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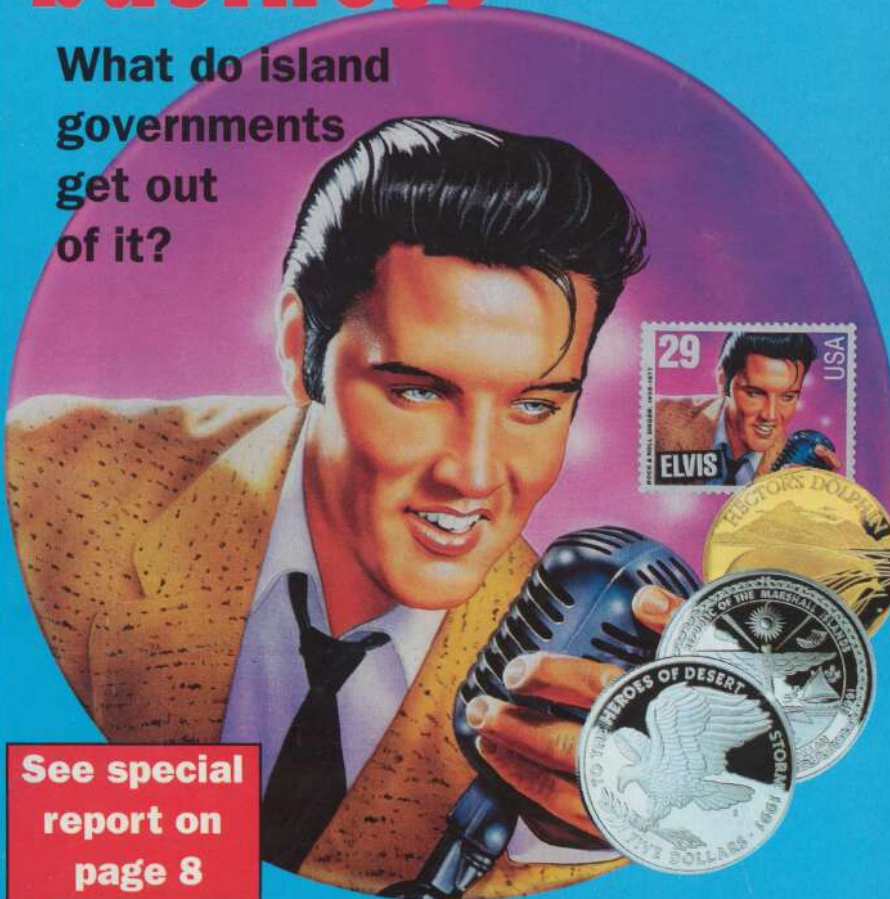
PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

JULY 1994

The sovereignty business

What do island governments get out of it?



See special report on page 8

SOCCER POWERHOUSE



Fiji dethrones Tahiti - p57

BUSINESS

Pearls: a viable economic alternative - p24



Polynesian Airlines: flying into debt - p22

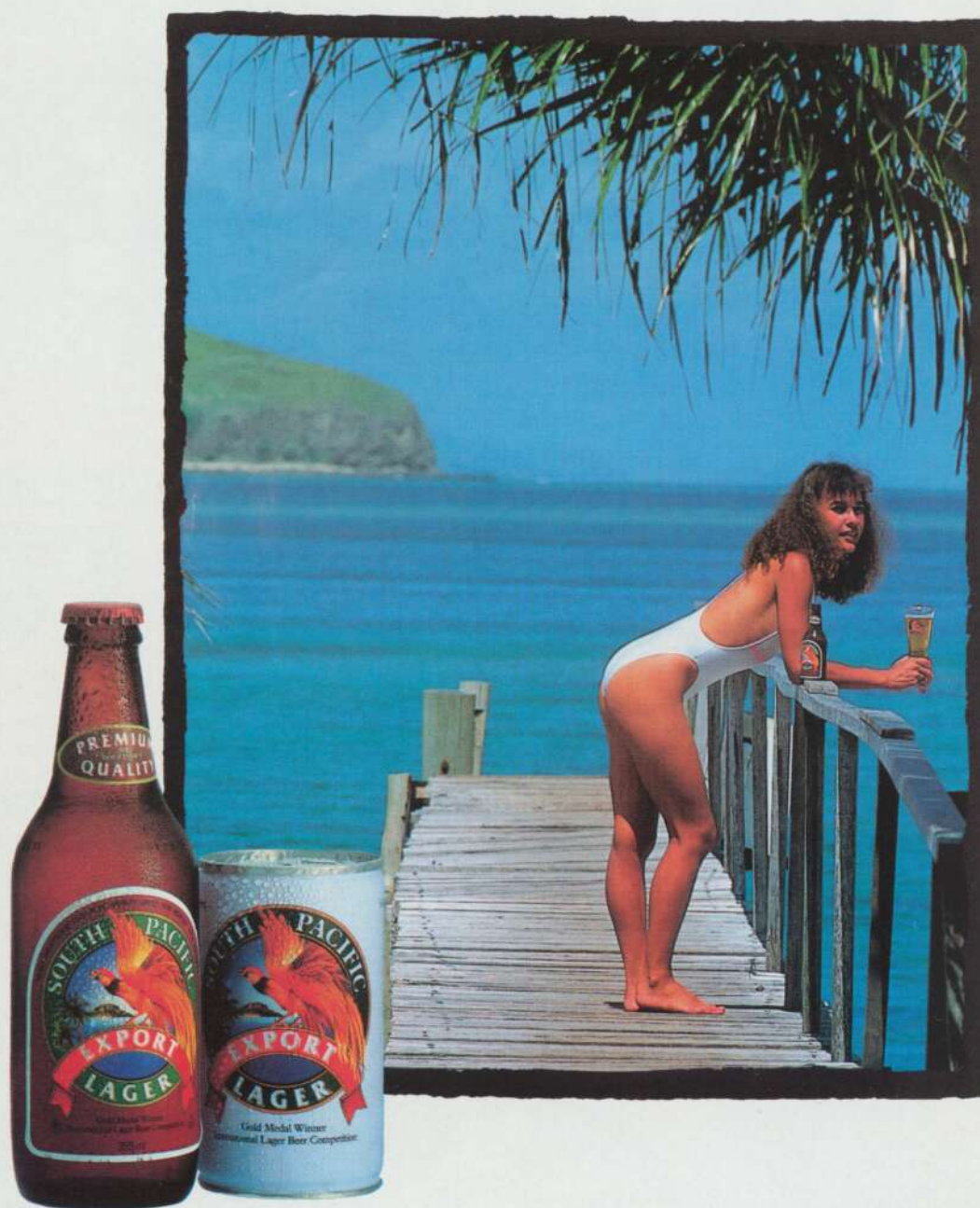
VANUATU



Special feature on p42

Good times for Korman - p16

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 64 No. 7

THE NEWS MAGAZINE

JULY 1994

LETTERS

4

ENVIRONMENT

Greenhouse warning

5

HEADLINES

6

COVER STORIES

The sovereignty business
Elvis, Marshalls and junk mail

8
14

VANUATU

Good times for Korman

16

FIJI

Opposition boycotts parliament

18

RACE RELATIONS

Islanders allege racial taunts

19

BUSINESS

Flying into debt
Business bulletin
Pearls '94
Queen of pearls

22
23
24
25

EDUCATION

Scholarship boost

29

ISSUE

Hope for end to war
The amazing Joseph

30
31

NORTHERN MARIANAS

Tinian — home of the A-Bomb Pits

35

THE UNITED NATIONS

Can small islands
rely on anyone?

35



Vanuatu villagers: a special Visit Vanuatu Year '95 feature begins on page 42

Learning from past mistakes

38

TELEVISION

Fiji gets permanent TV

39

BOOKS

The days of old

53

ENVIRONMENT

Fallout of another kind
Wildlife worry

54
55

POHNPEI/ ISLANDS

Land — a hot issue

56

MARSHALL

SPORT

The Fijian threat
Rugby nightmare
No looking back for Luke

57
58
59

YACHTING

Return to Raga

60

SHIPPING

Shipping schedules

61

COLUMNISTS

Jemima Garrett
'Atu Emberson-Bain
Alfred Sasako
David Barber

17
27
28
40

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LETTERS

Pacific diplomacy

Sir,
I REFER to the article entitled "Diplomacy Pacific style" in the April issue of *PIM*. I must say that I find it quite extraordinary to find the diplomacy of Pacific Island countries criticised by someone who is so manifestly ill-informed, so patronising towards regional governments, and so intent on capitalising on the indiscretions of particular individuals — without even bothering to check his "facts". Is this Diplomacy *PIM* style?

As with similar appointments in the diplomatic services of most other countries, Papua New Guinea's heads of mission are appointed by the principal executive authority in the country, the national executive council. Whether or not they are permanent officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, they are accountable to the government-of-the-day, at whose pleasure they serve. In both respects, their situation is like that of many other senior public office holders, including departmental heads (such as myself).

When their terms are complete or their appointments are revoked, permanent civil servants, including heads of mission who have been recently recalled, return to senior positions in the department or other government agencies. Others, including some whose professional obituaries your reporter so prematurely wrote, are frequently offered important posts elsewhere, including in the private sector.

Heads of mission who are called before their terms expire receive three months pay in lieu of notice — plus other payments to which the law entitles them.

Some heads of mission have their terms extended (as happened once in the case of the former ambassador to the United States, and twice in the case of the former permanent representative at the United Nations). In any event, most heads of mission understand the position, and return, without public comment, to headquarters, when they are recalled.

All of them are, in fact, briefed in detail, at workshops held over a period of two weeks before they take up their official duties, on the terms and conditions of their appointments. The comments attributed to the former ambassador in Washington must, therefore, be regarded as indiscreet expressions of unfortunate ignorance or indifference towards longstanding practices and procedures.

As for your reporter's assessment of regional diplomacy in general, and of Papua New Guinea diplomacy in particular, the best that can be said is that it is offensive, self-contradictory and based on the uncritical acceptance of others' self-serving views. Thus, he provokes no firm evidence to support the sweeping claim that diplomacy "has never been a strong card for Pacific states".

In fact, he subsequently cites two major diplomatic achievements: the re-inscription of New Caledonia on the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories and the passage of a resolution to appoint a United Nations panel on Papua New Guinea's initiative of "Opportunity and Participation".

But, in doing so, he attributes both successes to particular individuals, who appear to have been his informants.

In relying on such self-interested and self-promoting sources, your reporter fails completely to acknowledge (if, indeed, he even bothered to try to find out) that both success were initiated at ministerial level, actively promoted by the South Pacific Forum, co-ordinated through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and backed by our diplomatic network around the world. The Permanent Mission to the United Nations was, in both cases, a vital part, but still only a part, of much wider efforts.

As one who has spent quite a deal of my professional life working with my counterparts from other countries in the region, I am sure that they do not need my help in responding as they find appropriate to your reporter's disparaging comments about them. I am just as

sure that they will not allow him to draw them into controversy over issues which he has manufactured by trying to misuse the normal courtesies of diplomatic life. But I am also sure that, like many political leaders, colleagues and other *PIM* readers in Papua New Guinea, they must wonder why a journal which aspires to provide an authoritative record of developments in the region should publish such an inaccurate, condescending and misleading version of important events.

The article displays neither diplomacy nor style. It does — and says — nothing of value for the Pacific.

The region is entitled to expect more reliable, insightful and genuinely thought-provoking writing about regional affairs, particularly at a time when outside interest in — and inter-action among — Pacific Island countries over vital issues are growing apace.

GABRIEL DUSAYA

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Papua New Guinea

PEACESAT Network

Sir,
We were delighted to see David Barber's article "The PEACESAT Network" in the April 1994 edition of *PIM*. As David Barber has stated, PEACESAT is indeed a little-known facility.

If any of your readers would like further information, they are welcome to contact the University of Hawaii PEACESAT Headquarters.

Address — Christina Higa,
PEACESAT Systems and Operations Manager,
Social Science Institute,
Old Engineering Quad, Building 31,
University of Hawaii at Manoa,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822,
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They are also welcome to contact us at Wellington Polytechnic.

Address — Kay Seyb,
PEACESAT Co-ordinator,
Wellington Polytechnic,
Private Box 756,
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KAY SEYB
PEACESAT Co-ordinator



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ENVIRONMENT



A Marshall Islands' beach: huge waves destroyed about 100 houses

Greenhouse warning

THE Pacific nation of the Marshall Islands has received a chilling warning of what may happen if sea levels rise as a result of global warming.

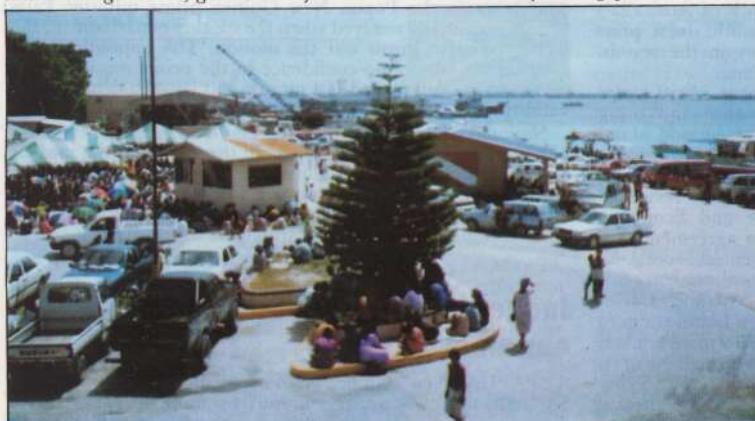
A combination of high tides and huge seas late last month swept large waves inland on several low-lying coral atolls, destroying or damaging up to 100 homes, wrecking crops and dumping debris. The atolls of Majuro — the nation's capital — Arno, Mili and Jaluit have been declared disaster areas by the government, national disaster co-ordinator Clement Capelle said.

The disaster temporarily closed roads and Majuro's international airport. No-one was badly injured. US Federal Emergency Management Agency officials were last month assessing the damage and may offer US aid, he said. Capelle said the huge waves, generated by a low

pressure system, first struck as the tide was peaking. "There was no storm, no wind — only the waves. They came inland and destroyed many houses."

Most people were asleep at the time and had little warning of the waves, officials said. The Marshall Islands would be one of the first Pacific countries seriously affected if, as many scientists predict, sea levels rise as a result of global warming. The highest point on its scattered atolls is just 10 metres above sea level. Marshallese are worried that climate change, caused by greenhouse gas emissions from industrialised nations, may force them to abandon their island homes. A 50-centimetre rise in sea level would make the Marshall Islands uninhabitable, the recent Barbados conference of small island states was told.

"People are coming to realise the serious consequences of a rise in sea level," Capelle said. "We are very concerned because our islands are so low. When places are inundated like this, people wonder whether the greenhouse effect is already taking place." AAP □



Downtown Majuro: will the Marshallese be forced to leave their homes?

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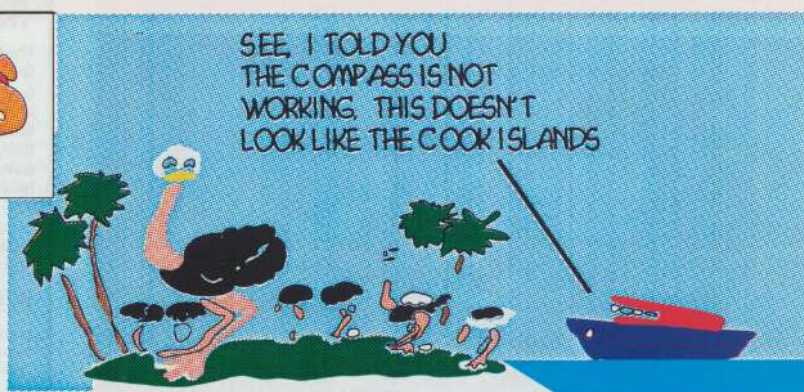
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COOK ISLANDS
RAISE OSTRICH
IN NEW MONEY-
MAKING VENTURE



FIJI

Samoan circus show continues

THE Magic Circus of Samoa will continue its five-month Fiji tour despite allegations that the ringmaster, Bruno Loyale, owes money to organisations in Papua New Guinea. A spokesman for sponsor Coca-Cola said the company believed the show would be great family entertainment. Magician Loyale, toured PNG for nine months in 1990 with his circus then called Circus Bruno.

Reports from PNG said Loyale was warned by police after he allegedly abandoned a circus there. He has been accused of leaving behind nine lions, three camels, a chimpanzee, a python and an elephant. He is also accused of owing US\$80,000 to at least three companies. The circus held its first show in Suva last month where it will perform until early this month before moving to other districts of Fiji.

★ ★ ★

Call on Australia to open market

FIJI has called on Australia to make its market more accessible to South Pacific products following the launch of Australia's ministerial statement on the region last month. In a press statement, Fiji, which is the largest economy in the region, welcomed Australia's reform agenda.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka agreed that island states needed to improve their economic performance and bring down the rate of population growth. However, he said island nations will not achieve the economic growth they are capable of if Australia and New Zealand don't open their markets wider. Rabuka also reiterated his call on Australia to revise the SPARTECA (South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement) preferential trading agreement. Fiji argued that Australia should give preferential access to products made with less than 50 per cent local content.

Meanwhile, Vanuatu Prime Minister Maxime Carlot Korman has called for increased trade between island states to help boost the region's poor economic performance. And Solomon Islands says Australia did not say anything new in its policy statement and it's a matter of getting down to carrying out the reforms. A spokesman said Solomon Islands was already doing that with its structural adjustment programme and logging initiatives.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Times highlights logging dilemma

ONE measure of world-wide attention to a matter is its appearance on the front page of the *Sunday New York Times*. 'Isolated Papua New Guineans Fall Prey to Foreign Bulldozers' was the headline at the top of the *Times* front page on June 5, as the paper devoted considerable space to a damning story on how some foreign companies had ruined the rain forest and cheated the people. The *Times* had sent one of its foreign correspondents, Philip Shenon, to Port Moresby and on to New Britain.

Shenon wrote about the threatened disappearance of the rain forest, the logging techniques that prevent reforestation, and of the efforts by some to stop the pillage. The story quoted estimates of payments to villagers of no more than US\$15 million for logs worth US\$500 million. Tim Neville, PNG's forests minister, has twice escaped murderous assault, which the *Times* linked to his efforts to save the forests.

★ ★ ★

Motion of no-confidence thrown out

THE question of the validity of an intended motion of no-confidence in the Papua New Guinea prime minister Paias Wingti was finally resolved when the speaker of parliament, Bill Skate, ruled to throw out the motion. The opposition gave notice for a vote of no-confidence in the prime minister, that was to have been moved last month, but lengthy debate on its validity prevented the motion being moved.

National radio NBC said Skate made his ruling in the form of a press statement to the media. In the statement the speaker explained that the prime minister was currently enjoying an 18-month grace period following his snap resignation and immediate re-election last September, which means a motion of no-confidence against him would be unconstitutional.

★ ★ ★

Judge attacked, car smashed

A PAPUA New Guinea national court judge, Maurice Sheehan, narrowly escaped unhurt by some 40 axe-wielding youths along the Okuk Highway, in the Western Highlands, last month. His car was smashed with axes by the youths.

HEADLINES

COOK ISLANDS



Ostrich ranch plans under way

ONE of the world's smallest countries is preparing a new home for the world's largest birds. The Cook Islands plans to set up an ostrich ranch and so create a new industry for its tiny economy, now reliant on tourism and offshore banking.

The flightless birds, native to Africa, are bred in various parts of the world for their meat, leather and feathers. The *Cook Islands News* reported last month that 200 chicks were scheduled to be imported from Africa this month and would be sent to the ranch being built among former pineapple plantations on Mangaia Island.

Government Agriculture Secretary William Hosking said the chicks must pass strict quarantine requirements before being allowed in. The Cook Islands lies about 3000 kilometres north-east of Auckland, New Zealand. It consists of 15 islands with a combined land mass of 240 square kilometres and population of about 18,000. — AP

★ ★ ★

WESTERN SAMOA



City settles with family of slain brothers

THE city of Compton, in California, has agreed to pay up to \$US6 million to the family of two Samoan brothers gunned down by a police officer in 1991, the family's lawyer said. The settlement was reached in May in the civil rights suit filed by the family of Pouvi Tualalelei, 34, and his brother Italia, 22, said lawyer Jerry Steering.

The brothers were shot 19 times on February 12, 1991, by Officer Alfred Skiles, who was responding to a domestic disturbance call in the Los Angeles suburb. The shooting angered many in the area's large Samoan community, especially after a criminal trial against Skiles ended in mis-trial in May 1992. Prosecutors contended that after he felled the brothers with nine shots, Skiles coolly reloaded his firearm and shot them at least 10 more times. Skiles, 46, has retired from the force.

★ ★ ★

VANUATU



Union wants teachers back on jobs

THE Vanuatu Teachers Union is threatening legal action against the ministry of education if 90 reinstated school teachers are not allowed to return to work. Union general secretary Calo Charles said the teachers had been reinstated by the training service commission and were to have resumed duty on May 23, but had been prevented from doing so by the education minister.

Charles said the decision by the ministry not to allow the teachers to return to work, and to withhold their salaries, was in breach of the Teaching Service Act. He says under the act, only the commission had the power to terminate and reinstate and teachers who had been reinstated by the commission were entitled to their salaries. The 90 were among 700 teachers suspended in February for taking part in a strike in support of striking civil servants demanding a pay increase.

KIRIBATI



Govt falls, new election due soon

A COUNCIL of state took over administration of Kiribati late May following the fall of the government. Kiribati now faces new elections after the ruling National Progressive Party (NPP) was defeated on May 24 in a vote over the alleged misuse of public funds by cabinet ministers.

Parliament was dissolved when the NPP lost an effective vote of confidence by 21 votes to 19. Under the constitution, administration of Kiribati passes to a council of state comprising the speaker of parliament, the chief justice and the chairman of the Public Service Commission.

The council held its first meeting in Tarawa on May 25 and said a new election would be held soon, Radio Kiribati reported. No date was given. The constitution requires a new election be held within three months. The next election was not due until mid-1995.

The government's defeat followed an opposition move to set up a select committee to investigate allegations of misuse of public funds by Kiribati's President, Teatao Teannaki, and his cabinet.

The government, which has denied the allegations, instead moved an amendment to set up an independent committee, saying the proposed select committee would be one-sided. However, the centrist Maurin Kiribati Party combined with the opposition Mwancaba Party to defeat the government amendment. The NPP has been in power since independence was granted in 1979 to Kiribati, a collection of 33 far-flung atolls formerly known as the Gilbert Islands. — AP

★ ★ ★

HAWAII



Senator wants Hawaiians classified

HAWAII senator Daniel Akaka is pushing for legislation for a definitive classification for native Hawaiians. Senator Akaka says the significance of revising the race and ethnic standards would mean guidelines for the measurement of race and ethnicity in Federal data collection.

The standards, he says, determine all Federal activities, including civil rights compliance, statistical reporting and general programme and grant administration. Currently, native Hawaiians are listed as part of the "Asian or Pacific Islander" category. In announcing the hearings, Akaka said native Hawaiians are defined as native Americans in a number of Federal laws, but they constantly fall through the cracks for lack of a consistently inclusive Federal policy.

★ ★ ★

TONGA



Pope appoints new Tongan bishop

POPE John Paul II has appointed Father Dr Soane Lilo Foliaki of the Society of Mary as the new bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Tonga. The bishop-elect was ordained at a special ceremony last month at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Father Dr Foliaki studied for the priesthood at St Mary's Green Meadows in New Zealand and was ordained priest in Napier, Hawkes Bay.

COVER STORIES

By David North

SPECIAL REPORT

PALAU'S bare-breasted mermaid coins are apparently a smash hit in the market, but that does not mean much financially to the islands. The Swiss-minted discs are said to be the world's first multi-coloured coins. Though carrying a nominal value of only \$1 (Palau uses the US dollar) they were originally sold to collectors, largely in Japan for \$17, and now the promoter is charging \$25. How much of the \$25 gets to Palau? Ten dollars, \$5, or just \$1?

Palau gets exactly half a dollar, 50 US cents, for each coin. The other \$24.50 (98 per cent of the gross) goes to the promoter, Japan's Ben Corporation. Ben, presumably, pays for the minting, the small royalty to Palau, and the major cost — promoting and selling the coins. Is the Palau coin deal par for the course? Or do some of the other islands do better in the coin-and-stamp business? We suspect that the answer to the second question is sometimes "yes".

Virtually everyone in the business traditionally hides the financial aspects of their transactions. But there is just enough of the open-books influence of the US in Palau (the last of the US Trust Territories) for *PIM* to be able to secure fairly complete financial information. And when we told senior people in the US coin business the details of the Palau mermaid deal, we got the impression that Palau was doing particularly badly in a field where island governments often do not do well. The big picture is this — no island is paid much in this business, and recent years have been worse than earlier ones. The best net income in recent years has apparently gone to the Republic of the Marshall Islands. RMI received a peak net income of about \$1,250,000 for both its stamps and its coins in 1991, but expects only \$651,000 from these sources in 1994. The long-term trend appears to be downwards for other governments as well, as the accompanying table indicates. For example, to take two islands with totally different promotional approaches — staid Britain's Pitcairn and the hang-loose Tonga — we find Pitcairn's income down between 1992 and 1993, and Tonga's down from the mid-70s to the late eighties. As a matter of fact, back in 1976-77 fully three per cent of Tonga's governmental income, from all sources, came from the sale of stamps. By 1988-89 the percentage had fallen to one half of one per cent. In the light of this depressing trend, it is useful to look more carefully at the Palau deal. As is usually the case, the promoter and the island nation are engaged in the sale of a series of coins, not just one. This series celebrates protection of the marine environment. While the dollar coin in the series is made of copper and nickel, like most of the world's low-value coins, the \$5 version is made of silver. For the latter coins, Palau gets \$4, while Ben sells them

The sovereignty

So who makes most money out of it?

What do the following transactions have in common?

- The Cooks sell commemorative coins.
- Vanuatu and the Marshalls license (flag) merchant ships.
- Tonga sells passports to the Hong Kong Chinese.
- Niue decides to become the latest off-shore banking centre.
- Fiji rents part of its army to the United Nations.
- All the islands sell postage stamps to the collectors.

In each case the island government is engaging in what we call the **Sovereignty Business** — economic activities that can only be engaged in by nations (or quasi nations), but not by individuals, corporations, or units of local government.

This month *PIM* covers stamps and coins; a future article will deal with off-shore banking, bank notes, flagging ships, issuing passports and divorces, and working with satellites.

in Japan for \$80 — having raised the price from the earlier level, \$69. (At the higher price, Palau receives four per cent of the gross). Palau's government-owned National Development Bank signed the deal for the islands. In return for giving Ben (presumably) a monopoly on Palau's commemorative coins, Ben made an advance payment of \$100,000 to the bank and a loan of \$900,000, at a rate of 3.5 per cent a year. (The rate would be favorable in US markets, less so in Japan with its low interest rates).

The royalties from coin sales are supposed to insure the repayment of the loan. They also will assure Ben that no one else — for a long time — will ever distribute coins for Palau. This is the case because at the current rate of royalty payments Palau will be perpetually in hock to the Japanese firm. The Palau deal also has upper limits on the numbers of coins to be minted; this is a standard procedure, and is designed to assure collectors that there is a limited supply.

Here are the numbers for the marine environment series — Palau will receive 50 cents for each of the 50,000 \$1 mermaids, and \$4 for each of the 6000 \$5 coins, or a maximum of \$49,000 (\$25,000 + \$24,000). *PIM* has a Development Bank document showing that at the end of December, 1993, Ben had chalked up \$45,050 to Palau's account for all of the \$5 coins and most of the \$1 ones. The document covered payments between June 1992, when the coins went on sale, and the end of December, 1993, a period of 18 months. Unless Ben, or Palau, breaks their word to the coin trade, and mints more of the coins, the marine life protection series is just about over. So, one and a half years have passed, and it looks as if Palau is ahead by \$45,000 plus

another \$12,000 in retail sales (presumably within Palau) for \$57,000. Not bad for a nation of 15,000. But wait, Palau's Development Bank must pay \$31,500 a year in interest to Ben, or \$47,250 in the 18 months; that leaves Palau less than \$10,000 on the plus side of the ledger.

Meanwhile, Ben apparently grossed somewhere between \$1,204,000 and \$1,730,000 depending on the price Ben received for the coins — we do not know when during the 18 months the prices were increased. In summary — Palau received a net of \$10,000 from one of the more successful coin promotions in recent years, and the promoters' gross was about \$1.5 million. There is the theoretical possibility that Palau could simply repay the loan and negotiate with another promoter; but development banks in the islands tend to make loans to small businesses that often fail. So Palau probably will be doing business with Ben for a long time to come. Meanwhile, Palau has apparently secured a much better deal for its stamps than its coins. (Whether it is a good deal for Palau is another question).

The Palau government agency handling off-shore sales of postage stamps is the post office, and the promoter is Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) of New York, an organisation active with other (non-Pacific) small nations as well.

Palau's postal system, according to the US Trust Territory office in Palau, had philatelic sales worth \$142,000 in 1991, and \$192,000 in 1992. *PIM* was informed that the New York firm prints, sells and promotes the stamp issues, and sends 40 per cent of all gross revenues to the islands. (All of this is in happy contrast to the \$10,000 or so actual profit we calculate for Palau's coins, and a gross of what appears to be two to four per cent. It was not clear to us whether the Palauans selling coins and those selling stamps ever compared notes on their off-shore deals). Palau's deal may be a little better in the future, as in a new agreement signed in May 1993, IGPC promised a minimum level of royalties of \$200,000, which would be a hair above the 1992 actuals. Palau's postmaster, in a telephone conversation, said he could not divulge actual sales in 1993.

IGPC, which pays 40 per cent of the gross, sells Palau's stamps from its New York office to collectors for their face value, and presumably sells the same stamps to dealers for less. At one point in the past the Cooks were reported to be getting 50 per cent of the gross from its overseas agent, but whether the Cooks stamps were being sold at, or above, face value was not then reported.

business

Other unstated elements in these deals are significant. For instance, who pays for the artwork and the printing? As a direct mail order customer we paid Uncover, the Marshalls agent, \$15.49 plus \$4.20 in shipping and handling charges for a handsome series of bird stamps with a face value of \$10.49. We could not determine how much of the \$15.49 or the \$10.49 reached the Marshalls. The artwork is by a Brit, Michael Warren. The Marshalls are known to have been restless in their relations with their middlemen. First they used the Crown Agents, the long-time brokers for many British colonies, a quasi-governmental corporation. Finding the rewards minimal and the communications spotty, a few years ago the Marshalls moved on to IGPC in New York. Still not happy, RMI switched to Uncover a few years ago. While Uncover's president, James A Helzer, was not a source of data on financial arrangements, he did have some interesting observations about the role of a philatelic middleman. He noted the need to resolve the tension between First World collectors who like large stamps, and island postal customers who often want small ones. Similarly, there is pressure from the collectors not to issue multi-dollar stamps, because they are expensive, and from contrary forces within RMI, at least, where many small inter-island package deliveries are conducted (with multi-dollar stamps) through the postal system. He also said that more and more nations are going through a competitive bidding process before selecting — or changing — or keeping — their stamp agents. Each of the former US Trust Territories have been through such a process in recent years.

Receipts for the islands

While the details of government promoter financial arrangements were not secured, except in Palau, there is another potential source of financial information in this field — the islands' budget (or estimates). These, however, do not constitute one of the world's better data systems. First, there appears to be no good, centralised collection of these documents (at least not on the US Mainland) although the World Bank has more of them than anyone else. Secondly, many of those available are old. Thirdly, some nations — Western Samoa is a good example — never provide any actual revenue figures; the estimates for one year are blithely compared to the

SPECIAL REPORT

estimates of a previous year. Further, many nations, particularly the larger ones (such as Papua New Guinea) simply do not publish a line item about the stamps and coins they sell to collectors.

Nevertheless, we were able to dig out income, or estimated income figures for stamps or coins, or both, from several of the Pacific Islands' nations, as shown in the table. (The Pitcairn income infor-



Marshalls stamps: a series of birds with a face value of \$10.49

mation, actual receipts in each case, came from the UK Consulate-General in Auckland, which handles the island's finances. Similarly, we received actual sales data from several other governments).

Island income from stamps and coins varies according to three fundamental variables — how many new stamps and coins are issued each year, how well they are promoted, and how good a deal the island gets from the promoter.

One variable that does not matter is population size. Note in the table that Pitcairn (with a population of 52) and Western Samoa, the residence of 194,000 people, had about the same levels of philatelic sales in 1992. But, speaking of Pitcairn, the vigour and level of promotion is important. According to one of the grand old men of the US coin business, the former editor of one of the leading

coin magazines, Pitcairn, with its limited output of coins from the British Royal Mint, is well regarded by collectors. But when the 200th anniversary of the mutiny of the *Bounty* occurred, the Isle of Man's heavily promoted mutiny coins outsold those of Pitcairn by a wide margin. Apparently the Royal Mint's coin-making skills were greater than its marketing skill, at least in this instance.

One option that islands have is to market their own coins and stamps directly, without using a middleman. Pitcairn does this with its stamps, and is so successful that over 20 per cent of the island's budget is met through stamp sales. Other less successful efforts were encountered in our search through the World Bank's collection of budgets. The Cayman Islands, one of the remaining British islands in the Caribbean, has both a strong off-shore banking centre and a practice of selling commemorative coins, designed primarily for the British market.

A close reading of the handsomely printed annual reports of the Cayman Islands Currency Board suggests that while the agency as a whole makes money for its government, it does so by handling the islands' off-shore financial investments, but loses on its currency operations, which it handles directly. Similarly, Barbados, an ex-Brit island in the Caribbean, reported in its estimates that the philatelic sales of its on-island stamp agency only equalled half the costs of the operation. A government that pads its payrolls generally can hire too many workers in the stamp sales unit, too.

A third option is to use another government's philatelic bureau for an island's stamps, as Norfolk Island does with Australia's. Historically, New Zealand's philatelic agency performed the same function for islands associated with that nation and I have some stamps purchased in Wellington in 1955 to prove it. While we were unable to secure details on these financial arrangements, we did hear from Allan Tavener, acting director of Norfolk Island's Postal Services, on one aspect of dealing with such agencies. He said that gross stamp sales for his island had been down in recent years from previous heights both because of the recession and because "the progressive closing of the Australian Post Philatelic Retail Outlets had a big effect on our revenue". Little Norfolk clearly has no control over how many philatelic offices Australia will operate.

Stamp collecting and marketing trends

Stamp marketing for the Pacific Islands, and the collectors' reaction to these efforts, take place within a broader context, according to Ken Lawrence, the secretary of the American Philatelic



Pacific Diary



JULY

- 11** Melanesian Spearhead Group meeting, Malaita, Solomon Island.
 — International Marathon, New Caledonia.
 — Women's World Cup Soccer, Port Moresby, PNG.
 — Annual International Pro-Am Surfing Open, Tahiti.
 — Hellala Festival, Tonga.
 — Independence Day celebrations, Vanuatu.
10-16 Musika (music) Extravaganza, Western Samoa

30 Le Tausala Samoa Pageant (beauty contest), Apia, Western Samoa

Jul/Aug Forum Officials Committee Pre-Forum Session, Brisbane, Australia

Jul/Aug Twenty-Fifth South Pacific Forum, Brisbane, Australia

Jul/Aug 6th Post-Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting, Brisbane, Australia

AUGUST

- South Pacific RIM Rugby Tournament, Fiji.
 — International Outrigger World Championship, Western Samoa.

03-06 Conference on Violence and the Family, Port Vila (Hosted by the Vanuatu

Women's Centre)

08-19

Third Pacific Women's Documentation Workshop, Port Vila (hosted by the Vanuatu Women's Centre)

SEPTEMBER

- Regatta Week, Musket Cove, Fiji.
 — South Pacific Games, Tahiti.

22-29

23rd SOPAC Annual Session, Majuro, Marshall Islands

4-10 Teuila Tourism Festival, Western Samoa.

— Tourism Conference: Tourism Council of the South Pacific meeting, Western Samoa.

Late 7th SPREP IGM, Tarawa Kiribati

OCTOBER

Early Forum Officials Committee 1994 Work Programme and Budget Session, Forum Secretariat, Suva.

15 Miss South Pacific Pageant, Apia.

18-19 Sixth APEC Ministerial Meeting, Indonesia.

Nov-Dec Forum Secretariat/South Pacific Commission Regional Planners Meeting, Forum Secretariat HQ, Suva.

● Some dates are tentative and may be changed.

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COVER STORIES

SPECIAL REPORT

Society, the world's largest collection of stamp collectors. "A hundred years ago people could try to collect the world, and own everything (except the rarities) that had been produced anywhere," he told *PIM*.

"Later, as larger numbers of stamp-issuing nations issued more and more stamps, people started specialising by nation, usually their own, and one or more others," he continued. "This pattern continues, but more and more philatelists are working on theme collections — buying stamps on their subject no matter who produces them."

It is for this reason that nations issue stamps on world leaders, famous paintings or Mickey Mouse and other cartoon characters, or do series of stamps on beautiful flowers, or birds, or prominent World War II fighter planes. Sometimes these series honour things never seen in the issuing jurisdiction, such as railroad-free Tuvalu's series showing antique locomotives.

Recently some ideological messages have started to appear, such as stamps celebrating the Decade of Woman (Marshall Islands — 1985) or the International Year for the Shelter of the Homeless (FSM — 1987). Another major trend has been the creation of new-stamp issuing authorities; the trend started in Europe with the United Kingdom's Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, freeing themselves from the UK postal system, and issuing their own stamps. Soon the Channel Islands which have a direct relation to the British monarch, but a less direct one to the Government in Westminster, created three stamp issuing entities, Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney.

These stamp issuances started in 1972 and 1973, and continue to this day. Tuvalu, which had a reputation in the stamp world for flooding the market with its products, took this one step further in the period 1984-1998, when eight of its islands were stamp-issuing jurisdictions — Funafuti (where the capital is located), Nanumaga, Nanumea, Niutao, Nui, Nukufetau, Nukulaelae and Vaitupu.

Tuvalu at one time issued dozens of series of stamps each year, with topics ranging from antique automobiles and cats to World Cup Soccer and the Queen Mother. In the years when it was printing stamps for both the islands-wide system and the eight specific islands, it produced about 700 different stamps. The nation has since brought its stamp production down to more reasonable levels, with only 34 issuances in 1992.

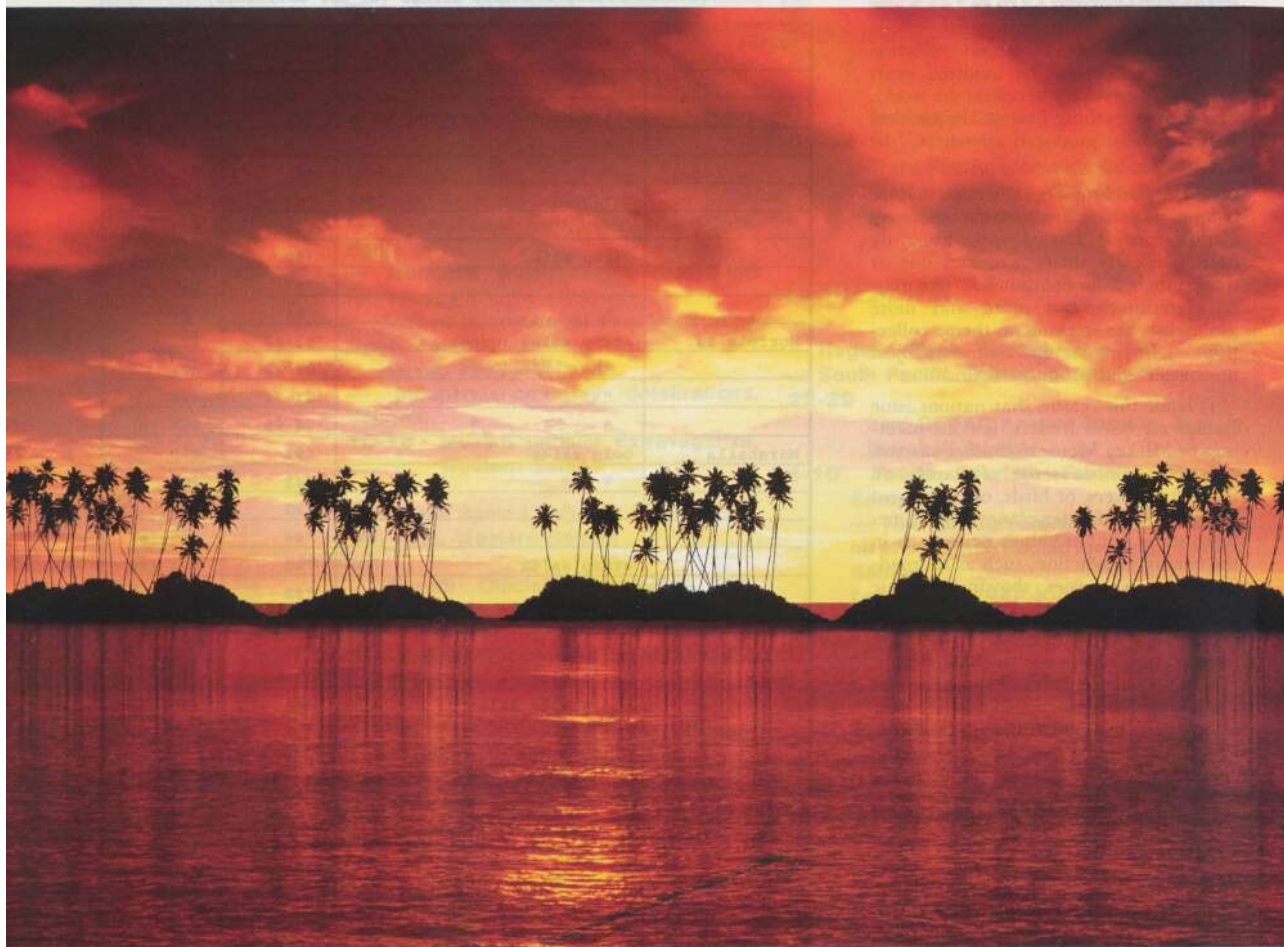
REPORTED NET INCOME TO ISLANDS FOR SALES OF STAMPS AND COINS
(actual receipts unless marked (e) for estimates)

Island	Category	Year	Sales (US\$ 000)
Cooks	sales of commemorative coins	'82	77
	"	'86	22
	"	'92	143 (e)
	"	'93	285 (e)
	"	'94	143 (e)
	stamp sales	'92	35 (e)
	"	'93	143 (e)
	"	'94	35 (e)
	"	'94-95	465 (e)
Norfolk Is.	stamp sales (gross)	'91-92	478
	" " "	'92-93	354
	" " "	'93-94	496
	" " "	'94-95	465 (e)
Marshall Islands	coin sales	'91	650
	" "	'92	508
	" "	'93	675
	" "	'94	400 (e)
	stamp sales	'91	600 (e)
	" "	'92	506 (e)
	" "	'93	303 (e)
	" "	'94	251 (e)
Palau	coin sales	'92-93	57
	philatelic sales	'91	142
	"	'92	192
Pitcairn	net income, coin sales	'91	23
	" " " "	'92	31
	" " " "	'93	3
	net income, stamp sales	'91	129
Tokelau	" " " "	'92	147
	net profits, coin sales	'91	100
	" " " "	'92	11
	" " " "	'93	0
	net profits, stamp sales	'91	49
	" " " "	'92	9
	" " " "	'93	7
	" " " "	'94	196 (e)
Tonga	philatelic sales	'76-77	196 (e)
	"	'84	196 (e)
	"	'88-89	107 (e)
Vanuatu	philatelic stamp sales	'89	16
	philatelic product sales	'89	28
	total	'89	44
Western Samoa	commemorative coins	'85	195 (e)
	commemorative coins	'91-92	196 (e)
	philatelic revenue	'85	233 (e)
	"	'91-92	117 (e)

Sources: Communications from government agencies: Norfolk Island, Palau, Pitcairn, Tokelau; Official budgets and estimates at the World Bank: Tonga, Vanuatu, Western Samoa; both: Cooks, Marshalls. The category column shows the revenue item as defined in the documents.

Note: Original data were in island currencies; we used 3/18/94 exchange rates which may have distorted some of the totals in non-US flag islands in earlier years.

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COVER STORIES

"Tuvalu should not be singled out for excessive stamp production," according to Ken Lawrence. "Its record cannot be compared to 'Ajman, one of the Trucial Sheikdoms, that once issued 4000 stamps in a period of 10 years.' 'Ajman, one of seven small states along the southern shore of the Arabian Gulf, had none of the oil riches of its neighbours, such as Abu Dhabi, and tried to make up for it by way of stamp sales.

Coin collecting and marketing trends

Commemorative coins, on a major scale, are a more recent phenomenon than commemorative stamps, and typically involve higher unit costs for collectors and promoters, and higher unit returns for the island nations. (Note in the table that the Marshalls, in the years shown, have always made more money from coins than from stamps).

Stamps, even elaborate, multi-coloured ones, can be printed inexpensively on gummed paper; if they do not sell immediately, they can, at little cost to the promoters, sit in the vault for years. Further, out the difference to children collectors, many of the commemorative stamps carry face values of a few pennies. Commemorative coins are different. First, they are routinely valued in dollars, usually multiple dollars, not pennies. Second, they are legal tender, and are more likely than postage stamps to arrive in the islands in tourists' pockets. Thirdly, they are more costly to produce, particularly at the higher values where they are usually made from silver and gold.

Since this is the case, coins are often minted only after they have been sold (via mail and other advertising promotions); this is particularly true of gold coins. Further, as noted before, coins for collectors (as opposed to coins for general circulation) are minted in limited quantities; the upper limit is generally announced in advance, and while the limit may not be reached (if demand is below expectations) mints and governments have been pretty good about not breaching the maximum announced runs. Whereas all the Pacific Islands issue stamps designed for collectors, not everyone is in the commemorative coins business. Nauru has issued exactly one such coin, a celebration of its own independence; the Federated States of Micronesia, where US currency circulates, has issued none, nor has Kiribati, Tuvalu or any of the French territories. Norfolk Island, not previously in the business, is expected to enter it this year.

PNG is at a low level of activity, but

SPECIAL REPORT

among the dozen gold 100 kina coins issued since 1975 were those bearing the faces of Sir Julius Chan and Michael Somare, both PNG prime ministers. They are thus two of the few, or perhaps the only two, living Pacific Islands' politicians to be so honored during their lifetimes. Kings and queens are different, they routinely appear on coinage (and on stamps) while alive. Queen Elizabeth II has appeared (usually in relatively youthful portraits) over the last 40 years, as has, for close to 30, Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.

To get an overview of the level of commemorative coin production in the islands we turned to the Bible of the hobby, the *Standard Catalogue of World Coins*, 1994 at our local library. In the years 1986 to 1992, there were the following mintings of commemorative

selling coins to Germans) and has honoured Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, both tennis players, with copper, silver and gold coins valued at (NZ) \$5, \$50, \$200 and \$250. The \$200 silver coins for Graf is so large (nearly three inches across) and so heavy (more than half a pound) that if you dropped it on your bare foot you might break a toe. More valuable (if lighter) is the \$250 gold coin honouring a German soccer player, previously unknown to me, named Franz Beckenbauer. In sharp contrast to the commercial themes celebrated by Niue and the Marshalls are a line of Western Samoa coins whose designs relate more closely to life in those islands. This distinction was called to my attention by the one American who spends more time with new commemorative coins than anyone else; he is Fred Borgmann, the new issue editor of *World Coin News*.

He told me in approving terms of recent Western Samoa coins made of palladium (a valuable metal only recently used in mintage). There was, for example, a 50 tala coin honoring Konitiki, a 100 tala one regarding the death of Captain Cook and several in honor of the longest-serving of the German governors, Wilhelm Solf, who held the office between 1900 and 1910. Western Samoa, being a member of the British Commonwealth, could not resist issuing 1000 tala gold coins in honour of the weddings of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, and of Prince Andrew and Sarah Fergusson. These were extremely limited editions, with no more than 100 of the former, and no more than 50 of the latter. One wonders about the value of such coins when, as it happens, the marriages collapse.

Pitcairn's approach to coins is very conservative. Only nine coins have been issued. These were three designs, one dealing with the Pitcairn Constitution, which was written in 1838, another with the mutiny, and a third with the burning of the *Bounty* (at Pitcairn). Each design appeared in (NZ) \$1 (copper/nickel), \$50 (silver), and \$250 (gold) denominations and the mintage for the gold coins has been as limited as 250 pieces. But, as the table indicates, Pitcairn did not make anywhere nearly as much money as the Marshalls did in this business.

The Marshalls renounces its own currency

Borgmann, and every one else I talked to in the field of coin collection, had a universally dim view of the Marshalls coin operation. Partially this was based on the downmarket approach, of selling



A Tongan bank note: the islands have not yet started issuing commemorative bills

coins by nation — Cooks, 119; Marshalls, 107; Western Samoa, 68; Niue, 48; Tonga, 21; Fiji, 13; Pitcairn, 9; PNG, 8; Tokelau, 8; Vanuatu, 5; Palau, 2; and Nauru, 1. There are different approaches to selling commemorative coins, with four patterns being clear in the Pacific; these are those of the Marshalls, Niue, Western Samoa, and Pitcairn.

The Marshalls is the first of the islands to reach out to the non-collectors as well as the traditional collectors, seeking to sell coins of a topical nature to the average consumer. Typical of this approach is the sale, last year, of the \$5 Elvis Presley coin, which is described in an accompanying story. With series of coins dedicated to World War II fighter planes, the battles of World War II, marine mammals, and a wide variety of space subjects, the Marshalls have advertised in various popular media, such as American supermarket publications and booklets including cents-off coupons for groceries. The somewhat belittling name for this in the trade is the "downmarket approach".

While the Marshalls have focussed on the States, and Palau on Japan, Niue's target is Europe, particularly European sports fans. Niue has a high regard for German athletes (or has high hopes of

COVER STORIES

SPECIAL REPORT

to non-collectors and partially through the selection of large numbers of rather commercial subjects. But among collectors, and in the half a dozen coin shops I visited in New Mexico, Virginia and the District of Columbia, the principal complaint was about RMI's decision — in effect — to not honour the coins as legal tender.

"I only sell stuff to people that has some value," one coin shop owner told me about the Marshalls coins. "I won't touch anything from the Marshalls." In another instance I mistakenly asked a gentle-mannered man if his firm represented the mint working for the Marshalls. "Absolutely not. We have nothing to do with those coins," was his stiff reply. Most of those contacted knew that it was extremely difficult to convert Marshalls' coins into US dollars. "You have to be there, and they will do it, in small quantities, only on alternate Fridays — something like that," said a third man. A fourth man, with life-long knowledge of the field said that the Marshalls have a "self-imposed, dubious, world-wide distinction; it is the only country in the world to repudiate all of its own coins". The only other instance, he said, came in the 1970s when Canada disowned one series of its coins.

As I poked around coin shops, seeking in vain to buy the bare-breasted Palaun mermaid to illustrate this article, I discovered why the Marshalls may have backed away from their own currency — it is not worth much on the secondary market. I was able to buy several \$5 Marshalls coins for \$2 each in New Mexico, and ran into a Virginia dealer who did not stock them but routinely bought them from people for \$1 each and then sold them to other dealers for \$2. Clearly someone might assemble thousands of the coins for 20 to 40 cents on the dollar, and then ship them to the Marshalls for a tidy profit.

The Marshalls official policy on the subject is not exactly a total repudiation of its coins, but is close. As *World Coin News* reported to the industry last year, the Marshalls Department of Finance will redeem the coins only if the owner appears in person at the department's office in Majuro, he pays a fee of 10 per cent or \$5, whichever is higher, no more than one coin worth more than \$10 can be exchanged in one day, you can only change \$10 worth of \$5 and \$1 coins a day, and nothing will be done by mail or through agents. So if you have a bunch of \$5 coins, the Marshalls normal coinage, you could exchange two of them a day for \$10, but pay a \$5 fee for the privilege. But while the Marshalls have a lousy reputation among coin collectors and dealers — and has reduced the secondary market value of their coins — the Marshalls do not sell to collectors or dealers, and never have a direct contact with the secondary market. □

Elvis, Marshalls

By David North

HAVING made a small contribution to the Marshall Islands Treasury, I received —

- an Elvis Presley coin;
- a steady flow of junk mail, seeking to sell stamps, coins and assorted low-brow memorabilia; and
- a lesson in how direct-mail businesses seek to lure First World consumers.

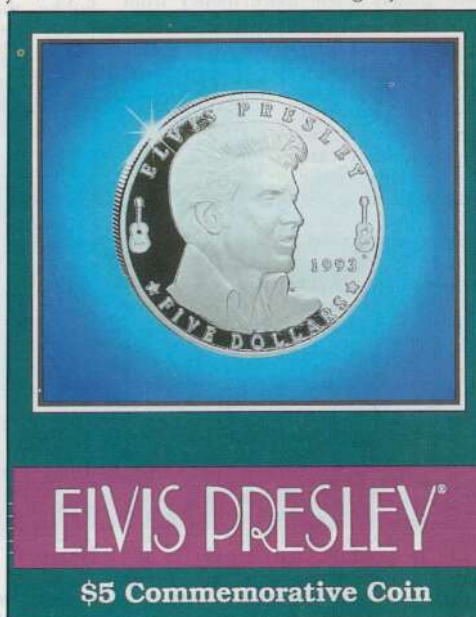
It all started when I saw, among the food coupons in the Sunday newspaper, yet another pitch to buy a coin honouring Elvis Presley. I was more intrigued by the Marshall Islands connection than the image of "The King", America's rock-and-roll singer of 20 years ago.

So I called the toll-free phone number (a 1-800 number in the US) and checked out the offer. Was I talking to someone in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)? No. Was I talking to someone with the sales agent in Cheyenne, Wyoming (a small city in the American West)? No. The person on the other end of the phone was a representative of the agent, and thus a representative of the Marshalls, and she was talking with me from Houston, Texas.

Following that conversation I mailed a check for US\$6.50 to buy the \$5 Elvis coin. There was small print in the advertisements telling me that I would have to wait eight to 12 weeks for delivery (even though the coin merchants had either my credit card number, or my cheque in hand.) Why was this? The leaders in the mail order business, like LL Bean, the Maine clothing people, send your (much more bulky) stuff much more quickly. Maybe the RMI agent simply wanted to make use of my \$6.50 for a couple of months before parting with the Presley coin. (I later learned that commemorative coins are manufactured only after they have been sold — no point minting them if you cannot sell them.) About four weeks after mailing the cheque I received the first of (so far) 21 mailings from Uncover, the stamp-and-coin agents used by RMI (and FSM, too) in Cheyenne. The letter said

that they had my order, and in due time they would send me the coin. Meanwhile, they tried to sell me other Presley coins, of greater value. The Marshalls also issued them at \$10 (brass) and \$50 (silver); Uncover prefers to sell you the whole set in a little presentation case, for \$65 plus \$6 for shipping and handling.

Then another two weeks later I got the actual coin in the mail. The packaging was thoroughly professional. The outer envelope was made of thick cardboard and bore the warning "Do not bend" as if you could bend a coin. Inside was another brightly coloured



Marshalls offer: if you buy a \$5 Elvis Presley coin from the Marshalls, you, too, will be offered this eight-inch plate for \$32.74

and smoothly written brochure, seeking to sell me all three of the Elvis coins and some Elvis stamps as well, a little questionnaire designed to tell Uncover about my collecting habits, and a serious little envelope with "Instructions for Protecting and Displaying Your Coin".

Inside that paper envelope was a plastic container, and, there within the clear plastic was my Elvis. There were, before Uncover gave up on me, 19 more mailings, all trying to sell me something; all smoothly presented in bright colours and cheerful, cleanly written copy. Although there is some question as to whether Elvis and the other RMI coins are, in fact, really legal tender as the brochures claimed

and junk mail

there never was an editorial mistake or a printing error in these mailings. They dealt with a multitude of subjects. First, there were mailings that assumed that I was a big fan of Elvis. Twice more I got reminders of the whole series of RMI Elvis coins, one suggesting the set of three coins would make an excellent Christmas present.

There also was the offer of an Elvis coin from another set of tropical islands, the former Portuguese colony of St Thomas and Prince in the Atlantic. Then I was told that I could buy a plate (like a dinner plate) of the singer for \$32.74, and it was noted that for me, the brokerage fee would be waived. This offer, which came in an "Urgent message" from the Bradford Exchange, informed me that previous rounds of these plates, which had sold for \$24.75, were now trading at \$124.00. So I should buy quickly, to make money later. While Uncover often stated that its issues were limited, and spoke of them as collectors' items, the organisation never explicitly claimed that the commemorative coins would increase in value.

Then there were six more mailing dealing with non-Elvis RMI products; there were offers of attractive RMI stamps, a \$5 Desert Storm coin selling for \$10 plus \$2 for handling, and a \$5 space coin, selling for \$5 and \$1.50. But the big push was, understandably, for the RMI series of 12 coins honouring whales and dolphins. (Americans are crazy about dolphins). Uncover and RMI wanted to sell me one \$50 coin a month for the next year, each a "Silver Proof" (i.e. uncirculated and shiny) "numismatically important" disc. The handling fee was \$6 each, and I was invited to charge them to the credit card of my choice. The brochure was, as always, slickly produced in blue and silver, with a sheet of parchment-like paper within, as well as two pro-environment quotations from Jacques Cousteau. There were to be no more than 25,000 in this series.

I then did a little math, and found that if all 25,000 of each of the 12 coins were sold, at \$50 + \$6 it would bring someone \$16,800,000. Since the Marshalls best year for coin income produced only about \$650,000, and Uncover's most recent total volume, for everything it does, was \$17,000,000 a year, it is unlikely that the \$16,000,000 target was reached. The whales and dolphins coins also are available at the \$10 level. Much of Uncover's mail to me dealt neither with Elvis nor the Marshalls. It included promotions of plates, and stamps; with themes varying from Christmas to the Old West. The coin mailings were often

SPECIAL REPORT

about the Isle of Man, which has a very old and strong commemorative coin tradition, as well as Gibraltar. There were coins for cat and dog fanciers, such as one for the Maine Coon Cat, which grows to 30 pounds (and is said to have some charming, dog-like characteristics.) The one crown Isle of Man coin was made of "one full troy ounce of .999 pure silver", and "to assure fair distribution, there is a limit of one coin per order". Priced at \$50 + \$6, the Coon Cat coin is made of silver worth about \$5.50.

Then there was Gibraltar's silver coin, also for \$56, with the Queen on one side, and a long-haired dachshund on the other. The advertising gave more prominence to the dog than to the monarch. But, by January Uncover gave up on me. Figuring that if I had not purchased anything after the first coin seven months earlier, I should be struck from the list. I am sure that they lost money on me by that time.

So, to keep the process rolling I telephoned Uncover, this time reaching them in Cheyenne, to order some stamps.

The stamps came quickly, and, as with the Elvis coin, they were handsomely packaged, and in this case bearing pictures of Marshall Islands birds with their names in both English and in Marshallese. Nice stamps.

But I blew my connection with Uncover when the lady at the other end of the phone asked me if she could ask me some questions about my collecting preferences. "Yes," I said, "but for every question you ask me, I want to ask one of you. Is that OK?" She sound surprised, but agreed. I did not say I was a reporter. My first question was innocuous enough — "Where are you working today?"

"Cheyenne," she said. She asked her first question, and I replied. Then having heard that Uncover's operation had moved to the West from New York to reduce its labour costs, I asked — "How much do you earn an hour?" College students conducting telephone opinion polls sometimes will answer that question — it is usually \$4.25 an hour (the minimum wage) or \$5 — but not Uncover's lady.

"I do not think that has anything to do with stamps," she said. We were at a standoff, and no more information was exchanged. But she was in the driver's seat; she probably told her computer to have nothing more to do with me. And that's why the interesting flow of junk mail has ceased. □

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VANUATU

Good times for Korman

An opposition more divided than ever since Maxime Carlot Korman's government came to power late 1991, defectors joining his majority: things have not been too bad for the Vanuatu prime minister in the last four months.

"DIVIDE and rule" seems to have been a fruit-bearing strategy for Vanuatu prime minister Maxime Carlot Korman, especially in the last four months. The first trick was the presidential election. The Vanuatu electoral college consisting of all 46 members of parliament and presidents of the local government councils, twice failed last February to elect a head of state, due to insufficient number of votes from any party to meet the required two-third majority of the 56-seat electoral college.

The third meeting of the college on March 2 finally saw the election of the ruling Union of Moderate Parties (UMP) candidate, Jean-Marie Leye, with the support of Vanuaaku Pati (VP) and two other isolated votes from opposition (Tan Union and Nagriamel).

After the vote, prime minister Korman lured VP, saying it would offer Kalpokas' party "at least two" ministerial portfolios. But after the president was elected, the offer eventually consisted of only one ministry to be created, training and labour, and the parliamentary positions of leader of government business and first deputy speaker.

Kalpokas' VP rejected the offer made by UMP to enter the Vanuatu government, because it said this was not in line with initial negotiations between the two parties. The VP/UMP negotiations triggered a hostile reaction from the opposition, which saw this as a betrayal and started making moves to dismiss Kalpokas as their official leader. Soon after the negotiations had started, the three remaining opposition parties, Barak Sope's Melanesian Progressive Party (MPP), Vincent Boulekone's Tan Union (TU) and Franky Steven's Nagriamel decided they no longer considered Kalpokas as being the leader of opposition. Instead, they resolved the new opposition leader was Sope, the deputy leader Boulekone and opposition whip Stevens.

One week later, Korman's majority welcomed the first crumb from the divided opposition bread — late Jimmy Stevens' son, Franky, the only MP for once secessionist Nagriamel party, crossed the floor to join the government majority in parliament. In return, on March 15, he was offered the position of leader of government business in the House. VP, MPP and Tan Union

opposition parties finally accepted the return of disappointed and repentant Kalpokas as their leader, and made it up with VP during of one these frequent traditional-political "custom" ceremonies, where pigs, mats and *kava* are offered in sign of reconciliation.

This left the opposition partly reunited, but weakened by the defection of Stevens. The "opposition front" (formed after an agreement signed by VP, MPP, TU and Nagriamel early in 1992) was reconstituted, but was now consisting of 14 MPs. Halfway between the majority and the opposition also stood former prime minister Walter Lini's National United Party (NUP), which had decided

against him on September 6, 1991 again by Kalpokas' VP. After negotiations took place last April between the two parties, Lini proved too demanding, as he then said he would agree to a closing of ties between his party and VP, but only if all VP members joined his party, a condition to which VP did not agree.

Lini's NUP congress, which was held from May 9 to 12 in Pangnisu (North Efate, the island where the capital Port Vila is located), made a final decision regarding the three NUP ministers claiming themselves the "NUP government faction" since NUP's decision to leave UMP in coalition.

A total of 16 NUP members, including the three ministers (Regenvanu, Sinker, and Tabisari) were expelled by the party's congress. Regenvanu's reply was not long to come — one week later, on May 18, on the eve of the opening of the island state's first ordinary session of parliament, he announced the creation of a new party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), mainly consisting of former NUP members (including those sacked by NUP's congress). But in the process, he also gained the support of a once-repentant former NUP minister, Onneyn Tahi, who, to the observer's surprise turned up on the day of the signing of the PDP's constitution. Tahi had resigned in November from his telecommunication ministerial position, in a move of renewed allegiance to Lini. The NUP congress had taken this into account, by not excluding Tahi, but instead putting him on a three-year "probation period" in the party. Now Tahi had finally chosen to join Regenvanu's party in its ruling body, the so-called PDP Presidential Council.

This blow left Lini's NUP with only six MPs, and further weakened the opposition, now reduced to a mere 20 against 26 for Korman's majority (21 UMP, four PDP and one Nagriamel).

Logically enough, six days later, on May 24, the newly-formed PDP signed a new coalition agreement to jointly rule in the Korman-led government, with eight UMP ministers and three PDP ministers, a "formality", according to both sides. It was the third coalition agreement signed by UMP since Korman's election on December 16, 1991. The first agreement was struck with a 10-seat Lini's NUP on December 10, 1991, the second one with Regenvanu's four-member "NUP government faction" in September last year. The last one definitely excludes Lini's NUP from power and replaced it by the new PDP. As a result, Korman's majority of 26 out of 46 is still narrow but more comfortable — during the last ordinary session of parliament, the government easily passed its bills and withstood a motion of no confidence, which was easily defeated. □



More confident: Maxime Carlot Korman

to break its coalition agreement with UMP last August. Lini could rely on a group of seven out of ten NUP MPs in what he now calls an "independent opposition group", but his party was now split, with three other NUP members still remaining in the Korman cabinet as deputy prime minister and minister for justice, culture and women's affairs (Sethy Regenvanu), telecommunications minister (Cecil Sinker) and minister of health (Edward Tabisari).

Attempts of reconciliation between Kalpokas' VP and Lini's NUP also failed, after it was announced early in April that a traditional peace-making ceremony would take place for the two parties to reconcile. The move would have ended over two years of bad blood between Lini and Kalpokas, after Lini was expelled in August 1991 from VP presidency and replaced by Kalpokas, then ousted from his prime minister's seat after a motion of no confidence was voted

Bilney's challenge

WHEN Australia's prime minister Paul Keating was treasurer, back in the mid-1980s, he brought a storm of controversy down on his head by warning that Australia was set to become a 'banana republic'.

The reaction to the remark was outrage. While there must have been times when Keating rued the moment he uttered the evocative phrase a decade later Australia has undergone many of the reforms it implied were necessary. For the ruling Labour party, business and unions memories of the painful process of challenging and then relinquishing beliefs and policies which had the status of sacred cows, are now fading. In the lead up to this year's South Pacific Forum in Brisbane, Australia's Pacific Islands Affairs Minister Gordon Bilney has issued a similar challenge to island leaders.

In a speech beamed live to eight Pacific capitals Bilney warned leaders urgent action was needed if island nations were not to face the possibility of a truly horrifying future. He cited World Bank figures which show island economies grew at an average rate of just 0.1 per cent annually over the past 10 years despite generally favourable conditions.

Bilney's blunt assessment — "Whatever policies we've been following in the South Pacific — and by 'we' I mean island countries and donors alike — are demonstrably not working — and not judged by some alien standard, but by the yardstick of sustainable development we've all set ourselves." Bilney went on — "The lack of economic development, when combined by high population growth rates, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and rapidly rising community expectations, has led to a growing range of social and economic problems, including permanent environmental degradation."

In explaining what the future might hold Bilney had recourse to the predictions of the Australian National University's Pacific 2010 Research Project which he said "paints a nightmare vision of mass unemployment, urban slums, unrealisable demands on already stretched government services, growing lawlessness and a degraded environment if current high population growth rates remain unchecked". While Bilney recognised the islands' special problems he laid the responsibility clearly at governments' door. What was to have been the first major policy statement since 1988 when Gareth Evans placed Australia island relations on a far more equal footing with his doctrine of "constructive commitment" became a long and carefully worded assessment of the region's future designed to give Australia a big role in assisting with solutions. Issues on Bilney's ambitious reform agenda include unsustainable logging and fishing, ecotourism, population control and better management of the islands environmentally sensitive and economically vital coastal zones.

On economic management Bilney treads a predictable path of raising the need for more trade investment and private sector development and goes further to suggest examination of such sacred cows as land tenure and whether

AUSTRALIA



JEMIMA
GARRETT

very expensive separate national airlines are still necessary. When pressed on the land issue Bilney stressed solutions were a matter for island governments but highlighted the fact that investors will not invest in tourism facilities, for instance, if their lease on land can be withdrawn just as expensive buildings are completed.

The big risk with Bilney's approach is that it will be seen as, or will in fact be, just another attempt by Australians to get in and run islanders business for them. It was in an effort to avoid that that Bilney was at pains, in the speech, not to propose solutions. In Canberra foreign affairs officials are nervous about how the new approach will be received. Bilney himself is only too aware of the risks. "I do think we could come to be seen, quite easily come to be

seen, if we weren't careful, as big brother telling people what to do." But he said — "If we did that we've lost the plot and we've lost the game and I think everyone would be worse off." There is no doubt that Bilney passionately believes the Pacific is facing a window of opportunity for action but behind his concern is also a more sobering assessment that if the islands fail to meet the challenges of the post-cold war era their problems, in the future, will also be Australia's problems. With the end of the cold war security issues, which had driven much big power interest in the region, are no longer as relevant and the results of that — reduced interest and aid flows from traditional partners such as Britain the US or Europe — are already unfolding or foreshadowed.

If the nightmare scenarios come to pass not only will Australia be faced by pockets of human misery on its doorstep but also worrying political instability, calls on Australian resources and even the possibility that it may have to offer safe haven to large numbers of refugees from Pacific difficulties. In the shorter term a perception that Australia's \$400,000,000 Pacific aid programme is failing to deliver benefits for the islands, and the need to find money for the promised fourfold increase in aid to Indochina, could easily lead to the sort of cost cutting that has affected so many other areas of government expenditure. For island leaders Bilney's reform agenda also holds risks. At this stage it is still a bit waffly and in many ways fails to take account of runs already put on the board by island governments on many of these issues. Quite a few island leaders have trouble enough with the delicately balanced forces which keep them in office without taking action against national sacred cows or vested interests. Here some of Bilney's resource issues, particularly areas such as fishing royalties and licence fees, might provide an injection of funds which could smooth the path. Island countries currently receive less than half of what many other countries receive for their fish. With half the world's canning tuna caught in the region a realistic overhaul of the region's approach may yield tens of millions of dollars of new income. Bilney has chosen an opportune moment to call for urgent action — particularly at a time when the international economic environment thrown up by the post-cold war era is only getting more and more competitive. □

POLITICS — Fiji

Opposition boycott

FIJI'S opposition parties last month boycotted parliament for two days after Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka warned there may be a bloody repeat of the country's 1987 military coups. "I cannot guarantee nor can anyone guarantee that there will not be another coup in this land," the former coup leader told parliament on June 16 during a debate on crime and punishment.

"When that happens, I cannot guarantee that it will be bloodless like

Indians walk out of Fiji parliament after PM warns of bloody coup

mine." Rabuka, then an army officer, led two military coups in 1987 to depose an Indian-dominated government. Fiji's 1990 post-coup constitution guarantees indigenous Fijians political supremacy over Fiji's large Indian population. The

constitution is due to be reviewed by 1997.

Rabuka said some blamed lawlessness in Fiji on the coups of 1987. "I will not and I will never apologise for the coup of 1987," he said. "I will not even say that it will not happen again."

Members of the opposition National Federation Party (NFP) and Fiji Labour Party (FLP) refused to return to parliament after the short break which followed Rabuka's comments. Proceedings in the house of representatives were later abandoned.

"He said a few ugly things and we decided to protest against it," said FLP deputy leader Krishna Datt. Datt accused Rabuka of making an unprovoked threat. "It was a threat — he was telling everybody 'shut up' or this is what we will do again."

With that kind of attitude, how could there be a constitution in Fiji that was fair and just for everyone? Datt asked.

Returning to parliament on June 20, opposition leader Jai Ram Reddy said — "Opposition members felt we'd made our point. The issue was not fundamental enough to justify an indefinite boycott. We'll just carefully have to watch developments." Reddy said Indian parties also had decided to end their protest in the interest of Fiji's economy and for the sake of the planned review of the country's 1990 constitution. FLP leader Mahendra Chaudhry said the prime minister's comments had been insensitive and arrogant. "It was our duty to stage a protest."

Rabuka's outburst came during debate on a bill proposing community work as an alternative to imprisonment in Fiji's crowded jails. Some blamed Fiji's 1990 constitution for the high levels of crime, he said. "Is it the constitution or is it the distribution of wealth in this nation?" Rabuka pointed to a recent speech by Fiji President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who warned poor, urban Fijians could become a destabilising force in Fiji if their situation was not improved.

Fiji's Indians, while politically disadvantaged, represent the bulk of the business class in Fiji and make up 45 per cent of its population. "Let us look at the distribution of wealth in this country," Rabuka told parliament. "Why are others coming up and rebelling against society and against the laws of this country?"

"They (Fijians) feel disadvantaged. They feel they are starving. They may look well but their very soul is starving. "As long as that happens, I cannot guarantee nor can anyone guarantee that there will not be another coup in this land." Rabuka later denied he was threatening the Indian community. □

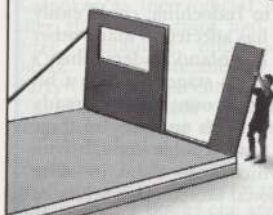
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RACE RELATIONS

Islanders allege racial taunts

By Special Correspondent

PACIFIC Islanders playing club rugby in Sydney have been subjected to crude racial taunts by Australian opponents.

The "sledging" came to light at a hearing of the New South Wales Rugby Union judiciary last month. Some players for the Warringah Club referred to islanders playing for OTS Drummoyne as "niggers", "stupid black coconuts" and "black c—s", according to Drummoyne chief executive Rick Wayde. At the hearing, Drummoyne's New Zealand-born breakaway Jack Noble was suspended for two matches after being found guilty of striking an opponent last Sydney's match, in which Warringah scored a runaway 78-0 win over the bottom-of-the-table home club. Drummoyne officials said alleged racial remarks by unidentified Warringah players had led to the brawl. No Fijians were involved in the match, but Fiji-born player Acura Niuqila told the Suva-based *Fiji Times* newspaper that he had been subjected to racial insults during his Australian career with the Randwick club.

The judiciary's decision followed about 90 minutes of evidence during

which OTS Drummoyne players and officials charged Warringah players were involved in racial "sledging" and eye-gouging. A number of Western Samoans and Tongans were in the Drummoyne team, but no Fijians.

Drummoyne team captain Grant Williams told the judiciary that during the game he had heard Warringah players call Noble a "Samoan c—", nigger twice, a few f—s here and there, and coconut". Williams said he could not identify the "sledger".

Drummoyne club captain Matt Thomas said a scuffle broke out between Noble and Warringah breakaway Matt Guberina, after which two other Warringah players repeated racial insults. Noble was sent off by referee Ross Higgins when he continued to punch Guberina after the whistle and also spat at Warringah players. Hooker led Churchyard supported the two captains' evidence. Wayde supplied a doctor's report which concluded Noble had been the victim of eye-gouging.

Judiciary chairman Kim Garling said it would be improper for the body to comment on the sledging and gouging allegations "without giving the persons accused the opportunity to rebut them". □



Victim of race attacks: Acura Niuqila training in Fiji in 1992

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IN BRIEF

Sir Michael returns to Pangu Pati

PAPUA New Guinea's former prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, has returned to the Pangu Pati which he helped found well before independence in 1975. Sir Michael announced his return to the party on its 27th anniversary last month.

Also rejoining Pangu Pati from the People's Action Party (PAP) is the founding president of Pangu Pati, Moi Avei. The *National* says the return of Sir Michael, who is the shadow foreign affairs minister, while bolstering the numerical strength of the second largest party in parliament to 23 MPs, completely wipes out the PAP from the house.

The former deputy prime minister, Ted Diro, had formed PAP before the 1987 elections, drawing majority membership from southern region MPs. Sir Michael said he decided to return to Pangu Pati in order to help the opposition, led by Chris Haiveta, to provide a better alternative to the Winti-Chan government.

Bougainville peace talks suspended

TALKS between Papua New Guinea officials and Bougainville secessionist rebels to end the six-year crisis on the island have been suspended. Negotiations were planned for the end of last month in the Solomon Islands but did not eventuate.

The talks were to have followed up on the signing last month of an agreement between PNG officials and representatives of the Bougainville rebel interim government. The agreement committed both sides to building a framework for discussion and a timetable for peace.

Manu Samoa rugby players in trouble

THE stars of the Manu Samoa rugby team are in trouble with Samoan authorities following a bar room punch-up and a close encounter between a pick-up truck and a post office.

Winger Lolani Koko, the Western Samoan sevens captain and former Wellington winger, has been charged with assault following a night club brawl after last month's Manu Samoa game against Tonga. Meanwhile, fullback Anitelea Aiulupo is to face a careless driving charge, after he drove his ute into Samoa's main post office last month.

Ironically, the post office's property manager is also Manu Samoa coach Peter Schuster. □

Sione moves out of official residence

THE former governor-general of Tuvalu, Toomu Malaefono Sione, has vacated his official residence following his sacking by government last month. In making the announcement, prime minister Kamata Laatasi said Sione's appointment was political as it was made shortly before the collapse of the Paeniu government late last year.

The new governor-general, Tulaga Manuella, was officially sworn in last month by Tuvalu's chief minister, Sir Gavon Donne. New Zealand-based Sir Gavon flew in for the occasion.

New date set for Melanesian summit

SOLOMON Islands has set a new date for the Melanesian Spearhead summit conference. Leaders from Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu with observers from Fiji and New Caledonia's pro-independence FLNKS party will meet on July 11, and not on July 18 as earlier reported by Radio Australia.

Solomon Islands had earlier postponed the summit from early July to August to allow time to upgrade roads and hotels at Auki, on Malaita Island where the meeting is to be held.



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PACIFIC BUSINESS



Western Samoa marketplace: are the vendors going to be affected along with the country's economy?

HEAVILY indebted state-owned Polynesian Airlines (PAL) may threaten Western Samoa's economic stability, financial secretary Sala Epa Tuioti was quoted as saying in a report in May.

Epa said in an analysis written for Finance Minister Tuilaepa Sailele, which was obtained by the Sunday edition of the *Samoa Observer*, that the airline's debt amounted to 45.2 million tala (\$A48.87 million), of which the government is liable for \$US20 million (\$A27.53 million). "This is equivalent to about 26 per cent of the total budgeted receipts for the government for fiscal year 1993-94," he said, noting that the airline has been trying to raise \$A8.54 million dollars offshore.

"It is highly unlikely that any commercial lender would offer to make PAL a loan of this magnitude even with a government guarantee. Treasury is of the view that the Samoan economy is simply not large enough to support this level of offshore debt," Epa wrote.

He attributed the debt to "poor decisions" and commented that it was "beyond the ability of Polynesia to repay and seriously impacts the country's foreign currency reserves". Epa's report was written in response to a request by PAL for additional guarantees of 16.5 million tala for a debt to Air Canada and for leasing a Kuwait Air 767. But Epa

Flying into debt

said that if the guarantees were granted, the total debt and guarantees would be equivalent "to nearly half of the present total foreign exchange reserves of the country".

The Air Canada debt relates to a Boeing 767 leased by PAL. It had to return the aircraft in May. Air Canada has requested the repayment of 16.5 million tala, but indicated it would accept the conversion of the debt into a long-term loan guaranteed by the government, and Epa said that if this is not done, it may sue the airline, forcing it into liquidation. Australia's Ansett Air-

lines managed PAL up until 1992 and for a brief period after this PAL made a small profit, but Epa said the airline was now losing about 300,000 tala to 350,000 tala a week. "Consequently Treasury believes the company is unable to generate funds to repay the 37.3 million tala of existing non-operating debt, and the operating deficit is continuing to grow," he said.

He advised the minister not to believe financial forecasts submitted by PAL to back up its latest applications for guarantees. "(PAL) appear to be no more reliable than previously submitted forecasts which promised no further need for government support," Epa said. He called on the government to change PAL's management and board to run the airline on a "profit basis" and "not treat it as a public service provided for the common good".

"Profits are always promised at some elusive points in the future, but no practical steps are taken to ensure those profits are achieved," he said. He suggested that the airline give up its 767 service and an all-freighter Boeing 737 service, as well as cut its thrice-weekly service between Western Samoa and the United States to once a week. Services to Melbourne, Wellington and Tahiti should be scrapped as unprofitable. **AFP**

BUSINESS BULLETIN

Fiji's economic growth down, says report

FIJI'S Reserve Bank says the country's economy remained weak throughout last year as economic growth dropped from 3.1 per cent to 1.7 per cent. The bank's annual report for last year attributed the weak economy to the slow recovery of the agricultural and subsistence sectors caused by Cyclone Kina at the beginning of the year.

Economic growth dropped despite increased demand for Fiji's exports and a domestic stimulus through lower interest rates, the report said. The consumer price index increased by three per cent while the average annual inflation rate increased from 4.9 per cent in 1992 to 5.2 per cent last year.

The rate of money supply dropped because real income decreased, deposit rates dropped and expenditure on imports increased. The overall net budget deficit was equal to 3.7 per cent of the gross domestic product at current factor cost.

Solomon Airlines announces changes

FINANCIALLY troubled Solomon Airlines is giving up the lease on its Boeing 737-400 jet to Qantas. In return, Qantas will lease a smaller Boeing 737-300 to Solomon Airlines for 3½ days a week. The deal will mean major changes to Solomon Airlines' international schedules which now operate only from Saturdays to Tuesdays from June 18.

The airline will stop its weekly Cairns service and one of its two Fiji services. Acting general manager Wilson Gina said the new arrangement would see an improvement in the airline's financial position.

NZ to give US\$3.5m in aid to Niue next year

NEW Zealand is to contribute a total of US\$3.5 million to Niue next year. Australia is likely to give around

US\$400,000 in the form of technical assistance and training scholarships. Niue officials say most of the New Zealand aid will go toward the recurrent budget, and a special US\$1.5 million grant will go towards lengthening the airport runway.

A Radio New Zealand International report said although next year's aid levels were about the same as previously, Niue faced a budget deficit of around US\$300,000. However, cutbacks in the public service and income from offshore banking and insurance trusts are likely to boost the island's income.

PNG govt warns business sector

COMPANIES in Papua New Guinea that fail to adhere to the Companies Act face higher fines and other tough penalties approved recently by the PNG parliament. Commerce and industry minister David Mai successfully sought the house's approval on the changes to the act.

He told parliament that outdated laws had proved cumbersome over time and only 25 per cent of the companies operating in the country were adhering to them. Mai said the aim of the amendments was to get the other 75 per cent, which are usually big businesses, to comply.

Chinese invited to invest in PNG

THE Papua New Guinea government has invited Chinese investors to aggressively seek out investment opportunities in the country. The message was relayed by PNG's new ambassador to China, Maimu Raka-Nou, when he presented his credentials to President Jian Zemin in Beijing last month. Raka-Nou expressed PNG's gratitude to China for its contributions to the economic and political development of the country, adding that although Chinese investment in PNG was growing, there was room for expansion.

Cooks Islands troubled economy discussed

IN the Cook Islands, a roundtable meeting is being organised between the government, the banks and the private sector to discuss the current state of the country's economy. The summit plan follows concerns from the private sector to the prime minister, Sir Geoffrey Henry, over what they call a credit squeeze.

They complained that the immediate effects of the credit squeeze was less activity, fewer jobs, less income and less turnover in shops which is reported to be down by 25 per cent. *Cook Islands News* says the recent freeze on most bank loans is one of the first public indications there would be a credit squeeze. Sir Geoffrey says the problems needs to be worked out from a national point of view and not from the specific interest of just one of the groups.

Fiji govt seeks to raise US\$160m locally

THE Fiji government has proposed to raise US\$160 million loan locally to service its debts due this year and fund expenditures approved by parliament. But political leaders have expressed concern that the government should seek such a sum in loans locally within two months of passing the revised 1994 budget.

Opposition leader Jai Ram Reddy said the proposal was "very unusual". He said the government should provide for these things through the budget. Reddy said he was wary of the repercussions of the proposal if passed by parliament.

Fijian Association Party leader Josevata Kamikamica, a former finance minister, said the proposal was contrary to what the government had said about the deficit in the budget. He said the deficit stood at US\$93 million and the US\$160 million loan being sought by the government was much higher than the deficit. He warned of the grave consequences to the private sector. □



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BUSINESS

By Ed Rampell

"PEARLS '94" marked the 100-year milestone of a gem stone that represents a viable and sustainable form of alternative economic development for the Pacific Islands. The largest "International Pearl Conference and Exposition" ever took place in Hawaii from May 14 to 19. Five hundred participants from around Oceania and the world participated in the International Pearl Association sponsored event at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel hosted by the State of Hawaii's Aquaculture Department. Dozens of exhibits, displays, and speakers' forums paid homage to the "Queen of Gems" in an effort to unify and direct the \$US2 billion-plus per year pearl industry, which is marking the centennial of pearl cultivation.

Special attention was paid to pearl *noire*, *poerava* — the black pearl, hailed as a low-polluting, alternative form of economic development for small South Pacific isles with the potential to alter island economies. French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, and Australia played leading roles in Pearls '94. As befits a jewellery convention, booths in the ballroom and foyer of the Sheraton Waikiki were highly decorated and colourful. The stand from the French Polynesia volcanic island of Tahaa was composed of bamboo and palm thatch. Tahiti Pearls had a spacious area with stunning photo murals and a video room. Cook Island stands exhibited wood carvings of Tangaroa, the Polynesian god of the sea, with his prominently exposed fertile phallus. Australian Netmakers exhibited samples of their pearl nets clasp oysters at the Paragon Pearling booth.

Tahiti's Minister of Sea Resources Edouard Fritch said French Polynesia has 26 atolls under cultivation and is only second behind Australia in supplying pearls to Japan, the top importer. Tahiti earns \$US77 million annually from the gems, the territory's top export product. White pearls have become a \$US101 million a year industry in Australia. And with only about three atolls farmed, black pearls are the Cooks' top export, earning \$US4.5 million a year. But as Pearls '94 forums revealed, along with the industry's potential, there could also be trouble in the pearl paradises.

The Cooks played a leading role in Pearls '94 with a sizeable contingent that included several private, as well as government, booths. Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry delivered a poetic keynote address, noting that 200 years ago, children of Manihiki Atoll played marbles with black pearls, which are today, a mainstay of the Cooks economy, employing 600 people out of a population of 18,000. But despite an excellent speech and thousands of taxpayer dollars to send Sir Geoffrey and his courtiers on their junket to an expensive Waikiki Beach suite, the prime minister proved to



Gemstone beauty: a model displays pearl jewellery

Pearls '94

This boom industry provides a viable economic alternative

be a poor spokesman for the Cooks. Despite repeat interview requests, he failed to find a few minutes to talk with the media and present the Cooks' case.

Cook Islander Raymond Newham spoke on the social and political impact of black pearling at Manihiki, in the Northern Cooks. He said — "Two government institutions, including the Manihiki Island Council, failed to adapt to the new realities of pearl farming and actually hindered its development."

During the same technical forum, Manihikian Peter Williams told a strange tale of atoll greed and jealousy. The gruff, 20-year veteran of the New Zealand military began with a Manihikian welcoming chant and then said — "But my father didn't get this chant when he went to Manihiki." The Manihiki millionaire stated that the development of his family's highly lucrative pearl farm led to great social conflict at the very traditional, remote atoll. At one point, the Williams had to resort to "firearms" to protect their pearl farm from theft, etc. And a flight from distant Rarotonga to Manihiki carrying technicians to the atoll was blocked and refused permission to land.

Perhaps it's no mystery why an interview opportunity with Sir Geoffrey is as rare as a perfectly formed, natural black pearl. On the other hand, French Polynesia's Fritch was very available to the press and gave an overview of Tahiti's black pearl industry. "Black pearls are our number one export and account for 70 per cent of Tahiti's import/export balance although the tourism industry generates \$US200 million a year compared to \$77 million for pearls Three thousand Tahitian families are involved in *pearle noire*."

Fritch said that in its effort to keep pearling Polynesian, French Polynesia has established a black pearl school at Polynesia's biggest atoll, Rangiroa. He said that 80 per cent of the buyers of Tahiti's black pearls are Japanese. Australia is the world's top exporter of pearls to Japan. According to Pearls '94 chairman Richard Fassler of Hawaii's Aquaculture Department — "In 1988, Australia supplied Japan with 1071 kilogrammes of pearls. The following year, Japan — the world's largest pearl importer — imported pearls worth \$US156 million — a \$US121 million increase over 1988."

As a long time pearl producer, Australian expertise is assisting Oceania's developing economies. James Uan, of Kiribati's Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, says that two of his nation's atolls are experimenting in pearl farming with the assistance of the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research and the Forum Fisheries Agency (ACIAR).

Gideon Tiroba, of the Solomon Islands' Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, works with Dr Johann Bell, senior scientist of the ICLARM Coastal Aquaculture Centre. Dr John Benzie, of the Townsville-based Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), gave a presentation on the genetics of black-lipped oysters, which produce the black pearls that are farmed in French Polynesia and the Cook Islands.

Torres Strait Islander Richard Bowie attended Pearls '94 because his company Northern Star Seafood "uses compressed air to collect up to 5000 pinctada pearl shells a day in the Torres Strait to sell to pearl farms, which cultivate them".

Neil Sims, who received a MSc from the University of New South Wales, chaired the conference's technical committee which presented the more scientific-oriented seminars. Although an Australian, Sims is a principal in Black Pearls, Inc., the first pearl farm located in Hawaii. Dr Benzie of AIMS said that pearl farming is "pretty benign" vis-a-vis atoll ecology, a sentiment echoed by Sims — "Pearl farming if done properly is benign, beneficial. It removes pressure from wild stocks. It's an alternative industry — there's no longer pressure for destructive fishing. It increases awareness for the long term health of the marine environment." □

Queen of pearls

By Christine Hatcher

TO ask Cook Islander Joan Rolls about black pearls is like inviting a doting mother to describe her favourite child. As owner of Rarotonga's most exclusive jewellery and art retail business, she readily shares her knowledge about a favourite subject. Time slips away unnoticed as you begin to understand the intricacies of pearl seeding. As if suddenly gifted with special sight, the pearls' delicate lustre, colours and sheens become apparent in the pieces she gives you to hold. Each piece individualises. You appreciate the differences in size, shape, type and quality. If questioned further she will expand by telling you how, where and why they are grown in the Cook Islands.

Joan is a discerning business woman and knows her subject well. The 15 years experience she has in the pearl retailing business have sharpened her 'fine tuning' mechanisms. She has the essential gift for successful retailing — that of being able to identify and anticipate trends while staying one step ahead of the changes. It is fitting this resourceful woman is involved with what the new Minister of Marine Resources, Tepure Tapaitau, has predicted will equal tourism as the Cook Islands present major income earner. This gently spoken woman was born into and has matured with the industry. Over the years she has contributed greatly to the dignified image it now enjoys. The growth of her enterprise is in fact a reflection of the industry as a whole; a barometer that registers expansion. Her most recent continuing education programme included attending the 1st International Pearl Conference and Exposition in Hawaii in May with partner David Cragg. Aptly, Cook Island's Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry was the key-note speaker. In an interview on his return home he stated his government's intention to expand pearl production to Penrhyn and Suvarrow, the Cook Island's marine reserve. Presently earning approximately \$US6 million for the country, pearls are a valuable natural resource. Joan's business could be a major contributor to that figure.

She says concentration on quality is now important. "The black-lip pearl shells occur naturally in Manihiki, and that is half the battle. They simply grow without forcing or feeding. There are only two places in the world where this happens — Tahiti and here."

The pearl industry is "in my blood, a family heritage", says Joan. Father, Ron Powell, was instrumental in the technique of farming shell in the 1950's when the lagoon was almost depleted by



Concentrating on quality: Joan Rolls.
INSET - David Cragg

collecting the wild shells. "As a pioneer for the industry he was often busy," she says. Consequently, Joan grew up expecting to help out in the family business. Opened in the early 1940s, Island Craft was one of the first shops on the island geared towards tourism. In the small white coral walled, thatched *kikau* roofed hut in the centre of Avarua town, Joan learned business attitudes, discipline and co-operation. Never thinking to question the chores she shared or fought over with her six siblings, she accepted responsibility early. However, as often as possible, she would peek into the small workshop, attached to the back of the shop. Fascinated, she watched pearls and shells being transformed into pieces of jewellery. And so the love affair that was to shape her business life began.

In 1979 she opened her first shop.

"Although we wanted to do something really different, it was located just out of town and in those days tourism wasn't developed sufficiently to sustain that location so we moved to Cooks Corner near the centre of town a couple of years later," she says.

Success followed and over 12 years Beachcomber became the "in" place to buy quality pearls and other interesting craft. Then, the growing demand and awareness of black pearl jewellery forced expansion. A serious hunt for larger premises to accommodate the stock, began. For many years, the weed choked shell of the London Missionary Society Sunday School built in 1845 sat neglected at the edge of town, practically next door to the site of the original Beachcomber. The only willing inhabi-

tants, within the crumbling structure that somehow still managed to display an air of elegance, were the birds. The arched windows and 3000 square feet of space fired Joan's imagination and a dream began to take shape. Confident tourism was sufficiently developed and business perimeters were expanding, the risk to move away from town was made. She would restore the building but retain and enhance as much of the original structure as possible.

It took a year to secure the lease for this landmark. Joan lays much of the credit for the dream into reality transformation at partner David Cragg's feet. Before opening the completed building in 1992, she said — "He was so inspirational, had wonderful ideas and did much of the manual work. I used to look at him and think what a brave man! Everyone thought we were crazy. I had always wanted somewhere big enough to have an arts and craft gallery, a workshop to design jewellery. A home for my pearls. This building has a historical connection with the pearl industry. Its construction coincided with a thriving export industry in pearl shell buttons to Peru and Europe. It just seems right."

In her office at the 'Sunday School' Joan does most of the designing from which New Zealand and Australian jewellers create unique one off pieces. She allows the eight to 20mm diameter shapes that can range from round, pear shaped semi baroque to circles that have markings similar to having been turned on a lathe and baroque's that can have any unusual shape, dictate the design. "I see enormous export potential in the Pacific region for our designs. I know our own distinctive and individual pieces, hand crafted with simple classical lines, will become synonymous with the Cook Islands," says Joan.

Now she has expanded again — put a connection back into town. Her new "baby" is a simple, small, thatched, ethnic style hut in the centre of the business area. In this attractive setting a working jeweller, trained by Joan, crafts pieces while you wait — or just watch. David says they sell "pearls at reasonable prices — value for money — nothing over NZ\$100".

This new venture may be the connection that completes the symbolic circle in the form of a hut similar to the one that housed her father's business. Perhaps it ties back to a special childhood and so the beginning of Joan's dream. Similarly, the Cook Islands has looked ahead by linking back to an ecologically purer era, that without wisdom and foresight may well have been lost forever. For Joan it ensures the survival of a love that will surely last a lifetime. □

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Freedom, sweet and soured

HOW sweet the taste of victory! How delicious the smell of freedom! The more so after decades of oppression and unfulfilled dreams. And how unique a leader is Nelson Mandela, who after such a bitter personal struggle against the inhumanity of apartheid, talks not of the triumph of his own political party and a black majority but of a "time for the healing of wounds", a time for building a unified, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

A masterly strategy designed to appease a defeated white supremacist establishment? Essential rhetoric to preempt a fresh outbreak of violence by stubborn defenders of the apartheid 'faith'?

Whatever his strategic astuteness, Mandela's historic inauguration as the first black president of a 'decolonised' South Africa will surely be remembered as an inspiring occasion when the world heard no giveaways of recrimination, no gloating noises of victory or vindication. Instead, what filled the airwaves (apart from both the National Party and ANC national anthems!) was a heartfelt pledge to build a "society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity — a rainbow nation of peace with itself and the world".

It may be in the nature of politics that the seemingly impossible becomes possible, or that the realisation of dreams and visions is grounded in something approaching scientific predictability. In any event, it is reassuring for people (including myself incidentally) to think this way, and it can be a powerful motor for action, thereby giving destiny a helping hand. Which is, I suppose, the point of it all. "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement. Let freedom reign," rejoiced Mandela. Yes, let freedom reign. But can we really be sure that the sun will never set?

It was this faith in the immortality of South Africa's new found political emancipation that set me thinking somewhat dispiritedly about how the sun has indeed set in parts of our own region. (And of course, how it has yet to rise at all in the French, US and Indonesian controlled territories). In a 'rainbow' nation like Fiji, once regarded as a showpiece of multi-ethnic democracy, the military coups of 1987 and the 1990 apartheid constitution have ironically sent it scurrying down the very road from which South Africa has now triumphantly departed.

The freedom states have also turned against thousands of Bougainvilleans who have been mercilessly pounded by civil war and a genocidal blockade over the past five years. Coincidentally, both Fiji and PNG have taken a fancy to the freedom-felling delights of internal security legislation along with other encroachments upon constitutional freedoms (media freedom and trade union rights for example).

But the limits to regional freedom also stem from the fact that the transfer of political control on independence has typically left structures of the old colonial orders in tact. Independence has rarely, if ever, heralded economic

NOT THE MAINSTREAM



'ATU
EMBERSON-BAIN

autonomy, an equitable distribution of wealth, environmentally sustainable development, or participatory democracy (where democracy means more than just a vote at election time, or for that matter even a vote of equal value — witness Western Samoa, Tonga and Fiji).

In fact, for many Pacific Islanders who eke out a precarious existence on the fringes of nominally independent states, the twin notions of freedom and independence mean very little.

Which brings me to share with you a few more things that writer/activist Susan George had to say in Suva about the 'development' policies of the World Bank. George produces a graphic analogy, likening the pace at which the bank's free market/economic growth 'wisdom' has advanced during the last 15 years to "a stone rolling down a hill and crushing everything in its path".

We are faced with a hegemonic system, she says, that is very difficult to stop or change, and it is supported by an 'approval culture' which basically means maintaining at breakneck speed a constant treadmill of huge projects, huge budgets and huge loans in order to sustain in — you guessed it — huge proportions, the bank's political power, global prestige and status. Environmental provisions are seen as liabilities because they slow things down, cost money, and act as a trade barrier (by making our goods more expensive).

So the lesson then is that we need to be a little circumspect about the bank's professed environmental sensitivity (note the environmental assessments and safety clauses in its agreements). Look out for the wolves that sniff around our shores because they often sneak up dressed as sheep, bleating a well-rehearsed, politically 'correct' repertoire of 'sustainable' and 'human' development and even the co-opted language of freedom ('free' market, 'free' trade etc).

All told, the bank's environment agenda reflects more a concern about its image and the need to placate its critics, including NGOs in the lending (not the debtor!) countries, than a change of heart. Its policies, George says, continue to represent "an enormous threat to the environment".

So why, we might ask, are we hurtling down a highway of destruction in the Pacific? Why are we allowing a global financial giant with its non-indigenous market ideology to determine our development direction, undermine our independence, and eat away at the foundations of our previously sustainable societies? If democracy is such a foreign flower, as one of Fiji's women senators once quipped in defence of the military coups, then why such a generous welcome for a dubious neo-colonial development model?

Is it really a case of David versus Goliath (and remember David won) or is it that there simply isn't the political will to put up a fight because enough goodies are falling off the back of the development truck to keep the 'right' people happy?

Where to begin the search for answers? Sussing out what's going on in our own backyards might be a good place to start. □

Managing our resources

SOUTH Pacific Forum leaders converge on Queensland's capital, Brisbane, early next month for their annual summit, with effective management of their resources very much on their minds.

"Managing Our Resources" has been chosen as the theme for this year's meeting which is to be held at the Beaufort Heritage Hotel right in the heart of the city of Brisbane on August 2, 1994.

After consulting member countries, the Australian government had confirmed that the 25th Forum and associated meetings would be on 28, 29 July, Forum Officials Committee; 31 July, official opening of Forum; 1 August, Forum leaders' retreat; 2 August, Forum proper; and 3, 4 August, 6th post-forum dialogue.

In a statement, secretary-general Ieremia Tabai said the theme highlights the increasing emphasis that member governments have placed on the need to ensure sustainable development through the most effective use of the region's human and natural resources.

"Such a theme is not only appropriate but timely as the Pacific pursues development priorities for the region," the secretary-general said. Population and sustainable development, environmental concerns and security issues such as law enforcement will also be high on the agenda. Sustainable development is the catchword of the 21st century — a progress from appropriate technology — the buzzword of yesteryears. Although it is difficult to define, put simply, sustainable development means development that helps fulfil the needs of the present without limiting the potential for meeting the needs of future generations.

In many circles, sustainable development is a concept that is yet to take root — for good reasons. Pacific Island countries are faced with an exploding population which has far outpaced their economic growth.

For example, population in the Pacific region is set to double to around nine million in 20 years. It is estimated that 43 per cent will be living in urban centres. This means that a total of three million extra wage-earning jobs will have to be created to keep pace with population growth for the next two decades. At the same time, the region's tropical rainforests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Based on available statistics, some estimates say that the region's rainforests will disappear in 20 years if the current rate of felling is not controlled. On the other side of the argument is the fact that as well as the future, the needs of today's generation must be provided for using available natural resources. What all this means is that if nothing is done now, our future generations will have little or nothing to show. In other words, their very well being and survival is at stake. It is a frightening scenario, but one which can no longer be ignored, if future generations, from whom we borrow the earth, are to thank us for helping to advance the concept of sustainable development. And so, appropriately, the 15 political leaders of the Forum have chosen to dwell at length on the theme, "Managing Our Resources". Many island

THE FORUM



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countries have limited resources — how to use them in a productive and balanced way is the tricky question. There are other matters that will be discussed at the 25th Forum. For instance, the recent successful conclusion of the GATT trade talks and what it means for countries in the South Pacific.

As a result of the positive conclusion of GATT, it has been estimated that an additional US\$213 billion will be freed up in the marketplace. Of this amount, about US\$40 billion will be available in markets in developing countries. In the past, this money was tied up in regulated markets in the form of protection. With this impediment removed, the market is now a free-for-all. In a deregulated market situation such as this, competition has not returned

and will be the name of the game.

For its part, the South Pacific Forum Secretariat has been working hard on ways to formalise linkages with institutions such as APEC and ASEAN as well as sub-regional funding agencies including UNDP and ESCAP. With the buoyant east Asian market in view, discussions are continuing with the government of Japan for a Forum representative office to be established in Tokyo.

To accommodate these and many other changes taking place internationally, the 24th Forum in Nauru last year set up a Ministerial Review Committee to look into the future of the organisation. Members of the committee, chaired by Australia, are Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa. The committee has reached a broad measure of agreement on framing recommendations which take into account the new challenges and opportunities for the Forum arising from the many recent changes in the international and regional environment.

Whether or not the Forum Secretariat becomes a leaner organisation as a result of the review is anyone's guess. On the political spectrum, one thing is certain to be preserved — the unique informality of the Forum and the Pacific way or consensus in reaching decisions. These traits (informality and consensus) have become the hallmarks of the South Pacific Forum. Traditional issues such as nuclear testing in the South Pacific, the need for a global treaty banning the practice altogether and observer status at the Forum are also likely to be discussed.

On the nuclear issue, the recent decisions by the governments of France and the United States to once again, extend moratoriums on testings will no doubt be hailed by Forum leaders as steps in the right direction.

Forum countries have also moved to stop the importation into and treatment in the region of hazardous and other toxic wastes produced outside the region. A draft regional convention on the ban of the import into and the control of transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes within the South Pacific will also be discussed at the Forum. The document was prepared by Papua New Guinea in response to a decision by the Nauru Forum last year. □

EDUCATION

Scholarships boost

By David North

FORTY or 50 new scholarships for American universities have been established for Pacific islanders. The new grants, which will start in the fall of 1995, were made possible by legislation pushed through the Congress by American Samoa delegate Eni F H Faleomavaega.

The congressman squeezed out \$1 million out of the tight US budget for this purpose, and secured the needed legislative authorisation for the programme, two separate processes in the American political system. The scholarships will be for university students, both graduate and undergraduate, who are from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, Tonga, Tuvalu, Western Samoa and Vanuatu. Affluent Nauru did not make the list nor did the French colonies.

The programme will be administered by the United States Information Agency (USIA) which also operates the much larger and older Fulbright programme (which paid my way to New Zealand some years ago).

Faleomavaega's scholarships are, in a sense, an addition to, and a modification of, the Fulbright programme. The congressman was aware that while the Fulbright programme provided the US education for tens of thousands of foreign students over a period of more than 40 years, only 80 of them came from the independent islands of the Pacific. Meanwhile, despite the presence of the new programme, Pacific islanders remain eligible for the Fulbright scholarships.

Like the Fulbrights, the new scholarships will help with travel and education expenses; they can be used at American Mainland universities, as well as in Hawaii and in the American island territories. Unlike the Fulbrights, they will be available to both undergraduates and to graduate students. (The Fulbright programme provides no assistance to undergraduates). In announcing the programme's passage, and signature into law, Faleomavaega noted: "In my district, American Samoa, our students are eligible to participate in both federal Pell Grants and local scholarship programmes. Students from the South Pacific nations are not so fortunate and few have the means to study in the United States."

Since the programme is a brand-new one, and will not start funding anyone's education until September 1995, many elements of the programme remain to be determined. Those who are familiar with such programmes, however, make the following observations:

- this will be a competitive programme,

and it is assumed that not everyone applying will receive a grant; in this competition those with better marks and with the more well-rounded resumes will do better than others;

- a reasonably well-qualified student from a lightly-populated area that has not hitherto participated in such a programme (eg. Niue or Tuvalu) would probably get the nod over an equally qualified student who stands tenth on the list from a larger nation (eg. Fiji or Papua New Guinea);

- it probably helps, in the competition, to have already secured admission to an American university. (Getting the grant and getting admitted are two separate processes);

- all else being equal, an applicant who has never been to the US should stand a better chance than someone who has lived there in the past; and

- finally, the 1995 competition will be the easiest one in what presumably will be a long-term programme. This is the case for two reasons: first, this is a new programme, so there will be no group of alumni who will encourage others to apply (I learned about Fulbrights from people who had used the programme);

secondly, there may well be a provision making it possible for some people to spend more than one year in the States on this scholarship. To the extent that is true, there will be fewer openings in the years to come.

One final bit of advice to interested students. US universities, unlike those in the islands, in Australia and in New Zealand, pay close attention to the results of highly structured, pen-and-pencil tests given a few times a year in a few locations. These are the Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) for potential undergraduates, and the Graduate Records Examinations (GREs) for those going to graduate school. People seeking advanced degrees in law and medicine in the US take other tests. One must apply to take these tests months before submitting one's application for admission, which, in turn, can be as long as nine months before the term begins.

Taking the tests, further, may involve an off-island trip. For more information check with counsellors at universities, or write to the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ, 08541, USA. In short, if you are interested in these scholarships, get going right away. □

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ISSUE

Hope at last for end

IT is barely two decades ago when Bougainvilleans fought and won what they wanted — provincial government. It was a not-so-perfect system of government but one nonetheless which had given the locals some form of autonomy.

There is mounting pressure to discard the provincial government system because critics say it is a waste of money. A parliamentary committee is reviewing the system. Despite evidence of widespread misappropriation of public funds,

Bougainville, officially known as North Solomons Province, was perhaps the only provincial government that had never been subjected to systematic criticisms and allegations of misuse of public money.

In some provinces, administration of the system was so bad that the national government in Port Moresby was forced to intervene from time to time by suspending a number of provincial governments over the past 19 years of its

existence. Today, almost two decades on, Bougainville is once again under the spotlight. The island, northeast of Port Moresby, has been wracked by a secessionist rebellion, which has claimed many lives and caused untold sufferings to its estimated 160,000 inhabitants.

Papua New Guinea today maintains a military presence on Buka Island, at the northern tip of Bougainville, with constant sea patrols around the island. The rebels, led by Australian-trained bomb expert, Sam Kauona, rule the interior with the old Panguna copper and gold mine serving as their headquarters. Five years after the uprising, there is no apparent end in sight. One thing, however, is changing. The focus in trying to solve the problem on the war-torn island has shifted. PNG, which until now has told its regional neighbours that the trouble on Bougainville was a domestic issue, is enlisting the support of some Forum members to help solve the problem. Port Moresby's idea is for a Regional Peacekeeping Force (RPF).

With the concept gaining momentum daily, Bougainville is once again on the verge of giving birth, as it were, to something new as it did the provincial government system 19 years ago. Under the RPF proposal being actively discussed in the corridors of power throughout the region, military personnel to serve on peace-keeping duties on Bougainville are likely to be drawn from Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Australia reportedly has given tacit support to the idea when it was raised recently during formal talks in Canberra. The proponent of the idea was none other than Sir Julius Chan, PNG's current deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs. Since taking up the foreign affairs portfolio following a Christmas/New Year cabinet reshuffle in Port Moresby, Sir Julius twice visited the South Pacific for discussions with each of the 13 island member countries of the South Pacific Forum.

It was during these trips as recent as last May that he reportedly mooted or rather resurrected the idea for a RPF. The concept was not new. In fact, as then prime minister of PNG, Sir Julius first raised it at the 12th South Pacific Forum in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in 1981.

Then, as now, details of the proposal are still secret. But Sir Julius told his colleagues then that his primary concern was the security of Small Island States of the Forum, saying his interest in regional peacekeeping emerged from PNG's "bitter experience" with the Vanuatu affair.

PNG troops were sent to Vanuatu in 1980 to quell an externally manipulated insurrection which later turned into rebellion on the township of Santo. Sir Julius explained that it would not always be correct to assume that the situation



THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

(30th May, 1994)

invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced Pacific Islanders for the following two (2) positions at its Secretariat, in Suva, Fiji.

(The PCC is a regional church organisation serving Anglican, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United churches, and national councils of churches, throughout the Pacific Region).

Translator/Interpreter (French-English)

Applicants must have a tertiary level education, passed recognized translation/interpretation training, and be fluent in French and English. The Appointee shall carry out translation & interpretation service for the PCC office and meetings, including those involving travelling within the Region. Experience in serving churches and knowledge of the ecumenical movement in the Region will be an advantage.

Secretary for Women's Desk

Applicants must have a tertiary level education, with training and experience in leadership of church women's groups and programme activities (including seminars/workshops); training in theological education and social work, and have basic knowledge of the Pacific Region and the ecumenical movement.

The Appointee shall be responsible for coordinating women's ecumenical programmes among PCC member churches; networking among women's groups, and facilitating development awareness and solidarity projects (including seminars/workshops).

Appointment for both positions are for 3 years on (renewable) contract to be based in Suva, subject to Fiji work-permit conditions (for non-Fijians). The Appointees shall be entitled to receive FJ\$12,000 (wages) plus accommodation, 10 days annual leave and 3 months leave (after 3 years), and full medical assistance in Fiji.

Applications must be accompanied by curriculum vitae/bio-data and evidence of educational and employment experience. References from church/community leaders and previous employers will be advantageous. **The closing date for the Applications shall be 31st July, 1994.** All applications or Enquiries be addressed to:

**The General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches,
PO Box 208, SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS.**

to war

which confronted Vanuatu would re-occur in a similar form. Nonetheless, Sir Julius insisted that "to ignore history would be to commit an error of judgement which future generations would not forgive". As he saw it then, the objectives were three-fold —

- to assist in the preservation of sovereignty and independence of Pacific states through the maintenance of law and order;

- to provide a contingency force which would serve as a deterrent; and

- a visible demonstration of Pacific solidarity and political will to meet any forms of threat from either internal or external sources.

One of Sir Julius' arguments was that although the South Pacific was traditionally peaceful, dissident movements could turn to insurrection and rebellion almost overnight as was the case in Vanuatu in 1980. A RPF could be called in at a moment's notice to serve in a combat situation such as in Vanuatu. But in peace time, it would be used in other areas such as joint surveillance and fisheries protection, disaster relief and development projects for the smaller island countries. Sir Julius told his colleagues that he did not believe that the peace and stability of the South Pacific should be left to one country. He was also against the idea that Australia and New Zealand should be involved in the internal security matters of small Pacific countries.

"The Pacific peoples themselves must bear the responsibility for Pacific security operations, and that contingency planning must be undertaken now and not when the trouble erupted," he was quoted as saying then. "The security of the region was so important that the Forum must consider the issue," Sir Julius said. The PNG deputy prime minister had even suggested that in an emergency situation, a special session of the Forum should be called to authorise the use of the force. Fiji has already given guarded support to the idea of a RPF for Bougainville. Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka told a national press club news conference in Port Moresby recently that Fiji was ready to co-operate in establishing a peace-keeping force. "However, if a peace-keeping force is to be deployed into an area, we would like to be assured that they go in with the full co-operation of the host country ... and after initial negotiations are made between those in conflict," Mr Rabuka said.

A number of countries including Australia and New Zealand commented on Sir Julius' initial proposal at the Vanuatu Forum. Tuvalu, for instance, supported the idea for a RPF, saying smaller Forum island countries could no longer look to an administering power to assist them in a crisis situation. □

The amazing Joseph

By Wally Hiambohn

HE is not the biblical Joseph of the 'coat of many colours' who had dreams about his future. But this Joseph has had dreams and done things which have earned him headlines such as "Joseph and his amazing one-color parliament", and "Joseph and his amazing one-colour political party".

At the time these headlines were appropriately created, the musical drama — *Joseph and His Amazing Techni-colour Dreamcoat* was popular among Port Moresby school children. The Joseph in this story is Joseph Bare

Onguglo, the Papua New Guinea politician who is leader and only member of the Black Action Party. Onguglo is a new mediator on the scene with the hope of bringing an end to the war on Bougainville.

The radical party with rather racist connotations stands for a government and country solely of the black Melanesian race, no-one else.

You see, some time in 1988 Onguglo had a dream at his home in the Highland

province of Chimbu to come out and lead his people out of "economic slavery". He took on the call and won a seat in the PNG parliament in the 1992 elections. His party's motto is for economic independence for PNG, and that PNG is for Melanesian Papua New Guineans. Among some of his party's radical objectives are to revoke naturalised citizenship, ban all naturalised citizens from holding public office, remove control by foreigners of the economy, close all foreign professional firms and assist Papua New Guineans to establish themselves in these businesses and, all mining to be done by Papua New Guinean firms.

Of these objectives Onguglo says — "One might say the Black Action Party is radical and racist, so what, who cares. No-one has the guts to speak out, so our people are still suppressed, and will continue to remain slaves, in our own land.

"Major political parties today are controlled by foreign capitalists and cannot speak out about the exploitation of PNG's economy and natural resources. Too many of our nation's highly educated elite are self-centred and are passing the buck.

"In the past 18 years not one individual or a political party has taken an honest stand for a truly Melanesian society. Black Action Party is the saviour for PNG today and into the 21st century." The Joseph who now talks about the rights of the black man was for four years cared for by a white Australian missionary in Tasmania

who sent him to four years of college there. He returned home to undertake studies at the University of PNG but got involved in student leadership and politics. In a proposed amendment of the constitution recently to Parliament

Onguglo sought to remove the right for naturalised citizens to enter parliament. Onguglo said naturalised citizens get elected on the pretext of representing indigenous people but the moment they are in office

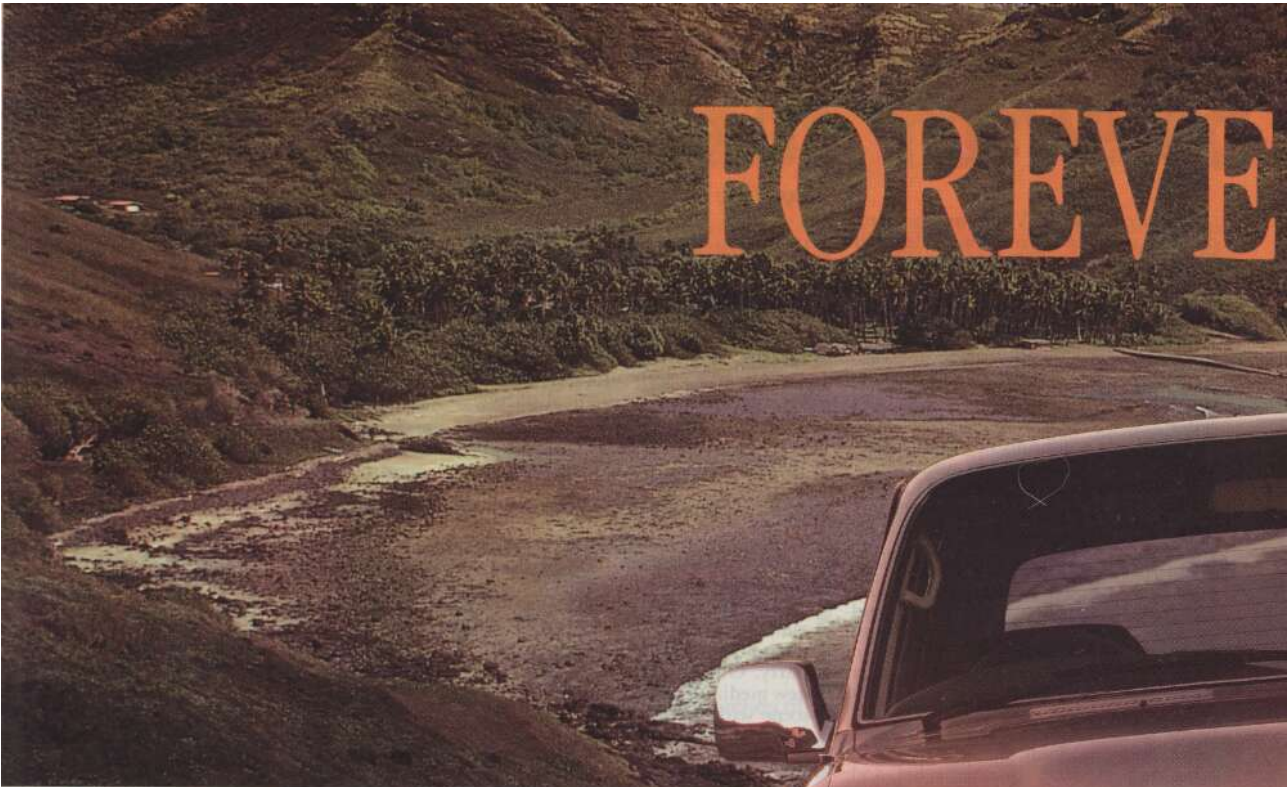
they care more about the business interest, and become members of the elitist club.

"A white man with extensive business interests and who presents himself as a representative of the native Melanesian population of this country is, in my opinion, not a true representative of the local people," Onguglo said in a newspaper article under the headline, *Joseph and his amazing one-color parliament*, last August.

"He does not, I repeat, does not, have the true understanding of a native Melanesian culture. He is incapable of standing alongside me in a village ceremony and participating with the fullest understanding of the sacred rituals and then on the next day stand on the floor of parliament and speak with authority about preserving my unique cultural heritage. I am sorry to be quite frank about this issue, but it is reality and it hurts." □



New mediator: Joseph Onguglo



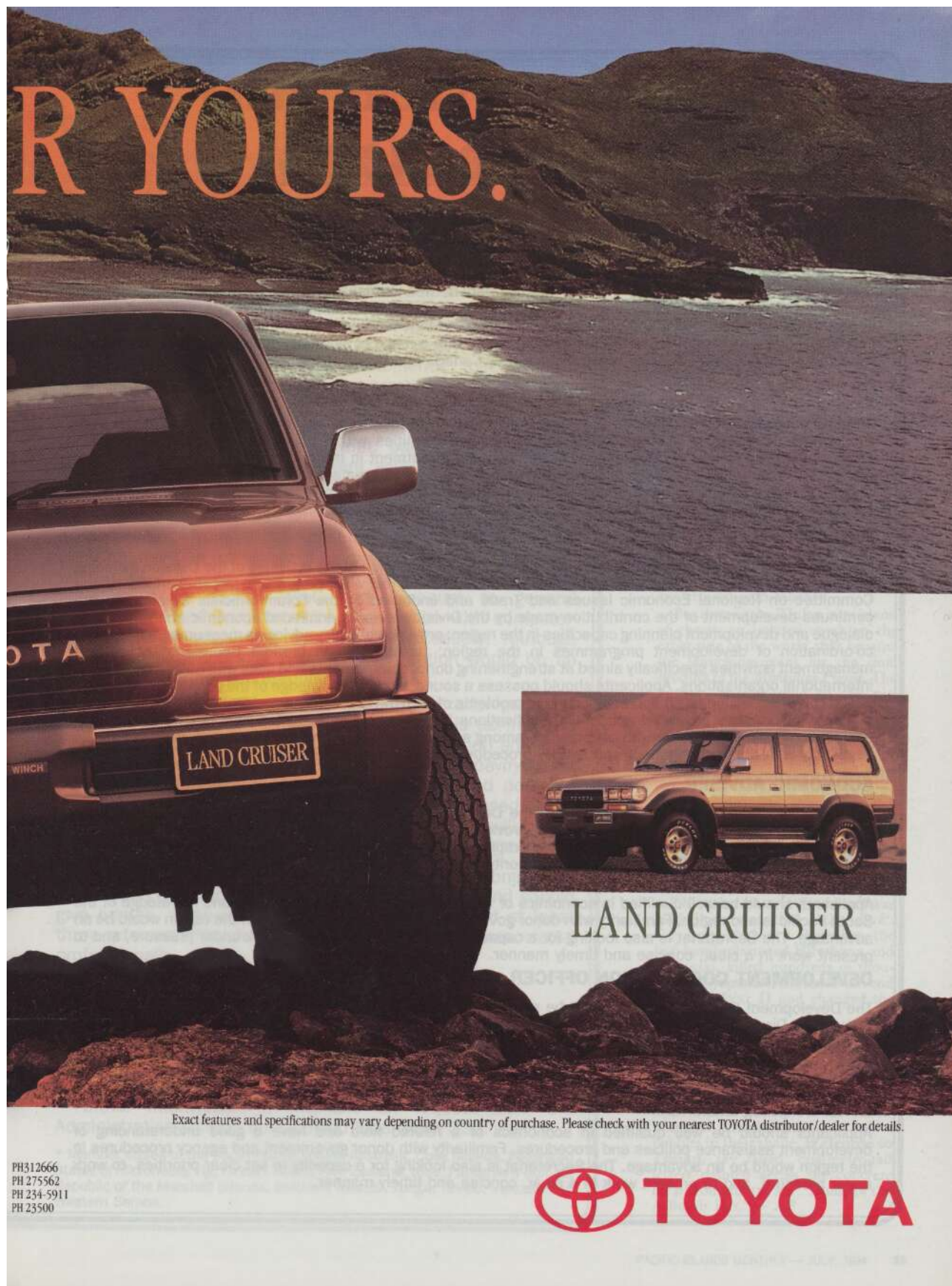
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The advertisement features a large, dark-colored Toyota Land Cruiser in the foreground, partially obscured by a large rock. The vehicle's headlights are on, and the word "LAND CRUISER" is visible on the front bumper. In the background, there is a rugged, hilly landscape with a body of water. The text "R YOURS." is prominently displayed in large, orange, serif capital letters at the top left. Below the main image, there is a smaller inset image of a silver Toyota Land Cruiser. The word "LAND CRUISER" is written in large, black, serif capital letters below the inset image. At the bottom left, there is a list of phone numbers: PH312666, PH 275562, PH 234-5911, and PH 23500. At the bottom right, the Toyota logo is followed by the word "TOYOTA" in large, red, bold capital letters. A small line of text at the bottom center reads: "Exact features and specifications may vary depending on country of purchase. Please check with your nearest TOYOTA distributor/dealer for details."

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FORUM SECRETARIAT VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be nationals of a member state of the South Pacific Forum*, for the following positions in the Economic & Development and Finance Divisions at the Forum Secretariat.

The Forum Secretariat was established in 1972 by the South Pacific Forum to encourage economic and political cooperation between its member states, and between those states and the more industrialised countries. Under the control of a Secretary General, the Secretariat undertakes activities in a number of areas; economic development, legal and political, civil aviation, energy, maritime, telecommunications and trade. In pursuing these work programmes, the Secretariat works with a range of aid donor countries and organisations including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, EC, Canada and the UNDP.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Economic Development Division aims to assist Forum Island Countries (FICs) through a comprehensive work programme designed to promote policy and planning capabilities within countries. Its mandate includes enhancing the utilisation of development assistance and investment in the region through more effective co-operation and coordination. Emphasis is placed on bringing about a greater level of consultation between FICs and their development partners which includes both aid donors and investors. A number of assistance programmes, offering direct support to FICs, are also administered by the Division.

DIRECTOR

The Director will be responsible for the overall supervision and direction of the activities of the Division including those aspects relating to the environment; implementation of the work programme recommended by the Committee on Regional Economic Issues and Trade and endorsed by the Forum Officials Committee; the continued development of the contribution made by the Division towards enhanced economic analysis, policy dialogue and development planning capacities in the region; provision of policy advice on measures for improving co-ordination of development programmes in the region; participation in broader Secretariat policy and management activities specifically aimed at strengthening donor commitments and links with other regional and international organisations. Applicants should possess a sound, working knowledge of the economies of Pacific Island countries, including an appreciation of the problems of both the subsistence and monetised sectors. They should also possess advanced academic qualifications in economics or a related field, as well as proven abilities to work under pressure, to set priorities among a wide range of options and to manage staff effectively. Familiarity with donor government and agency procedures would be an advantage.

ECONOMIC ADVISER

The Economic Adviser will be responsible to the Deputy Secretary General (Policy & Services) through the Director, Economic Development Division for providing Forum Island Countries with economic advice and analysis, assisting in the design, evaluation and implementation of selected development projects and seeking external aid to enable implementation of high priority projects. In the course of these activities, the appointee will be required to undertake periodic duty travel.

Applicants should be well qualified in economics or a related field and should have a sound knowledge of the South Pacific Island region. Familiarity with donor government and agency procedures in the region would be an advantage. The Secretariat is also looking for a capacity to set clear priorities, to work under pressure, and to present work in a clear, concise and timely manner.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION OFFICER

The Development Cooperation Officer will be responsible to the Deputy Secretary General (Policy & Services) through the Director, Economic Development Division in drafting documentation for presentation to a wide range of donors providing assistance to the development programmes implemented by the Secretariat; draft comprehensive reviews of project delivery and expenditure for donors to the Secretariat on a six monthly basis; assume day-to-day responsibility for the operations of the Forum Secretariat Fellowship Scheme and the Smaller Island States Shared Financing Facility; assist in other activities relevant to the implementation of the Division's annual Work Programme.

Applicants should be well qualified in economics or a related field and have a good understanding of development assistance policies and procedures. Familiarity with donor government and agency procedures in the region would be an advantage. The Secretariat is also looking for a capacity to set clear priorities, to work under pressure, and to present work in a clear, concise and timely manner.

FINANCE DIVISION

DIRECTOR

The Finance Division provides a range of financial, accounting and payroll services for management and all Divisions of the Secretariat.

The Director will be responsible for the efficient operation of the Division; recommend and implement a coherent funds management policy; closely supervise the preparation of the annual financial statements and liaise as necessary with Auditor General; co-ordinate the preparation of the Work Programme and Budget; monitor cash flow and funding requirements; ensure the preparation of timely and accurate monthly management operating statements, together with analysis thereof; monitor accounting procedures on a continuing basis and amend, or recommend amendment, as necessary; liaise with bankers and recommend appropriate banking strategy for the Secretariat; participate in broader Secretariat policy and management activities particularly as they relate to the finance and administration of the Secretariat.

Applicants should possess an appropriate degree with a major in accounting from a recognised tertiary institution. The applicant must be a member of a recognised professional body with at least 8 years experience in accounting and financial activities at a senior level, and exposure to general management and administration. Experience with computerised financial accounting systems is necessary. Although previous experience in a regional organisation would be an advantage, it is not a prerequisite.

These appointments carry an attractive remuneration package, payable in Fiji dollars. For non-Fiji citizens this is tax-free and includes housing or a housing allowance, education and child allowances where eligible. Other benefits include payments in lieu of the superannuation, and medical, life and personal accident insurance coverage. Appointees will be based at the Secretariat's headquarters in Suva. Appointments will be for three years initially, and are renewable by mutual agreement.

Applications close on July 31, 1994. They should contain full information on education and career backgrounds and should give names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated professionally.

Applications should be addressed to:

**The Secretary General
Forum Secretariat
GPO Box 856, Suva, Fiji
Telephone 312-600 Telex: 2229FJ Fax: 302-204**

Further information is available on request from the Administration Officer, on 312-600 Extension: 335.

* Member states of the South Pacific Forum: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

NORTHERN MARIANAS

Tinian: home of the A-Bomb Pits

KEVIN McQuiston looks away from the cockpit of his Piper Cherokee and draws his finger along a map of the tiny island of Tinian, in the Northern Mariana Islands. "See how everything is named like Manhattan? Here's Central Park, and Broadway." His finger keeps moving north until it stops just behind a long pair of runways.

"And here's where you want to go," he says with a touch of the native's pride. "The A-bomb Pits." After listening to McQuiston's tales of jungles filled with booby-traps and caves still giving up the dead, it is an eerie drive through the jungles of Tinian to North Field, two long strips of sun-bleached concrete crisscrossed with foliage.

But then again, Tinian is an island of ghosts, an isolated speck on the other side of the world that became the launching point for the final product of the *Manhattan Project*. The bumpy, narrow road to the pits passes by dilapidated Japanese shrines and the concrete skeleton that once served as a military headquarters.

Then, after turning to dirt, the road opens up onto a broad runway and a small wooden sign that points the way to Pit No. 1. That's where, on the afternoon of August 5, 1945, the four-tonne "Little Boy" bomb was loaded into the belly of a B-29 named *Enola Gay*.

Three days later, "Fat Man" was loaded onto another B-29, *Bock's Car*, from Pit No. 2. Together, the two bombs flattened Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killed hundreds of thousands of Japanese, hastened the end of World War II and changed the world forever.

But today, the pits give none of that away. From each grows a single plumeria tree festooned with fragrant white blossoms that take some of the edge off the tropical heat. Birds chirp from their branches, lizards rest on the white pebbles in their shade. **Welcome to Tinian**, say faded, one-metre-tall letters painted across the concrete lot surrounding it all. "Home of the A-Bomb Pits." — AP □

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Advertisement

Pump group targets Pacific

Aust firm promises total commitment to the region

A NEW Australian pump group, specialising in the agricultural and contractor end of the industry, is offering the full range of QP heavy duty construction pumps. The company, Australian Pump Industries Pty. Limited, has a total commitment to provide the South Pacific Island Groups with a range of competitively priced pumps backed by a new level of service and responsiveness.

Australian Pump Industries offers ex-stock availability on engine driven self-priming centrifugal pumps and trash pumps in all standard sizes up to 6" inlet/outlet. A wide variety of power options to suit the South Pacific market including Honda, Briggs and Stratton, Robin and Kubota engines is available.

The product is called Aussie Quick-Prime, abbreviated to QP. The new range of QP pumps offered by Australian Pump Industries represents an evolution of 20 years of continuous improvement in design.

The pumps are popular for water carts, for dewatering of construction sites and for irrigation and village water supply. The product line also offers pumps suitable for any application involving the transfer of solids laden liquids.

Irrigation Pumps

QP irrigation pumps are used for sprinklers and drip irrigation applications as well as doubling as fire fighting and water transfer pumps. They come in



Tank filler: lightweight but sturdy



Reliable: Quik-Prime pump

1.5", 2", 3" and 4" configurations with a 6" pump suitable for use on super tankers or mining sites, flood mitigation or any application involving the transfer of large quantities of water.

The 6" pump offers a maximum flow of 192,000 litres per hour and the maximum head is 24 metres.

Solids Handling

Aussie QP trash pumps are available in 2", 3", 4" and 6" configurations. All units are supplied with hose couplings and strainers as standard and come mounted in a rugged roll frame or, in the case of the 6" pump trailer or skid mounted.

QP trash pumps offer an exclusive feature in the form of a bronze/copper seal that is claimed by the manufacturer to outlast other seals by up to 6 to 1. A tungsten carbide seal is used in the 6" trash pump.

All trash pumps offer big solids handling capability and are suitable for use by government departments, construction companies, mining companies and for any application involving the handling of dirty water or slurries. The pumps offer a unique feature in the form of easy dismantling and cleaning out functions. They have heavy duty cast iron volutes and impellers.

Drive options for the complete range include a full line of both petrol and diesel engine drives. The pumps, which are close coupled, are compact and light weight considering their high performance characteristics.

Australian Pump Industries is looking for Distributors throughout the South Pacific and has a full Distributor Prospectus available to interested parties. Further information is available from Australian Pump Industries Pty. Limited of 131A Arcadia Rd., Arcadia, NSW 2159, Australia. Fax: 61-02-655 1689.

For further information on this news release contact Margaret Rowley on Phone: 61-02-655 1541 or Fax: 61-02-6551689. □



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AUSSIE QUIK-PRIME PUMPS ARE
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THE UNITED NATIONS

Can small islands rely on

By Ian Williams

AROUND the United Nations, the islands have scored one own goal and a draw. At the UN itself, the Pacific was represented on the 53-member Commission for Sustainable Development by Vanuatu, which won the position through its vigorous advocacy of the AOSIS position. This year, according to diplomats, Vanuatu would certainly have become one of the vice-presidents, giving it a very good position to influence the agenda and to progress items of interest to the Pacific and the other Small Island states. However, other diplomats

told *PIM* that the new ambassador of Vanuatu did not attend a single meeting of the two-week-long session. Needless to say, there was little enthusiasm for electing a newcomer as vice-president, but there was no support at all for nominating an empty chair.

Happily his colleagues report that Ravou-Akii is now playing a much more active role in other fields, and was a lead negotiator in Washington for the talks on the composition of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Indeed Pacific diplomats seem confident that with the arrival of the new Papua New Guinea ambassador, Utula Utuoc Samana, who

presented his credentials to the secretary-general in May, there is now full and effective team working.

At the GEF talks in Washington, the islands tried to get representation as small islands. The GEF is now the custodian of the only funds available from all the big promises of the industrialised nations. As reported in the May issue of *PIM* there was a successful compromise on the differences between the donor and developing nations over the composition of the governing board. However, that left unresolved the question of the distribution of the developing world's seats.

FOR the past five years the United Nations Development Programme has produced the Human Development Report which has achieved a near-miracle in UN terms by making development issues newsworthy, interesting and even controversial. Its stroke of genius was to rank countries in the equivalent of a sports table.

Across the world, news editors and sports fans, whether their sport is rugby, soccer, cricket or baseball, express their enthusiasm in league tables of one kind or another. So this year, for example, Canadians were mortified when they were edged from first position by the Japanese two years ago. This year the Japanese must recover from the loss of face involved by being pushed down to number three position by the comeback Canadians, and the Swiss.

Why bother? Because the Human Development Report in its own subtle way is much more than a newsworthy table of rank. The Human Development Index measures countries' success at improving the life of its people since it takes into account the health and education of a population, as well as their overall wealth. Some nominally rich countries, like Saudi Arabia, have a high Gross Domestic Product per person, but the wealth is badly distributed and social services are poor, so their human development lags behind.

For the first four years, the Pacific has been left behind by this process. Apart from a few of the larger nations like PNG and Fiji, UNDP has not compiled statistics for the Pacific. However, this year it produced a separate Pacific Human Development Report which will be discussed by the Forum summit in Australia next month. UNDP concludes that the "Pacific Island countries ... are still in a position to avoid the path of development that leads to widespread human deprivation which is now the prevalent condition of many developing countries". In contrast, they say, "the

Learning from past mistakes

quality of life and human welfare in the Pacific is enviable in comparison" with many of those countries.

The problems they identify are an "emerging trend of disparities in incomes and in access to resources, economic opportunities and social services between social groups, people in rural and urban areas, central and outer islands, and men and women in the Pacific Island countries".

Ironically, it suggests that one of the factors which works to the Pacific's advantage is something that older indicators would have regarded a sign of backwardness. "A large subsistence sector ensuring a high level of subsistence, and which effectively absorbs external shocks; strong cultural identity and traditional values, and the stable social fabric based on the village community and extended family system." These have, of course, been the deliberate or inadvertent choice of most of the world's modernisers.

The report suggests that by building constructively on the past, the Pacific can reach the future without passing the gruesome present of many developing nations.

Specifically looking at the region, most of the Forum members fall into the medium human development category — except for the Solomons and PNG whose low literacy and mortality rates pull them into the low human development category. Ironically, Nauru has

one of the lowest life expectations, presumably because of the "diseases of affluence" caused by their forced and rapid progress from their traditional life styles.

However, the low economic but high population growth of the Pacific is a major threat to future prosperity, which has been to some extent disguised so far by the emigration of workers and the remittances they send home. As the report coyly points out, a change of policy by nations such as New Zealand, Australia and the US could bring the crisis point forward much more quickly.

Already, some problems are being seen in basic services like education where pressure on government budgets has often hit primary education. The report instances PNG which already has one of the lowest literacy rates, but is having problems supplying textbooks and poor school buildings. In Vanuatu the legacy of its anomalous colonial history is the high cost of maintaining French and English educational systems.

Shakespeare once said that comparisons were odious. In this case they are far from it. By comparing the development of the various Pacific Islands with each other, and then with the rest of the world, planners — and people — can get some ideas of the successes and weaknesses of existing strategies, both locally, regionally and internationally.

The conclusion drawn from those statistics may differ, but the Pacific Human Development Report offers a chance for the region to avoid many of the mistakes made by other areas. It gives them ammunition to fight off outside developers who try to force inappropriate models on them as the price of aid or finance.

But as the report itself points out, the debate on development is far too important to be left to politicians. Unless ordinary people involve themselves in it, then serious mistakes will be made. □

anyone?

As reported in the May issue of *PIM* there was a successful compromise on the differences between the donor and developing nations over the composition of the governing board. However, that left unresolved the question of the distribution of the developing world's seats. Logically, as the countries most at risk because of changes in the global environment, the small islands should have had a grouping of their own. But UN custom and practice is for the regional groupings to allocate seats, which means that the bulk of the AOSIS members would be split between the Asia-Pacific and Latin-America-Caribbean groupings, in each of which the islands would be a minority, although together they would be as big as many regional groupings.

However, at the closed meeting in May in Washington, the Caribbean islands defected from that position, and came to an agreement with their Latin American neighbours on a Caribbean seat. That left the SOPAC countries to confront the mainland masses of the Asia Pacific Group which had a total of six "constituencies" on the GEF council. The case was put eloquently and elegantly on their behalf by Aloysius Tuuth, Federated State of Micronesia's minister of finance who invoked the just finished Small Islands Conference to back up the fallback claim for one of those Asia Pacific constituencies to go to the 14 small island developing states of the Pacific. Many of the islands he pointed out were participants in the GEF and other UN agencies, even though they had not joined the UN itself. They had common concerns in protecting the Pacific Ocean, both in its own right and as a carbon sink of vital interest to the globe. In law, the Rio Earth Summit and the Barbados declaration called for recognition of the special interests of small islands.

Unfortunately, according to one observer, Tuuth's colleagues seem to have felt that since he presented an irrefutable case, they had no need to back it up. Unfortunately reason and international agreements were of little consequence in the face of power. The islands ended up with half a constituency. They will share a constituency with Indonesia and the Philippines. These two presented themselves as island nations, which of course they are, if hardly small, and will each serve three years alongside whichever nation the Forum islands pick to represent them. Half a constituency is of course better than none. But the affair may help to dispel any lingering illusions that the small island states can rely upon the goodwill of their neighbours and other developing nations. □

TELEVISION

Fiji gets permanent TV

By Akanisi Motufaga

FIJI is to have its first permanent television service from this month, after a decade of discussions, proposals and national debates. The new service will be known as Fiji TV and will have three channels — one free-to-air service and two pay television services.

The new company will hold an exclusive 12-year licence although government expects to open up the market after the eighth year of operation. The Fiji Development Bank (FDB) will be the major shareholder with 51 per cent shares followed by Television New Zealand (TVNZ) — 15 per cent and Fiji Post and Telecommunications Limited (FPTL) — 14 per cent.

The remaining 20 per cent will be open to members of the public who are interested in buying shares. FDB, a statutory organisation owned by the Fiji government, will provide finance and advice on racial issues and traditions and will hold the 51 per cent shares on behalf of Fiji's 14 provincial councils and the Council of Rotuma.

TVNZ, which is owned by the New Zealand government, will provide the programmes, expertise and knowledge. The company has been providing a temporary television service since 1991. FPTL, a Fiji government owned telecommunications company, will provide the transmission network around the Fiji group. The new company will have an initial paid-up capital of \$8.8 million with seven board members, three expatriates who will initially hold the top positions and an independent news team. Fiji currently has a temporary television service which is only available in the greater part of the capital, Suva, and in areas surrounding Nadi and Lautoka in the Western Division.

The first concrete television development began in the mid-1980s when Channel Nine of Australia was issued with a licence. However, Channel Nine withdrew in 1987 when the Bavadra government was overthrown in a military coup led by then Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, who is now prime minister. TVNZ stepped in in 1991 after being granted a temporary licence. At that time, the temporary service operated with a subsidy from the Fiji government which declined over the years as advertising revenue increased.

According to the Fiji TV business plan which Cabinet approved in late May, the free-to-air and pay TV services will operate as separate business units within the company. It said a five per cent discount would be

adopted as an incentive for prompt advertising payment in order to make the free-to-air service viable.

For the Pay TV service, an initial \$30 per month subscription fee will be levied for the two channels. All subscription payments will be required in advance and incentives will be offered for advertising payment. Channel One of the Pay TV service will be devoted to entertainment where a mix of English and Hindi films will be screened while Channel Two will be devoted to sports. By the end of year one, the Pay TV service is expected to be available in about 51,000 homes in Fiji. For the free-to-air service, a 10 per cent local production content has been proposed. There will be news, current affairs, documentaries, sport, education for children and adults, children's programmes, religion, entertainment, drama and art. A Religious Advisory Panel is likely to be set up to provide consultancy advice on the content of religious programmes. Television rights will be secured for Fiji TV through satellite to a range of international news bulletins from United Kingdom and United States.

The service will also have access to news bulletins from Australia and New Zealand. The business plan said the expansion of the free-to-air service and the two Pay TV channels would improve the range of programmes and viewing choice. It said more Pay TV channels would be provided following government's approval. The Fiji government is also to benefit from the new service. Fiji TV is expected to pay government \$250,000 each year for the first three years of operation. Between the fourth to the sixth year, it is expected to pay \$1 million each year.

A review will be conducted later on the amount of operating fees for the sixth to the 12th year. According to the business plan's financial projections, Fiji TV is expected to lose \$8,079,530 for the first five years of operation and gain \$5,077,610 between year six to year 12 of the operation. Fiji TV is forecast to lose \$3,382,047 in the first year; \$1,950,702 in year two; \$1,381,633 in year three; \$923,998 in year four and \$441,150 in year five.

In year six, Fiji TV is forecast to gain \$46,088 in profit; \$458,943 in year seven; \$719,451 in year eight; \$846,895 in year nine; \$975,422 in year 10; \$1,024,240 in year 11 and \$1,006,571 in year 12. The business plan said about 40 per cent of the net profit would be paid out in dividends although such payments will not be made out until the company is on a sound financial footing. □

Loopholes in NZ's immigration policies

NEW ZEALAND is a country of immigrants. The Maori were the first settlers, establishing themselves as the *tangata whenua* in a succession of legendary canoe voyages from islands in the Polynesian Triangle many hundreds of years ago.

The Europeans began to come in the late 18th century and British settlement began in earnest after the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. Then came Australian goldminers and thousands of Chinese, also bent on prospecting for a fortune in the newly-found goldfields of the South Islands, followed by Dalmatians.

After a long period from the turn of the 20th century, during which immigration was largely restricted to British and Irish citizens, New Zealand's make-up began to diversify after World War II, with refugees from continental Europe joining Britons enticed here with the offer of free passages.

The country's ethnic balance and cultural base was changed dramatically with the arrival of Hungarian, Greek, Italian and Dutch immigrants.

Despite increasing numbers of newcomers from the Pacific Islands, New Zealand slowly but surely was transformed from a Polynesian land founded by the Maori into a European country.

Today, it is fast becoming like America's melting pot, with migrants from more than 100 different countries taking up residence here last year.

They were headed, as was traditional, by newcomers from Britain. But a new factor in the immigrant make-up was that the second largest source of migrants was South Korea, followed by Taiwan and Hong Kong. They in turn were followed by South Africans.

This year, the influx of South Africans, virtually all white and apparently fleeing the advent of black majority rule in their homeland, has gathered pace. From a monthly total of 68 in January 1993, their number rose to 487 in April, 1994.

In the 16 months since the start of 1993, 4412 South Africans moved here to start a new life.

New Zealanders who were beginning to get worried about the level of Asian immigration are now worried about the arrival of so many South Africans and what effect they might have on the country's multi-racial society.

These fears blew up with the arrival here of one Dr Jan Smith, one-time head of the South African chapter of an American organisation called the Church of the Creator which was reportedly dedicated to the supremacy of the white race.

Smith, New Zealanders were told, had written to his members back home — "The biological and cultural heritage of the white race is threatened by our deadly race enemies — Jews, kaffirs and the mud races."

WELLINGTON



DAVID
BARBER

Saying that in New Zealand would certainly have the man in trouble with this country's human rights laws. But he had not said it here and his application for permanent residence was approved without any check on his racist attitudes.

The case, the opposition and anti-racist groups said, highlighted a glaring hole in New Zealand's immigration policy. There is nothing in the policy that requires an immigrant's racial or political beliefs to be tested — applicants are not even interviewed, except for those applying under humanitarian, de facto relationship and some family reunification grounds.

Pacific island MP Taito Phillip Field was quick to draw a comparison

with the many Pacific Island people who he said faced stringent questioning when they sought permanent residence. Field said his constituency office was swamped with cases of Pacific Islanders treated unfairly by the Immigration Service. He cited the examples of young Samoan mothers deported as overstayers and forced to leave their children — either New Zealand citizens or legal residents — behind. The Court of Appeal has challenged this practice in an interim judgement, but at the time of writing the final outcome was unclear.

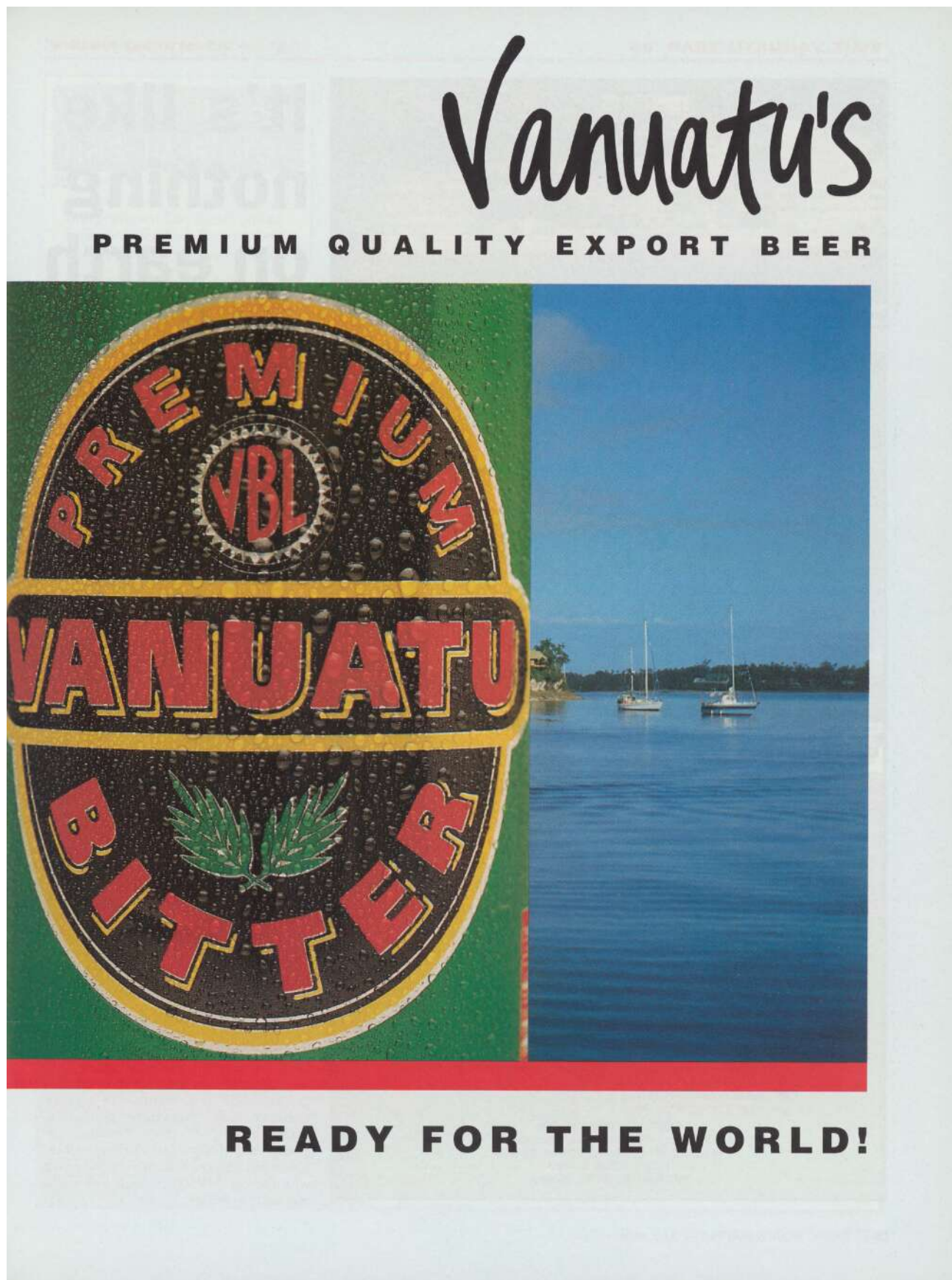
"I think all New Zealanders would be very concerned with the volume of white South Africans coming here in light of the fact they benefited from a racist regime which is now dismantled," Field said. "Rather than helping to build the new South Africa they're looking to run away and find other alternative places."

The government, which last revamped its immigration policy in 1991 with the express aim of wooing "quality migrants" from all over the world, has denied it is deliberately setting out to attract South Africans.

But observers said the policy, which is based on a points system, was designed to attract young university graduates and the whites who wanted to leave South Africa qualified easily.

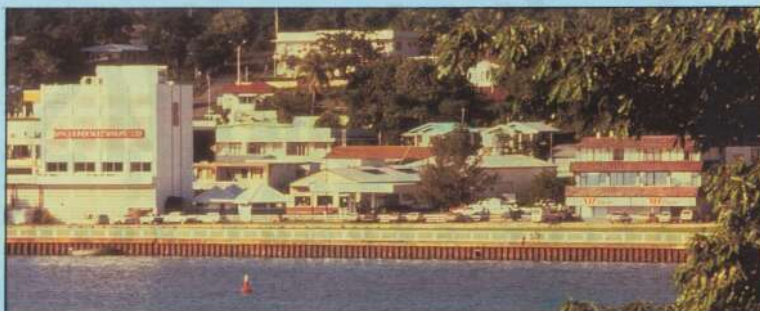
Immigration Minister Roger Maxwell ruled there were no grounds for revoking the residence permit of Jan Smith, who disavowed the remarks attributed to him anyway. But Maxwell directed staff to tighten up character checks on prospective immigrants.

New Zealand's immigration policies have always been controversial and seem to satisfy no one. In addition, the 1991 policy has singularly failed to meet the government's target of a 20,000 net gain in population every year. Yet another review of the policy is under way. New Zealanders, immigrants and prospective applicants await the outcome with interest. □



VISIT VANUATU YEAR '95

advertising feature



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It's like nothing on earth

UNDER the banner of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP), the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa are out to lure visitors by promoting the South Pacific as an affordable as well as desirable destination.

And in keeping with that joint effort 1995 has been declared Visit South Pacific Year with the slogan, The South Pacific Islands — Like Nothing on Earth. The aim of the comprehensive campaign is to increase awareness of the region and thereby attract more visitors.

Led by the council's director of marketing, Sakapo Lolohea, the council is focussing on attractively priced tour packages and innovative air passes that provide for savings

on regular air fares, plus the quality and intrinsic beauty of the natural cultural environment of their island nations.

Visit South Pacific Year 1995 has been promoted globally. Its debut launch, for the region, was held at the Pacific Islands News Association Convention in Suva last year. This was followed by launches in Europe (including Germany, Italy and London), United States (New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles), New Zealand and finally Melbourne and Sydney late last month at the Holiday and Travel Shows.

For Visit South Pacific Year the council has established the theme, South Pacific Environment — Natural and Socio Cultural, to convey the desire of member countries to conserve the delicate and natural habitats of their islands and the ancient cultures of their peoples.

The TCSP is a coalition of regional tourism offices. Associated airlines include Qantas, Air New Zealand, Air Pacific and Polynesian Airlines, whose scheduled services link the United States with the South Pacific, along with intra-regional operators. □



VISIT VANUATU YEAR '95

advertising feature

What Vanuatu has in store

JULY

- Kiwanis Horse Race
- Independence Day Celebrations
- Independence Cup Tournament
- Independence Fun Race (Yacht)

AUGUST

- Vanuatu Golf Open International Tournament
- Arts Festival (Santo)

SEPTEMBER

- Musket Cove to Vila Yacht Race

OCTOBER

- Constitution Day
- Agriculture Show

NOVEMBER

- International Petanque Tournament
- Game Fishing Tournament

DECEMBER

- Opening of Cultural Centre. □



Village life: Vanuatu maintains her cultural identity

Big boost for campaign

EARLIER this year Kodak gave the VSPY '95 campaign a major boost with \$40,000 worth of sponsorship.

The deal includes \$15,000 cash and \$25,000 worth of promotions. This will include the printing of posters and the VSPY '95 logo on two million packets of film to be distributed in Australia and the region. This will also cover the Excellence in Tourism awards which will be

given out next year at the Fiji Tourism Convention. Kodak's manager marketing operations Jim Alexopoulos, who met with TCSP representatives, said the posters would be printed and distributed in 10,000 retail stores across Australia.

"We are proud to be associated with the VSPY '95 programmes for promoting South Pacific countries and as a tourist destination," Alexopoulos said. □



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Spreading the word

SOME concern has been expressed at the lack of awareness of VSPY '95 on a regional level during the TCSP's annual general meeting and the South Pacific Tourism Conference in Tonga earlier this year.

In response to that concern which was repeated during subsequent meetings of the regional planning committee, the



TCSP's head of education and training, Jese Sikivou, has devised a training session that is being done as part of the hotel and catering

training programme in the region. "This has been a very real concern because we have found that there is a great lack of awareness in the region," Sikivou said. "The service providers should be the ones to know what is happening but they do not." These, Sikivou said, included the airport workers from the custom officials to the taxi



Vanuatu's white sandy beaches: a major tourist attraction

drivers.

"It is essential that all those involved in the programme are aware of the expectations of the visitor in order for VSPY '95 to be a success," Sikivou said.

He said it was a good opportunity for the host communities to make a contri-

bution to the way they wanted the industry to develop. "The whole premise of the TCSP is being done for the benefit of our member countries which have maintained that tourism is the best sustainable development alternative for the region," Sikivou said. □



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STAMPS OF VANUATU

The beautiful and exotic country of Vanuatu has some of the most colourful and fascinating stamps in the world.

They cover a broad spectrum of topics of interest to both new and established collectors. The stamps can be seen as windows to the nation of Vanuatu, revealing its customs and culture, fauna and flora, areas of development and the country's participation in international issues.

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VISIT VANUATU YEAR '95

advertising feature

Take in all the islands

THE Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP) in conjunction with the Association of South Pacific Airlines (ASPA) has jointly announced another important milestone in the South Pacific aviation history with the implementation of the Visit South Pacific Pass in connection with the Visit South Pacific Year '95 (VSPY) promotional campaign.

This multiple air pass will give overseas visitors to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands the opportunity to visit more island countries in the region. The pass will cover selected points in Australia, New Zealand and 10 other Pacific Island ports and will be available on the services of 10 airlines.

These airlines are members of ASPA



Traditional dress: visitors to Vanuatu can be assured of a feast of culture and tradition

and include Air Caledonie, Air Nauru, Air New Zealand, Air Niugini, Air Pacific, Air Vanuatu, Polynesian Airlines, Qantas, Royal Tongan Airlines and Solomon Airlines. ASPA had initiated the move in response to the

declaration of 1995 by TCSP as Visit South Pacific Year. According to George Faktaufon, secretary general of ASPA, the air pass was a major achievement for the region's carriers after some years of developing the concept.

While the pass is aimed primarily at promoting the Visit Year, the airlines had decided to make it effective from as early as April this year in order to give the overseas travel trade the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the airline services that are available in the region. The pass will be available to passengers originating from North America and Europe, and will be marketed and promoted by the airlines, their agents as well as TCSP at its overseas promotions.

The chairman of the VSPY '95 regional planning committee, Sakopo Lolohea, congratulated the ASPA for its support of the campaign adding the pass boosted the campaign by providing travel options for visitors from Europe and North America to all TCSP member countries during 1994 and 1995. □



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Sport & leisure facilities



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all this and more...*

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beaches overhung with coconut palms,
reaching down to tropical blue water?
Where would you find diving in coral
seas so clear and warm?

Where would you find top class
resorts featuring world class cuisine,
sporting activities, shows, casino and
night clubs?
Where would you find a live volcano
and ancient custom villages, fresh grown
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VISIT VANUATU YEAR '95

advertising feature

FOLLOWING the response to the adoption of the Regional Marketing Plan 1992-94 by the 1992 Ministers of Tourism Meeting in Suva and approval by the board and annual general meeting in 1993, the Tourism Council of the South Pacific Secretariat officially declared 1995 as Visit South Pacific Year (VSPY).

The year was designated to fall within the Pacific Regional Tourism Development Phase III activities aimed at boosting the region's collective promotional efforts in target market areas.

As a new regional tourism initiative VSPY '95 involves all member countries in an organised programme of special joint promotional and publicity activities leading to and including 1995.

As the theme suggests the environment will play an integral role in the development and conservation of the region's natural resources and is aimed at projecting the message of high environmental quality and attractiveness of the region's natural and cultural features, and the need to conserve and protect them.



It's objectives are:

- to develop and heighten awareness of the South Pacific as a distinct, regional entity;
- to promote the South Pacific as an affordable and value for money tourist destination;
- to increase visitor arrivals into the South Pacific from both the short-haul and long-haul markets;
- to enhance the image of the South Pacific and promote it as a distinct tourist destination;
- in conjunction with its 'South Pacific Tourism Year' create awareness and public understanding among citizens of member countries of the importance of tourism;
- to highlight the environment (both natural and socio-cultural) as an integral part in the development of tourism in the region; VSPY '95 will stress environmental quality and the need to conserve and protect it;
- to promote greater utilisation of the tourism resources within the region through sustainable development;
- to use VSPY '95 as a vehicle for economic development in the medium to long-term development of the industry and the economy at large within the TCSP member countries and specially the smaller member states; and
- to generate economies of scale and promote greater cohesion amongst the region's tourism partners through co-operative marketing.



Fruits and vegetables galore: roadside sellers in Vanuatu

Come visit the South Pacific

To achieve the above mentioned objectives a number of strategies were identified. These include joint promotions in selected overseas markets with the NTO's, regional bodies, and national

and regional carriers on the diverse attractions of the South Pacific.

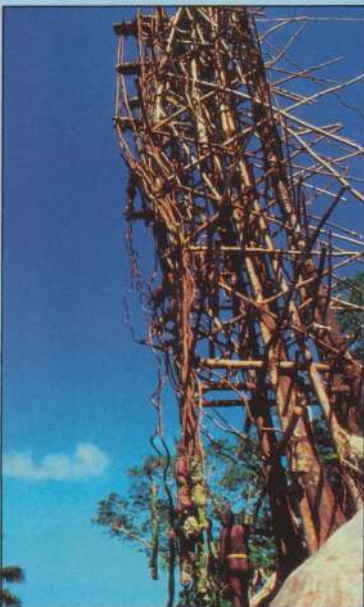
A Regional Planning Committee (RPC) has been set up to advise the TCSP which is responsible for the overall programme and co-ordination of VSPY '95.

It's membership comprises TCSP staff, regional airlines, the Association of South Pacific Airlines and selected members of the business community based in Fiji.

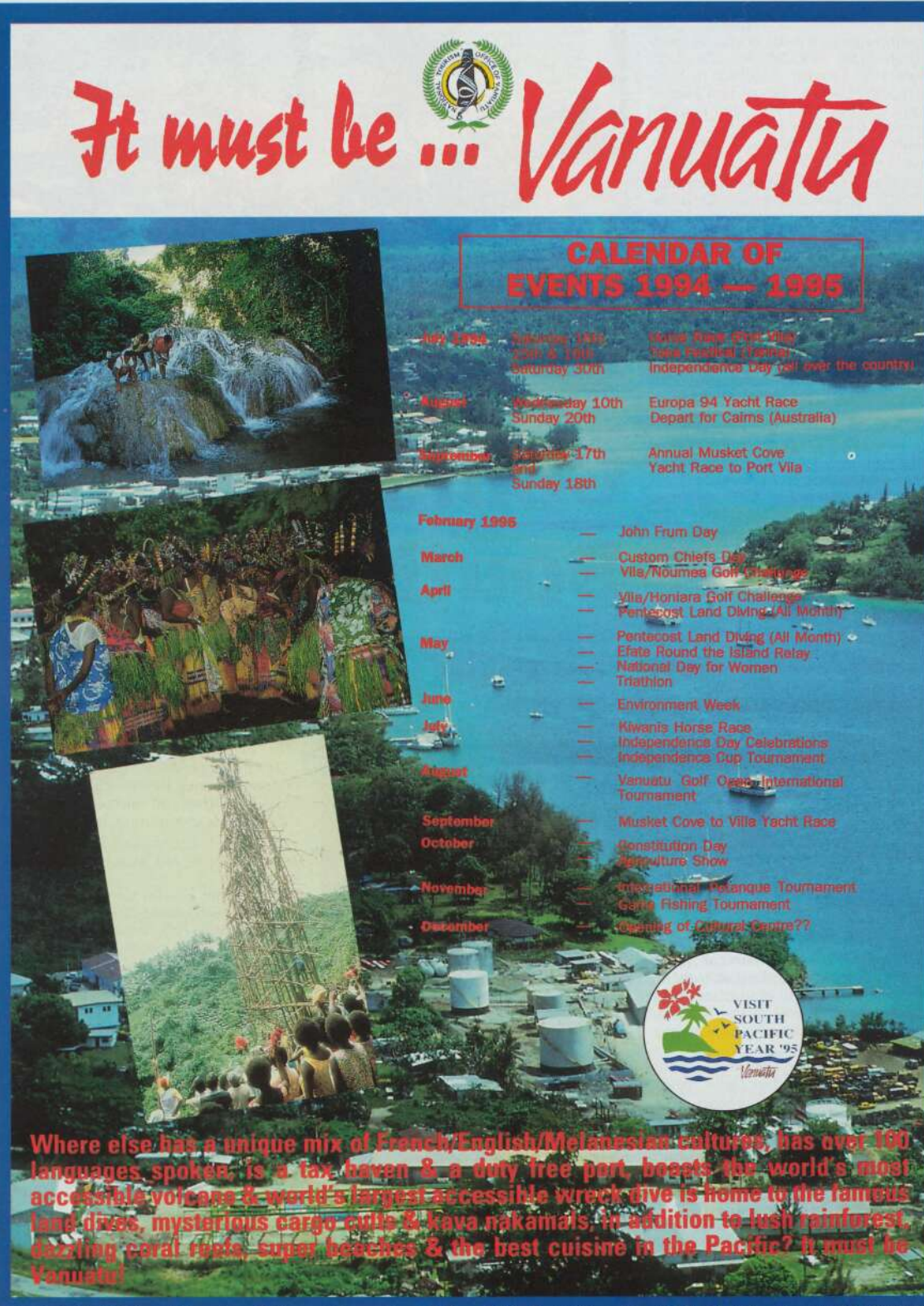
Other sub committees have also been set up to carry out individual activities. These are:

- Airline sub committee
 - Awards sub committee
 - Sponsorship sub committee
 - Launching sub committee
 - Promotional material sub committee
 - Hospitality Bank sub committee.
- While the TCSP has provided overall direction for VSPY '95 the actual implementation of the regional programme is being carried out in conjunction with the TCSP overseas representatives in London and Munich covering the United Kingdom, France, Benelux, Scandinavian countries and Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Spain respectively.

Other committees including the South Pacific Tourism Marketing Committee Sydney, the South Pacific Tourism Committee in Auckland and the South Pacific Promotional Group United States are carrying out similar functions to that of the TCSP overseas representatives. □



Bungee Jumping: this craze originates in Vanuatu



It must be ... Vanuatu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1994 — 1995

July 1994	Saturday 14th 24th & 15th Saturday 30th	Melina Beach Boat Race Kava Festival (Vatema) Independence Day (all over the country)
August	Wednesday 10th Sunday 20th	Europa 94 Yacht Race Depart for Cairns (Australia)
September	Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th	Annual Musket Cove Yacht Race to Port Vila
February 1995		— John Frum Day
March		— Custom Chiefs Day — Vila/Noimes Golf Challenge
April		— Vila/Moniara Golf Challenge — Pentecost Land Diving (All Month)
May		— Pentecost Land Diving (All Month) — Efate Round the Island Relay — National Day for Women — Triathlon
June		— Environment Week
July		— Kwanis Horse Race — Independence Day Celebrations — Independence Cup Tournament
August		— Vanuatu Golf Open International Tournament
September		— Musket Cove to Vila Yacht Race
October		— Constitution Day — Agriculture Show
November		— International Pelangue Tournament — Game Fishing Tournament
December		— Opening of Cultural Centre??

Where else has a unique mix of French/English/Melanesian cultures, has over 100 languages spoken, is a tax haven & a duty free port, boasts the world's most accessible volcano & world's largest accessible wreck dive is home to the famous land dives, mysterious cargo cults & kava nakamais, in addition to lush rainforest, dazzling coral reefs, super beaches & the best cuisine in the Pacific? It must be Vanuatu!

Contact the National Tourism Office of Vanuatu, PO Box 209, Port Vila - Ph: (678) 22685 - Fax: (678) 23889

VISIT VANUATU YEAR '95

advertising feature

What to expect

- Bowling Tournament, COOK ISLANDS;
- Masters Gold Tournament, COOK ISLANDS;
- Cable and Wireless Pacific Harbour Classics, FIJI;
- Constitution Day, FIJI;
- Shangri La Fijian Resort and Invitational Gold Pro-Am, FIJI;
- Bula Festival, FIJI;
- Savusavu Regatta Week, FIJI;
- Independence Day, KIRIBATI;
- Alele Week, MARSHALL ISLANDS;
- Marshall Islands Fishing Tournament, MARSHALL ISLANDS;
- 14th July Procession, NEW CALEDONIA;
- International Marathon, NEW CALEDONIA;
- Annual Provincial Celebrations (Milne Bay), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Annual Provincial Celebrations (Lae), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Simbu Show (Simbu Province), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Sogeri Singing (Port Moresby), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Cultural Day (Wewak), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;



In line with the theme: Vanuatu's lush green vegetation

- Arts and Crafts Exhibition (Lae), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Women's World Cup Soccer (Port Moresby), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Yam Harvest Festival (Trobriand Island), PAPUA NEW GUINEA;
- Isabel Province Day, SOLOMON ISLANDS;
- Music Festival — Independence (Honiara), SOLOMON ISLANDS;
- Tahiti Golf Pro-Am Tournament, TAHITI;
- Annual Heiva i Tahiti (Tahiti Festival), TAHITI;
- Firewalking Ceremony, TAHITI;
- Annual International Pro-Am Surfing Open, TAHITI;
- French Bastille Day, TAHITI;
- Annual 'Te Aito' Marathon Outrigger Canoe Races, TAHITI;
- Birthday Celebration of HM King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, TONGA;
- Independence Day Celebrations, VANUATU; and
- Independence Cup Tournament, VANUATU.



Vanuatu Commodities Marketing Board



The world's best kava is available in dried root or powdered form and packaged for export. Vanuatu kava is high in fibre, low in calories, has anti bacterial and anti fungal properties and is becoming increasingly popular overseas to ease stress and tension.

The Vanuatu Commodities Marketing Board is the sole authority for export of kava, cocoa and copra from Vanuatu.

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STRATEGIC PACIFIC, PILOT PROJECT, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY LEADING FIJIAN VILLAGE SEEKS MORE THAN "CRUMBS"

There are 200 FJI hotels. None are owned by indigenous Fijians.
THIS IS A PROJECT WHICH PLANS TO CHANGE THAT. IT AIMS TO BE FIJI'S 1st 100% INDIGENOUS OWNED AND MANAGED "SPECIAL INTEREST-ECOTOURIST-CULTURAL-SAFARI-HOTEL"

THE HOTEL, DURING CONSTRUCTION AND WHEN BUILT WILL OPERATE AS A TEACHING MODEL.

A \$6 million project to restore village to true cultural standard. The project will build next door a sister village with 50 chiefly bures as hotel to provide jobs, profits and keep tourist out of original village habitat. Operate regional tours. Teaching model for all Fiji communities seeking development and ongoing village income which conserves Fijian's rich heritage, culture and environments.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN READY TO START FOR 10 YEARS.

Global interest. Talk of world tourism and heritage conferences. D.A.'s given. Encouraged by FVB, NLTB, Provincial and Fiji Government but Fiji's Tourism Ministry, apparently oblivious to decline in appeal of old style hotel product and its culturally and environmentally disastrous affects on nearby villages, and the continuing foreign leakage of tourism income, turn their back on this "project for Fiji's future" and won't help. Located on magnificent, oceanfront and riverfront site in centre of Fiji's Coral Coast hotels. Sealed road, water, electricity, phone. Linked to 10 villages who can assist build, operate hotel in authentic cultural way.

REASON THAT OUTSIDE INVESTMENT WILL ASSIST GET THE PROJECT UNDERWAY.

Fiji's hotel funding institutions, FDB and FNPF retain colonial era rules limiting their lending to 70% of an indigenous project's cost. Major village has 16% equity in its plans, land and company but lacks 14% cash contribution (equal to hotel's 1st year's profits) to meet 30% equity requirement. Its a "chicken and egg situation" since no village has cash to meet requirement to borrow money to build hotel to earn cash to lay "golden egg" to meet FDB requirement. Result — no Fijian owned hotels and Fiji's tourism wealth continues to run away from Fiji & Fijians who enjoy only "crumbs from the tables" in tourism, their biggest industry.

INVESTOR WITH VISION NOW OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST \$860,000.

On secure & profitable terms. Lifetime free personal hotel usage offered. More business opportunities sure to flow to investor who seek funds this important pilot project. Please help. Vatukarasa Village, after 10 years waiting, deserves a project start.

**WRITE MARC AUSSIE-STONE, CHIEF PROJECT CONSULTANT, TOURISM INDUSTRIALISTS PTY LTD.
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Pacific "ECOTOURISM DESIGN" 94

SEMINAR — WORKSHOP — Sydney — Aug. 27-28. Cost \$250.

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Past Advisor to PNG Minister for Tourism. Past Board Member of FIJET. International Federation of Travel Writing Organisations, an affiliate of UNESCO. Keynote Speaker on "special interest cultural hotels" at Indian Hotel Association's Congress.

Originator of USA developed, multi billion dollar, "time sharing" resort ownership and interval exchange. Tourism Ministry development advisory guest of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Malawi, PNG and Zambia. Publisher and Editor of FUTURE TOURIST an indigenous tourism development design journal. Marc says it's long overdue to assist Pacific environments build hotels which complement their unique and beautiful culture, which don't impose the boring, box like, lonely and culturally disruptive, western designs of "yesterdays" hotels and which belong 100% to the Pacific Island peoples and are run by their supporting communities.

SEMINAR aims to fully discuss "ecotourism" and "ecotourist hotels" and introduce business, tourism, government, finance interests to land owners seeking to build, promote, manage ecotourist, special interest, cultural, safari hotels on their lands.

SEMINAR will identify speakers for 2nd World Indigenous Business Development Congress for New Mexico, USA, June 95, which is supporting ecodevelopment by USA Pueblo Indians, Canadian LI'wat Indians, Indigenous Hawaiians on Kauai, Fijians and Australian "Aboriginals". Future Business Ecodevelopment Congresses are planned for Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, UK.

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BOOKS

The days of old

By Michael Field

WHEN Samoan men and women want to argue about who is entitled to hold this or that chiefly title the spoils can go to the side which has managed to obtain a dog-eared, photocopied edition of a book written nearly a century ago by a German Imperial Navy doctor.

Those who cannot get a pirated copy fly to New Zealand where they pour over it in a reference library. Now, in what is likely to be a crucial, democratising event in Samoan culture, a new, English translation edition of volume one of Augustin Kramer's *The Samoa Islands*, first published as *Die Samoa Inseln* in 1902, has been republished. The first volume deals with the constitution, pedigrees and traditions of Samoa, while volume two deals with material culture.

Malama Meleisea, director of Pacific Studies at Auckland University, says the publication is important because of the way his work is used in the Lands and Titles Court which adjudicates chiefly disputes. "Having sat through a lot of lands and titles cases any mention of this book by a German doctor, people would sit up and react, 'oh yes, we've heard that'."

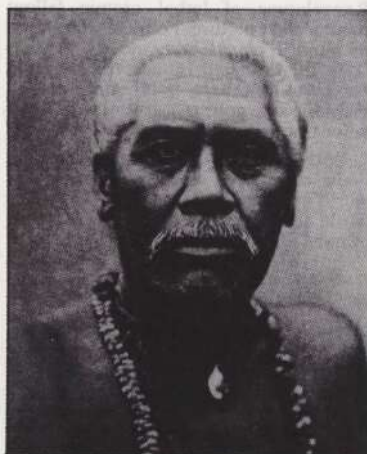
"It will have a tremendous effect now that it is freely available on the Lands and Titles Court situation. To some extent it will demystify the Kramer thing in the minds of Samoan people," Meleisea says much of Kramer's material is still useful. "One of the best things about it is that he tried to avoid putting any of his own interpretations on the material he collected."

Kramer was born in Chile in 1865 and grew up in Stuttgart. For family reasons he trained as a medical doctor but his heart was in wider sciences than that. For that reason he joined the German navy as a surgeon-major, then a globe spanning superpower, believing he could duplicate the celebrated naval travels of Charles Darwin.

In Hawaii he perceived Polynesians to be on the edge of extinction and so decided to record everything possible there was to know of them. Samoans were chosen, perhaps because they were less near the edge and because Germany was in effective control of what is today Western Samoa.

"It will take only a few decades till the South Seas isn't that peculiar area any more, separated from the world and civilisation ... all the natives become Christians and more and more of their originality is vanishing day by day."

Kramer felt Samoans were at an early stage of humanity while the superior



Mata'afa: he was opposed by other paramount chiefs

Germans, he believed, had a duty to record the fate of indigenous peoples. In the preface to his book he says he did not regret the time, effort and sacrifice because it would "contribute directly or indirectly to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the slowly dying-out peoples of the Pacific in the evening of their unique culture and philosophy of life". He said some old men from pagan times were still alive but overall he felt European science had missed the opportunity to record the original Samoan culture. "I hope that our sons won't damn us for not leaving systematic reports about Samoan culture but only some dispersed notes."

In 1893 Kramer got himself posted to a navy cruiser *Bussard* based in Apia. He observed and recorded what he could of Samoan culture, although critics of his work note he was never very systematic about it. He would simply collect information and would not try to put it into any kind of context. At one point he rented an Apia house where he admired the "charming character of the Samoans and their cleanliness and the dark skin of the slender-waisted girls".

Much of his time he tried to collect as many human bones as he could to send back to Germany, along with Samoan handicraft. He knew enough of Samoa to appreciate the highly structured nature of the society around him. Matai or chiefs came in varying grades and ranks and genealogy, involving centuries, and this was crucial to arguments over succession and land rights. These are encompassed in the fa'alupega or ceremonial greetings and gafa, genealogical pedigrees, oral treasures which define a Samoan. In

1897 Kramer obtained a notebook in which a missionary had written down extensive fa'alupega. The missionary did not want him to have it, but money changed hands and Kramer spent a night copying the notebook's contents.

"If I could find out the political organisation of Samoa this will be a very valuable aid. When I held this notebook with the meaningful writing in my hand, I knew that I must not give it back without having exploited it."

Other fa'alupega came into his possession in equally haphazard ways, and intriguingly this collection today has become one of the main authoritative guides, Samoa's answer to Burke's Peerage. Whether it is right or wrong now seems almost not to matter and most miss the irony of modern, independent Samoa's political structures being defined by a colonial German who believed he was writing a eulogy for the race. At the time of his work a power struggle, occasionally flaring into civil war, was underway with Germany, Britain and the United States backing chiefs for what the colonialists liked to call "kingship". Germany was backing Mata'afa — who also enjoyed the support at the time of another local writer, *Treasure Island* author Robert Louis Stevenson.

Opposing Mata'afa's claims were other paramount chiefs, Malietoa and Tamasese. The current Tupua Tamasese Efi, former prime minister and now leader of the opposition, has praised Kramer as a "highly competent ethnologist whose work is deservedly respected". In a paper for the Australian National University *Journal of Pacific History* he noted how many researchers and Samoans had become political partisans in the debate over titles and honours. "(Kramer) through the auspices of the German network in Samoa ... became a committed partisan in the Mata'afa cause ... Thus notwithstanding the acknowledged merit, Kramer's study is occasionally compromised."

The new translation is the work of a late Stanford University Germanic languages teacher Theodore Verhaar. The first translation into English was carried out in 1938, and like it and the original German editions have been photocopied hundreds of times. Meleisea, himself a Samoan, said he doubts a similar work could be written now. A Samoan would not probably be able to do it as other Samoans would be suspicious of the motives of those delving into family genealogy. Since Kramer Western anthropologists have tried, but some of them have ended up becoming more involved on a personal level in lands and title court cases. □

ENVIRONMENT

Fallout of another kind

By Barbara Ray

AS the Bikini Islands can attest, political clout, size, and strategic importance are the cards to hold in a world of super powers. The tales uncovered in recently released US classified documents of the now infamous Bravo atomic bombings on Bikini Island, the nuclear experiments on less fortunate American citizens, and failure to warn the downwind

Rongelapese of lethal atomic fallout paint a clear picture. Political trifles have no hand to play. Today, nearly 50 years later, the Marshall Islands, the Johnston Atoll, and others, still marginal in Washington politics, are experiencing fallout of another kind.

With fatalistic logic, the islands are being considered as the solution to the world's nuclear waste problem. Why not, world leaders suggest, use those distant islands as dump sites for the nuclear

waste. After all, they reason, many are already contaminated; uninhabitable for centuries to come.

As incendiary as this sounds, not all the islanders are opposed to such an idea. Bikini Islanders are being courted by waste management companies and are seriously considering the proposals. In need of a constant stream of money to complete the cleanup of their native island, the Bikinians see the Energy Department's promise of \$50 million a year for 20 years in exchange for storing radioactive material on already contaminated Nam as the optimum solution. Although the Bikinians manage a \$100 million trust fund, set up by the US government to compensate for their loss, total clean-up costs exceed their revenues. While Bikini makes plans for its future, other Pacific Islands have already been reborn.

Kalama, on Johnston Atoll, remote and uninhabited, falls into the last category. In 1990, US President George Bush and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl agreed to begin moving US chemical weapons out of Germany. Johnston Atoll was marked as the first site for incineration of these weapons. The US army today monitors the site on the island of Kalama. Civilian personnel, the majority recruited from Hawaii, man the plant, with no recourse to collective bargaining.

According to Guam delegate Robert Underwood, the move to Johnston angered many in the Pacific, and he has monitored the situation from its inception. He recently learned that on March 23, 10 milligrams of nerve gas were accidentally released into the air at Kalama. Department of Defense reports claim that the release posed no health risk. Underwood notes that the leak was 10 times the level allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, he is still waiting for the actual data in order to determine the health risk. The leak, according to Underwood, confirms suspicions that the facility was not being adequately monitored. He has been asking for research into the weapons burning plant on Johnston since May 1993, but none has been forthcoming. At a hearing before the Armed Services Sub-committee on Military Installation in May of 1993, deputy assistant secretary of the army, Lewis Walker, admitted to Underwood that there have been problems with the incinerator, but he could not be specific.

Whether the army will admit to any problems is questionable, according to Underwood. "The army is under pressure to show that Johnston works. If Johnston doesn't work out, the eight other chemical weapon incinerators planned for the US mainland may meet resistance," he said. □

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ENVIRONMENT

By Liz Thompson

Wildlife worry

IN 1991, the World Wildlife Foundation and Papua New Guinea's Department of Environment and Conservation initiated a comprehensive review of the management of nature protection within PNG.

The country is the world's largest tropical island nation and the richest in flora and fauna of all the Pacific islands and Pacific rim countries. The remarkable diversity it houses has been increasingly threatened by enormous population growth and massive resource exploitation. While Papua New Guinean society previously had a balanced and sustainable relationship with the natural environment, these changes have meant that the organised conservation of nature in PNG is becoming a serious issue, in fact, it must become a priority.

However, as is the case in many developing countries, the community has always had a utilitarian relationship with the natural environment. The fact that they live within it and utilise it as a source of food and shelter means that an essentially western notion of conservation, as in the protection of wilderness from human activity, is entirely inappropriate here. Paul Chatterton has been working for the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) helping them to establish a Community Resource Conservation programme (CRC) in PNG in conjunction with the National Alliance of Non-Government Organisations (NANGO) and various NGO groups.

One of the most important issues has been to determine a method and approach towards conservation which is in keeping with the communities' utilitarian needs. Most people still live in a rural environment and are dependent upon nature for their survival.

NANGO representative Vincent Manukayasi points out that many Papua New Guineans "do not feel that the establishment of conservation areas where traditional landholders are marginalised or treated as passive objects of conservation is a viable strategy for the protection of bio-diversity. Mutually beneficial relationships between humans and their biological environment which have been part of PNG life for thousands of years should be respected and strengthened in both the conservation needs assessment process and active conservation process. Traditional landholders should be involved in all stages of projects as active agents of conservation".

However, the two areas to be addressed, that is the problem of increased population and greater pressure on the land and its resources and the fact of massive resource exploitation, often by multi-national companies, are quite dif-

ferent problems. The CRC in its outlined agenda may well serve to alleviate the environmental problems resulting from increased population but will face much greater difficulties in the area of resource exploitation.

Both WWF and NGO groups appreciate that if landowners are to become involved in conservation practices one of the first steps is to raise general awareness as to the long term implications of environmental damage. The idea of the CRC programme is to assist landowners in community resource planning and management activities. Through a network of regional NGO's and outreach

traditional knowledge of flora and fauna with modern scientific information and guidelines for conservation will be established in response. Communities may receive assistance in the form of technical advice, training, small grants and help in securing capital if the conservation ideas involve improvements in food production or cash generating enterprises.

These objectives are admirable and hopefully achievable and to a degree contribute to promoting conservation methods relative to the local inhabitants activities. They do not, however, manage to realistically address the massive environmental problem of resource exploitation.

While education and raised awareness through meetings and workshops between NGO's and landowners will undoubtedly help inform people as to the long term and often devastating consequences of forestry and mining activities they will not adequately address the economic needs of the people. While living in rural environments, people have entered a cash econ-



Awareness tool: a Papua New Guinean theatre group puts on a play about logging

units, participating communities and landowners will be provided with assistance. A series of workshops are planned by WWF and NANGO under the title 'Strategies for Community Conservation'. Its objective will be to assess how local and community group conservation activities can best be encouraged and strengthened.

Approximately 30 local groups will take part in the CRC programme across six regions in Papua New Guinea over a three-year period. The idea is that in being involved the community will compile information on its resource base and the local environment from this, along with the assistance of NGOs and programme support units the community will develop its own policy and guidelines for using, managing and conserving its natural resources.

Planned projects may involve for example, restrictions on types, methods, times or seasons for wildlife harvesting. The CRC with its networking between WWF, NGO's and landowners will hopefully allow for an exchange of

omy and are keen to receive an income. Environmentalists' hopes of establishing butterfly farms, and various other non-timber forest produce industries are admirable but extremely difficult to organise and maintain. The control and regulation of the kind of environmental damage that has been inflicted through resource exploitation in PNG must to a large extent, ultimately be controlled by government restrictions and perhaps encouragement of alternative methods of resource exploitation such as well managed walks about sawmills.

It is essential to address the economic motivation which leads landowners to sell their land to logging and mining concessions if environmental protection is to be taken seriously. These sorts of government initiatives in conjunction with the CRC would go a long way in relieving the environmental problems being experienced in PNG.

● This article draws extensively from a WWF concept summary sheet discussing the establishment of a PNG Community Resource Conservation programme. □

POHNPEI/ MARSHALL ISLANDS

Land: a hot issue

By Tom Panholzer

LAND leasing is a hot topic throughout the Pacific as developing island states attempt to find a happy medium between controlling their land and attracting development on the land.

Pohnpei, in the Federated States of Micronesia, is no different than the rest of the Pacific, and its legislators are studying an amendment to its constitution to change its current land leasing legislation. Currently land may be leased for only 25 years. If amended, land could be leased for 55 years with options. If the legislation goes through, and smart money in Pohnpei bets it will, it is thought that this will attract investors who normally would not invest for shorter terms.

One recently formed company, LandSource, hopes to assist Pohnpeians find lessors for land owners. Owned by Mark Lindlow and his wife, Jean, LandSource, located in Kolonia Town, was created to act as a real estate agent, list available land, market, and attract investors.

Poisonous snake found

THE arrival of snakes to Pohnpei Island is a constant worry and islanders here work hard to keep the island snake-free. This is why alarm was quickly spread from the radio station in early March when fishermen captured a live sea snake on the shoreline in Madolenihmw municipality in the east of the island.

The 18-inch snake was identified as a yellow bellies sea snake by scientists at the College of Micronesia — FSM science department. Don Buden, the college's biology instructor, said the snake was highly poisonous.

Hope for 24-hour water service in rural areas

"WATER, water everywhere, but barely a safe drop from a faucet to drink in the country side," has been uttered often on this rain rich island, but change might be coming in the not too distant future.

Now that Pohnpei State capital, Kolonia Town, has 24-hour water service throughout 100 per cent of the area, a concentrated effort is underway by the

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation (PUC) to give 24-hour safe-water service to the rural areas, according to Dan Perin, economic planning consultant to PUC.

"About 70 per cent of the out-patient load at our hospital is because of water related problems," said Perin. Hence the push to bring safe drinking water to the entire island. Historically the effort has focused on bringing safe drinking water to Kolonia Town, and this has now been achieved.

"It's not perfect yet," admits Perin, "but the pipes no longer have a vacuum in them sucking in impurities from the surrounding ground." Perin said the



Help at hand: the new ice plant at Pohnpei

attention was being directed to obtaining some United States Farmer's Home Administration community development programme money. "We're in the first step of the process and that is to go to each rural community and have the people there make two decision," Perin explained that the communities must decide if they wanted PUC to run the system and if they wanted to participate in a Farmer's Home Administration rural water programme.

New ice plant for ships

THE Pohnpei Fisheries Corporation (PFC) has a new ice plant to service the ever growing fleet of long liners beginning to operate out of Pohnpeian waters.

The plant will be able to store 200 tonnes of ice and produce 52 tonnes a day, said James Movick, PFC chief executive officer. Semco from Texas put the plant in with the assistance of PFC employees.

According to Willie Jackson, PFC consultant/chief engineer, the plant will be able to send ice to five different discharge stations at the touch of a button.

Ancient village discovered

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in late February found what they believe to be the oldest, largest, and best preserved of all the known ancient villages in the Marshall Islands.

Found on Kaven Island in Maloelap Atoll 170 kilometres north of Majuro, the island republic's capital, the site was thought to be about 1800 years old, said Marshall Weisler, chief archaeologist of the Marshall's Historic Preservation Office.

According to Weisler, excavations uncovered coral pavements, shell adzes and ornaments, and food remains of fish such as parrat fish, squirrel fish, snappers, eels, and groupers. Dog and pig remains were also found. Archaeologists collected more than 100 artifacts and more than 25 pounds of food shellfish for analysis, said Weisler.

Pohnpei gets new power plant

POHNPEI Utilities Corporation (PUC) now has more electricity capacity than its current 3300 customers need and will not need another power plant until after the turn of the century thanks to its new power plant at Nanponmahl just outside Kolonia Town, said David Morgan, PUC general manager.

Morgan said the new plant had four generators, each producing 2500 kilowatts at 600 RPM giving a total of 15 to 20 megawatts when PUC's other plant was included. Current customer demand was 6.5 megawatts, said Morgan.

Meanwhile, the PUC is willing to sell Majuro one million gallons of water a day at \$1.50 per 1000 gallons. "We now have plenty of water," said Morgan. He said he understood that some people on Majuro were thinking about building a desalination plant.

"That's very expensive, and it uses a tremendous amount of energy. Someone from there should look into buying water from us. It might be a lot cheaper. I don't know what the shipping cost would be but the PUC could sell them a million gallons a day for \$1.50 per thousand gallons." □

SPORT

The Fijian threat

By Shailendra Singh

THE French Polynesian national soccer team recently discovered that Fiji may be more of a threat at the 1995 South Pacific Games than earlier perceived.

This was revealed during the team's three-match Fiji tour in May. The South Pacific champions failed to win any of the matches, including one against a district side. The Polynesians arrived feeling confident after their comfortable 3-0 win over Fiji in the South Pacific Mini Games final last December.

They returned disappointed with a 2-2 draw in the first test in Suva on May 23 and a 2-0 loss in Lautoka two days later. The result was an unexpected surprise for Fiji officials. They had just expelled six players from the national team on the eve of the first test as punishment for returning to camp late after being released to represent their districts. French Polynesia has always had an upper hand over Fiji. The loss was only its second to Fiji and the first one while on tour in the country.

In its opening match on May 21, the side was held to a 1-1 draw by host Labasa in Vanua Levu, the second largest island in the Fiji group. The visitors had badly wanted to win the match to avenge a 3-1 loss inflicted by Labasa on the 1985 French Polynesia touring party. The 1985 loss was painful, not only because it was to a provincial team but also because prior to that, French Polynesia had a clean slate against Fijian teams, including the Fijian national team.

French Polynesia can take heart from the fact that Fiji is always difficult to beat at home. Even Australia and New Zealand, the regional soccer giants, have been beaten when touring Fiji.

The French will take further comfort from the fact that they will host the 1995 SPG. And they get a chance to even things up when Fiji makes a reciprocal tour in January next year, seven months before the SPG. Both teams are putting in a lot of preparation for the SPG.

Fiji will be defending the gold medal it won at the 1991 SPG in Papua New en route to scoring a historic 3-1 over French Polynesia.

French Polynesia gets soccer scare on recent tour

While it will not be happy with the results achieved in Fiji, French Polynesia made quite an impression on Fijian soccer fans with their stylish game. It played a neater, more-controlled pattern with short passes and sudden breaks



The heat is on: French Polynesia failed to beat Fiji in two matches during its May tour there

compared to the fast, aggressive and kicking pattern seen in Fiji.

In the opening match against Labasa, the Temarri Reynald captained side had little problem breaking through Labasa's defence. With capable strikers in Jean-Loup Rousseau and Labaste Hiro, who took many shots at goal, French Polynesia was unlucky not to have scored more often in all three matches.

In Labasa, the heat and the crowd was a bother, according French Polynesia assistant coach, Eric Henry. His team is used to playing at night, under flood-

lights. In Labasa, the game was at 2pm and temperatures did not favour the visitors. The bustling host team, spurred on by their vocal 6000 supporters, started gaining the upper hand towards the later stages. It forced a penalty which was successfully converted and almost handed French Polynesia its second defeat if not for some good goalkeeping by Laurent Heinis.

In the first test, it appeared as if French Polynesia was headed for its second loss, being down 2-0 after Fijian striker Radike Nawalu scored twice.

Untiring efforts paid off when the side scored twice in six minutes in the last quarter to rescue the match. Fiji defenders paid the price for being too cocky and holding on to the ball, allowing the opposition to make an intercept. From there, French Polynesia's one-touch football enabled Maheanue Gatien to score. Reynald, who has played in France and Australia, slotted in the second goal minutes later amid confusion in front of the Fiji goal. In the final test, the genius of Nawalu won Fiji the game. The slightly built footballer, who comes from Nadroga in the Western part of Fiji, beat Heinis twice more, taking his total to four goals in the series.

French Polynesia suffered the first setback only two minutes into the game. Nawalu's second goal came after he collected a free-kick and ploughed in from close range. Nawalu, who has also played in Australia, is an old enemy of French Polynesian defenders, having also scored a goal against them in Fiji's 1991 SPG win. With his five goals, he has the best record of any Fiji striker against French Polynesia.

With its win, Fiji has made French Polynesia sit up and take notice. It has won back some respect following the Mini Games loss.

Its likely that the same set of French Polynesia and Fiji players will be squaring off in January and at the SPG in August. Officials from both sides indicated that they do not want to upset the balance and the teams will see little change.

Barring upsets, the two sides are likely to meet in the SPG final. It will be a much anticipated clash. Both teams have scores to settle against each other. □

SPORT

W Samoa downs Tonga in qualifier

APIA, AFP — Darling of world rugby Western Samoa escaped with a 32-19 win over Pacific Island neighbour Tonga in a Super Ten tournament qualifying match at Apia last month. A fellow 1995 World Cup qualifier, Tonga, underlined its improving standard by outscoring Manu Samoa three-tries-to-two.

Five eighth Elisi Vunipola, who had two brothers in the Tongan team, pressured the Samoans with early tactical kicking. From a line-out close-in, Tonga's forwards drove twice allowing Vunipola to stroll over for a try in the ninth minute. Western Samoa made infrequent forays into the Tongan half, but once rewarded with

penalties five eighth Darren Kellett kicked home, allowing his team to maintain a tenuous lead. And, an untidy line-out turned into a try for Manu Samoa when a passing movement by its flat-footed backs was finished off by fullback Anitelea Aiulupo, speeding up outside winger Brian Lima to score in the corner.

Tonga replied with a try to Feao Vunipola, initiated by a ball hoisted up by his brother and halfback Manu Vunipola. Manu Samoa captain Peter Fatiafalo described the win as "lucky" with Tonga's loose forwards beating them to the ball, and "two soft tries" being given away. □

Rugby nightmare

By Shailendra Singh

FIJI'S rugby union nightmare continued into the new season with the national team's Japan/New Zealand tour in May/June. The side won six out of 11 matches but lost those that mattered most.

The most upsetting result would have to be the two tests lost to Japan — 22-29 and 8-20. Only a few years ago, this would have been unimaginable. In 1990, Fiji was invited to Japan to help the country develop its game. The visitors swept through unbeaten on a three-match tour, thrashing Japan 32-6 in a one-off Test.

The defeats in Japan were a further blow to Fiji's rugby image, which has taken a battering over the last decade. It was more pain pill for the rugby-crazy nation after Fiji's failure to qualify for the 1995 World Cup, this year's Super 10 series and the Honk Hong Sevens loss. Reacting to the Japan loss a day later, Suva lawyer and former FRFU chairman, Barrie Sweetman, said — "To be realistic about today's situation, a lot of Fiji people won't be surprised. I think the result just indicates the amount of work Japan has put into its game and the extent to which we have neglected ours." Officials tried to quieten the furor created by Fiji's first loss by saying Japan was lucky to win with Fiji having dominated the game and missed a number of easy tries. There were no excuses forthcoming after the second loss.

Wins over Japan Universities (22-21), Japan A (24-18 and 20-9) were mostly unimpressive and overshadowed by the test losses. Former test player and national coach Ilaitia Tuisese best summed up the mood of the nation when he said — "I'm quite sad that we have lost to Japan. I really don't know



Heading downhill?: Fiji players during national trials this year

where we are going from here." In was an indication of Fiji's low rating that no Division One side had been pitted against it in New Zealand. Fiji won three and lost three games in New Zealand. The side beat Division Three outfits Thames Valley and East Coast 35-16 and 62-6; lost 26-36 to Division Two side, Bay of Plenty and 5-11 to NZ Universities. The Fijians regained some respectability by thrashing Horowhenua 42-25 before a spirited display against the New Zealand Maoris despite losing 34-13. The sport's demise is being largely blamed on Fiji Rugby Football Union (FRFU) chairman Tom Vuetilovoni and his administration.

Critics say they have failed to introduce new policies and development plans to keep pace with changes taking place worldwide. Another respected Fijian rugby figure, Inoke Tabualevu, praised Fiji effort against the Maoris but did not spare the FRFU.

"If I was in and I wasn't producing the goods, I would not like to hold on. I'd give somebody else a chance," said Tabualevu, who coached Fiji to its last major victory over the British Lions (25-21) in 1977. □

There's

By Atama Raganivatu

PERHAPS the time has come for a scientific analysis to be made of Namatakula's *kava* to determine if it contains a secret ingredient responsible for developing highly gifted rugby players! The small village, situated on Viti Levu's west coast, had already produced a crop of excellent footballers renowned throughout Fiji before its current favourite son, Noa Nadruku, gained fame and fortune in Australian rugby league. Now, it can take pride as the home of the 1994 Hong Kong Sevens' most influential player — Luke Erenavula.

Erenavula and Nadruku are cousins. They spent many of their pre-teen days playing rugby together in Namatakula and forged a friendship that remains strong. Erenavula was a centre then, playing alongside second five Nadruku. However, due to the former's size he was drafted into the back. This only led to him being continually isolated as his slower fellow forwards failed to keep up with play. By the time he commenced playing senior rugby, Erenavula was on the wing where he has remained.

After gaining notice with some exhilarating performances while playing for his club (Warwick) and district (Nadroga), the lanky coral coaster was selected for Fiji's team that travelled to the 1988 Honk Kong Sevens. He experienced mixed fortunes in the Crown Colony that year and, due to the incredible depth of talented sevens players amongst his compatriots, was not called upon during the Fijians' remarkable hat trick of successes between 1990 and 1992.

The Fijian Rugby Union began to regard him purely as a fifteen-a-side specialist and it was a game of rugby's traditional, elongated, variety that changed Erenavula's life. An exceptionally strong performance for Fiji against Scotland at Edinburgh's historic Murrayfield stadium was captured on video tape by a Suva-based friend of Rod Ketels, a former All Blacks who coaches the Pukekohe club in New Zealand. Ketels received the tape along with a note suggesting he try to recruit the long-striding Erenavula.

Ketels was duly impressed and, having been assured of worthwhile employment and accommodation, Erenavula and his wife, Jimaima, moved to New Zealand in 1992. It didn't take him long to graduate from club to inter-provincial rugby. Counties coach Ross Cooper was

no looking back for Luke

awe-struck by the fleet footed Fijian's display during a local sevens tournament. "He cut everyone to pieces that day," Cooper recalls. "I realised then that I had to ease him into our representative squad." Once established in the Counties team, Erenavula quickly made his presence felt.

Word of several electrifying performances for the south Auckland-based provincial combination filtered back to Fiji and, during a brief holiday, Erenavula accepted an invitation to play for Waisale Serevi's all-conquering Nabua sevens team. He helped the "Maroons" enhance their already incredible record in domestic competitions and, in doing so, won a recall for Fiji's party for the Canberra and Hong Kong sevens tournaments in March of last year.

He played in the Australian federal capital but, due to a most unfortunate communications breakdown, missed the trip to Hong Kong. Erenavula still insists today he had ensured Fijian Rugby Union officials that he was available for international rugby's most eagerly anticipated weekend, while the FRU are equally adamant this was not the case. After failing in their endeavours to make contact with him, they enlisted another New Zealand-based player — Paula Bale — as his replacement.

As a result, an infuriated Erenavula was left stranded at Nadi Airport while his former teammates jetted towards Asia. He vowed never to play for Fiji again and, there and then, switched allegiance to New Zealand. We will never know how the Fijians would have fared in Hong Kong with Erenavula in their ranks, but they were in desperate need of his flair when Western Samoa subdued them in the final.

Erenavula immediately put that false start to the 1993 season behind him. His 22 tries were instrumental in Counties winning the National Championship's Second Division and another six during an internal tour by the New Zealand

Nadroga-born star sets his sights on high honours

Divisional XV (comprised of leading players from the championship's lower grades) brought his total to 28 — just two short of the all time record held by 1950s All Black Ron Jarden. Many of those tries were poached through opportunist interceptions followed by long sprints down the wings. The sight of Erenavula scampering towards the tryline with several hapless opponents in his wake became commonplace.

However, the campaign did contain

inevitable reward.

At Hong Kong, Erenavula proved just as irresistible. In the final against Australia he scored one try, created two more and made a try-saving tackle. Although not the official Player of the Tournament (that honour went to teammate Glen Osborne), he received special praise from his coach Gordon Tietjens and was adjudged his side's top individual performer by the New Zealand Press Association.

Now, the 28-year-old is eyeing a place in his adopted country's squad for next year's World Cup. Due to his exploits in March, he will certainly be watched closely by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union's selectors and, with Counties in Division One this season, there will be plenty of opportunities to impress. Erenavula's resolve to prove



Striding out: Erenavula playing for New Zealand's All Blacks in this year's Hong Kong Sevens

one more black spot. Selected for an All Blacks trial on a cold, wet and windy day, Erenavula experienced a nightmare match, his hands letting him down on several occasions.

Having let this initial chance of gaining All Black honours slip, literally, through his fingers, Erenavula was determined to grab the opportunity to force his way into the Kiwi's sevens selection when it arose. The 1994 National Sevens Tournament, staged immediately before the naming of a squad for Hong Kong, acted as a trial and provided an ideal stage for the Fijian to display his skills. He was in scintillating form, as Counties won the title in a canter. A trip to the territory was an

aberration is beyond question and there are many hoping he will succeed. His amiability off the field (Cooper describes him as "a special, gentle, lovely guy") as well as prowess on it have won him a legion of fans.

Last year, a large sign was erected adjacent the road on Namatakula's outskirts proclaiming the village as the home of Noa Nadruku. Perhaps, after the World Cup, another sign with Erenavula's name on it will be constructed alongside.

● As this edition went to press, Erenavula switched to rugby league after he was dropped from the final New Zealand All Black trials in Napier last month. □

YACHTING

Fellowship gets warm welcome on her Return to Raga

By Sally Andrew

"FISH lips," I muttered. There was nothing but a large pair of fish lips (with a bit of gill for colour) attached to the lure. Maybe we'd be luckier next time.

I rolled up the fishing line and put it away. We entered the bay and were almost ready to go through the pass at Lolong in northern Vanuatu. I went forward and dropped the jib, then folded the mainsail and secured it. With the engine running, we lined up the range and *Fellowship* entered the harbour. After watching the anchor dig into the white sand, we rowed ashore. Everyone was surprised. "Mitufala tink se yutufala no kambak!" Philip was glad to see us, and his Rachel was in tears. We had returned to Raga.

Philip guided us to his Tiare Restaurant. Constructed as a roundhouse of traditional (kastom) material and newly opened for Pentecost's Island Government Day celebrations in September, it had screens on the windows, fresh flowers on the main post, and gaily-coloured lavalavas hanging from the rafters. As we sat inside, many people stopped in to welcome us back.

That night Philip served us *kava*, and then his wife Juliet brought us some *smol kakae* from her kitchen — chicken, pawpaw and manioc in creamy coconut milk, and coffee. We stayed ashore until after dark, telling Philip where we'd been, listening to all the local gossip, and best of all, planning a fishing trip.

At Lolong, the village gardens are way up in the hills. Everyday families climb the steep hill to plant, weed and harvest their crops. Foster joined Philip on a trip to collect taro and yams for a ceremonial pig-killing later in the week. I stayed behind: "It's a long way up to the gardens, too far for you." It truly was a long way, as I later discovered! Foster dug up assorted big roots, planted taro and learned how to weed. Rachel cooked him a big bush lunch of laplap made

from grated yams poured into a length of bamboo lined with a leaf and cooked over an open fire. At the end of the day, they came down the hill with taro hung from poles balanced on their shoulders.

On Sunday we attended the Anglican church service. A kastom building with open windows and hard wooden benches, it was filled with people, kids in front. Chickens ran around outside, scratching the earth. The service was conducted in three languages and after a short reading in soft-spoken English, it continued first in Raga (the local dialect), then in Bislama. After the service, Mark made a speech on behalf of

takings, births, marriages and deaths. In Raga, mats and pigs are the traditional mediums of exchange, local cash.

At noontime we were taken to the Tiare Restaurant where the Vatulo String Band set up their equipment — bongos, ukulele, three guitars, a homemade string-bass, maracas. Flower leis were placed around our necks, and with all the extended family and friends nearby, the band started playing. Much to our surprise and delight they had written a song about our arrival in Lolong last season. "Gud felaship nambawan — Good *Fellowship* Number One!" We were absolutely thrilled — we had been immortalised in the island's oral culture.

Later in the afternoon, we held open house on board *Fellowship* and had many visitors come aboard. Over cups of tea, biscuits and sections of Santo grapefruit, we shared photos of our families in Canada. We had a hard time explaining, in Bislama, wintertime in Montreal — frozen lakes, trees with no leaves and all that snow.

The following morning we took some friends from the village fishing. With an easterly breeze blowing off the land, we headed north towards the channel between Pentecost and Maewo. None of the guys had been to Maewo before, even though they spoke the same Raga language and had relatives living there. We decided to visit the village of Asanvare, at the south end of Maewo, and anchor for lunch. Foster and I stayed aboard *Fellowship* while Philip, Luke and Derek rowed the dinghy ashore to meet the local chief and to see the waterfall.

Later, after we returned to Lolong, we heard a rumour that at Asanvare, Philip, Luke and Derek — "the dark-skinned people who arrived by yacht" — were mistaken for Africans. It was only after Philip and his friends had set foot ashore and said "Ranthe Vua" that the locals on the beach realised their mistake. Their exotic visitors had come only from as far away as the next island. □



Time for a break: Philip and Foster relax on the foredeck en route to Maewo

his congregation welcoming us as travelers and as friends. Outside the church door, we shook hands with absolutely everyone, young and old, and exchanged *Ranthe vua's*, kisses, hugs, and tears.

As soon as I could, I bought a small dictionary of the Raga language. It was a big help since everyone was trying to teach me the language of northern Pentecost. Like a small child I would point to a pig and say *boe* or a chicken, *toa*. There were smiles all round on my great strides in mastering the local language.

We visited inside Mark's house. Although the floors of most cooking huts in the village were earthen, Mark's was concrete — with a large hole cut through to the dirt for the cooking fire! A big basket hung on the wall and contained the beautiful red mats known as *bwana*. These soft mats are exchanged at grade-

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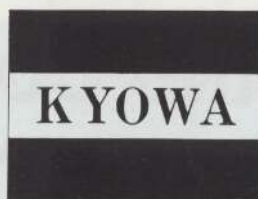
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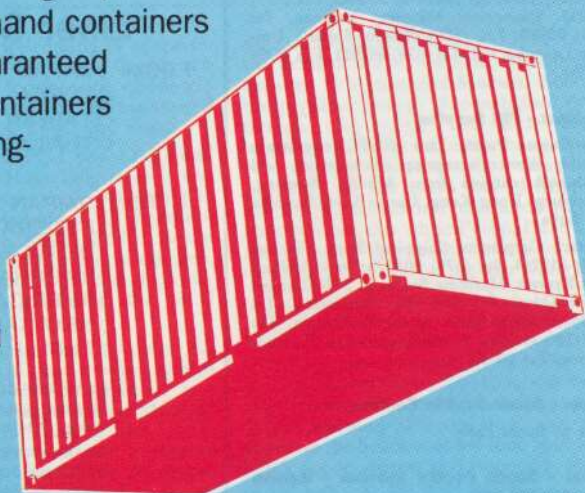
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