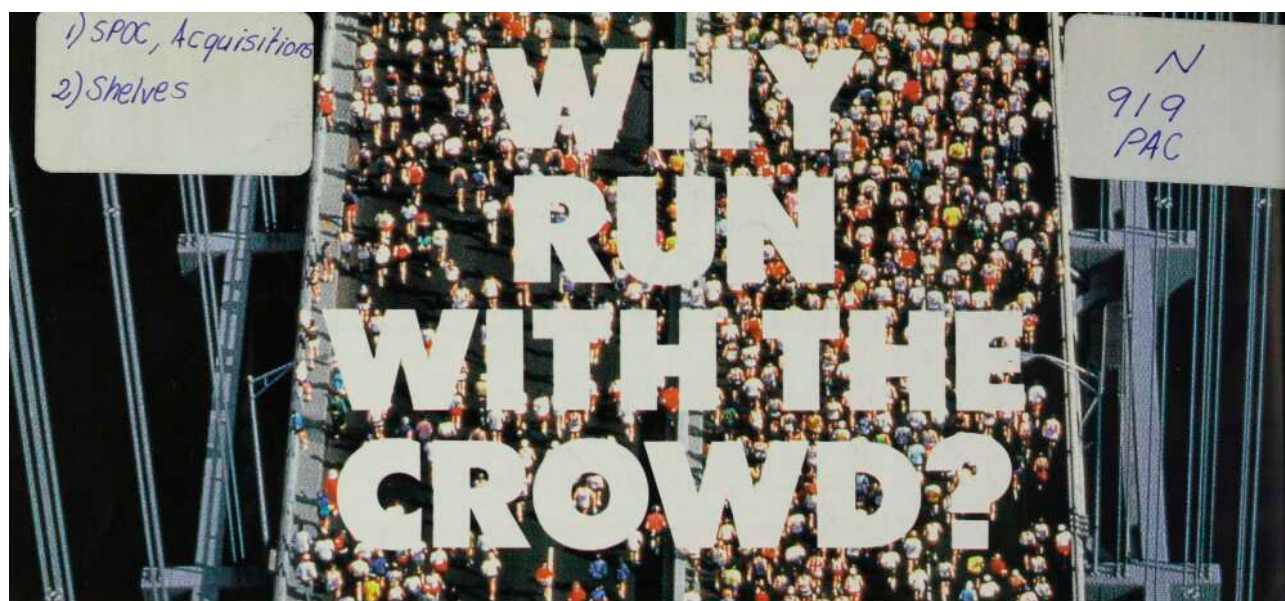
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