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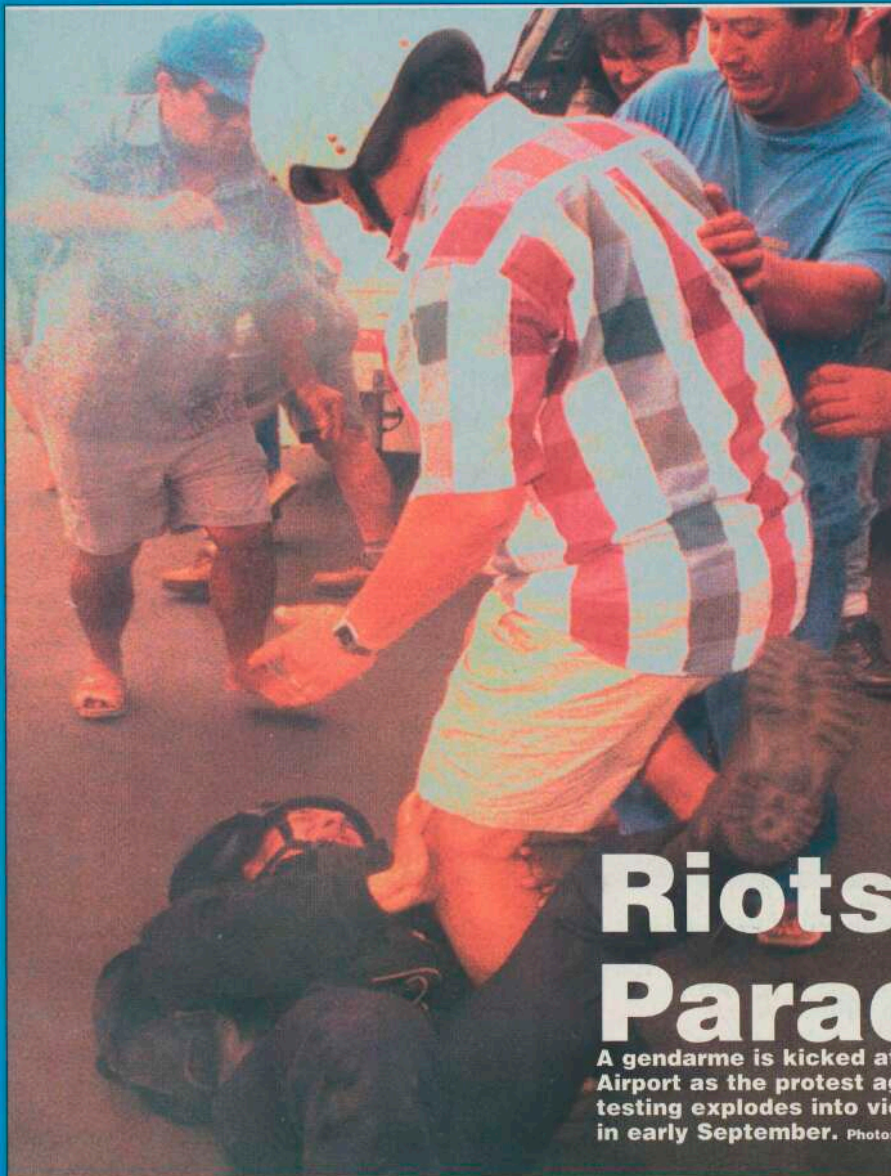
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

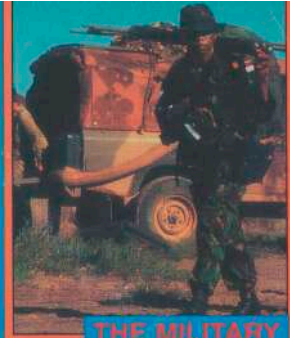
M O N T H L Y

OCTOBER 1995



Riots in Paradise

A gendarme is kicked at Tahiti's Faa'a Airport as the protest against nuclear testing explodes into violence and flames in early September. Photo: Romeo Gacad / AFP



THE MILITARY

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SPECIAL REPORT

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FJI INTERVIEW

Adi Kuini on what went wrong

THE FORUM

Leaders hit out at nuclear tests

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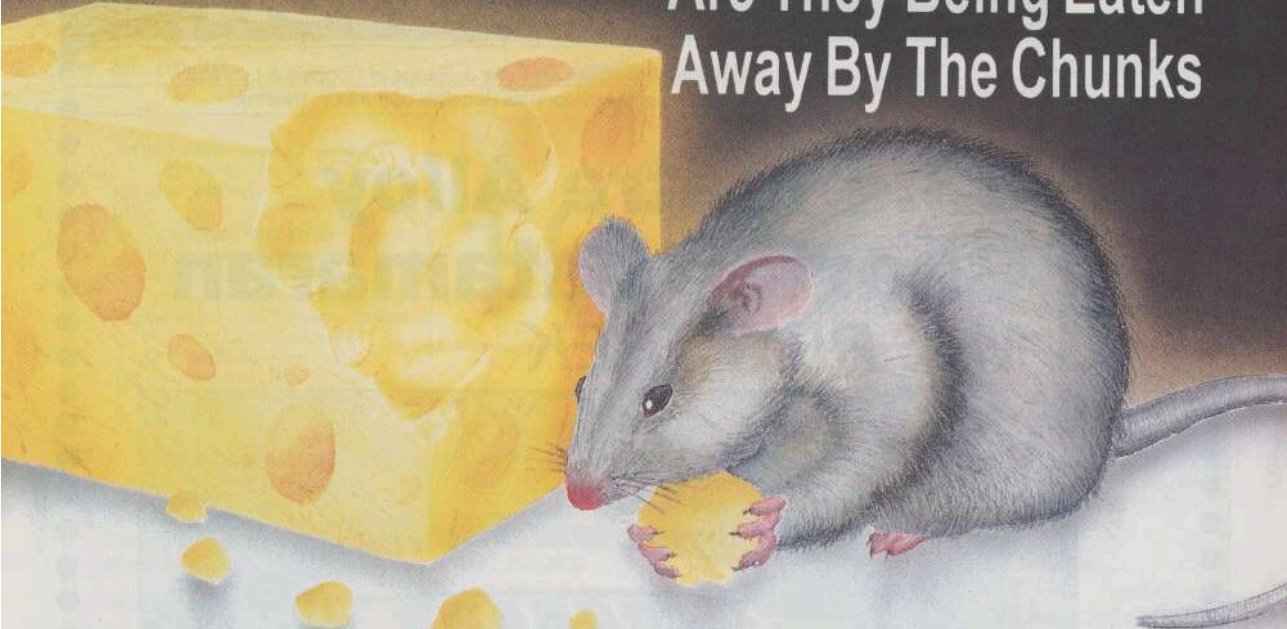
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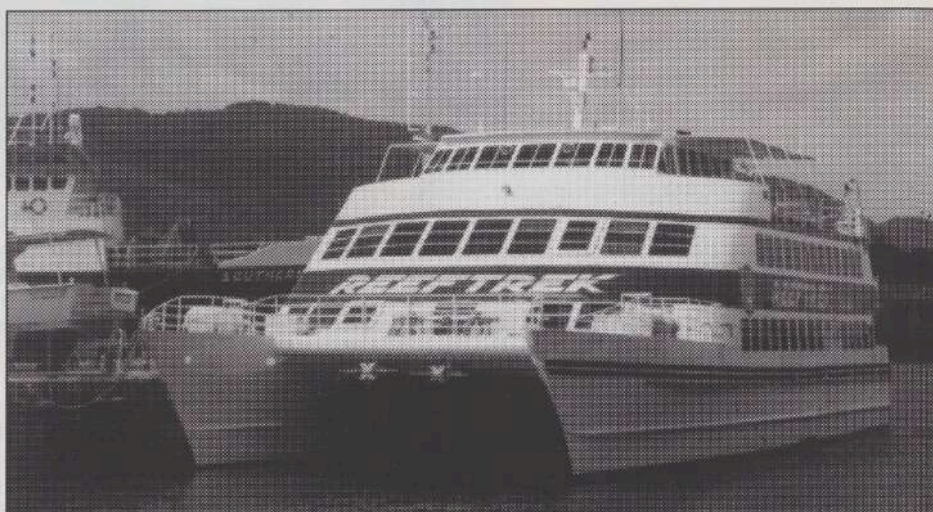
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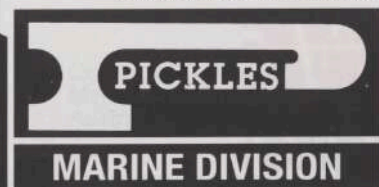
Length: 33.40m	Builders: Precision Marine, Western Australia	17 cabins,
Beam: 12.90m	Designer: Crowther	Luxury fitout, each with ensuite;
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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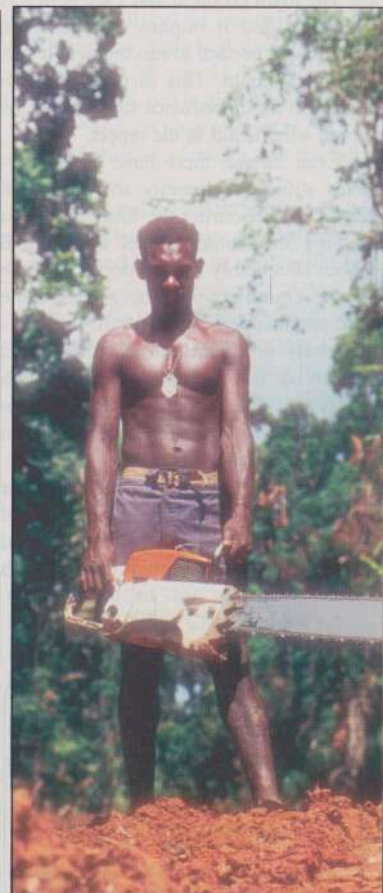
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LETTERS

Vanuatu health

I WAS glad to see that you were able to highlight some of the problems about health care in Vanuatu and in the Pacific region in your April edition. The article by Patrick Decloitre was based on a report that I had written just prior to leaving Vanuatu in January 1995. I had given him a copy with permission to use it as he wished.

Unfortunately I was not contactable for the next six months and so was unable to read M. Decloitre's article before it was published. Whilst I am in agreement with the overall sense of the article I do feel that my report has been taken out of context in a few areas.

The main problem that I see with this article is that it implies that far more doctors are needed to run the health system in Vanuatu. This in turn seems to diminish the importance of nurses. This is not what I said in the report.

Even though there have been problems with both quantity and quality of medical staff during the time that I was serving in Vanuatu I feel that around about 20 suitably trained doctors for the whole country would be a reasonable and sustainable figure overall.

I have no doubt that in a country as spread out as Vanuatu (in common with many of its Pacific neighbours) the curative health system should be nurse-run and largely nurse-led.

There has been a problem with poor training and unequal distribution of nurses in Vanuatu but suitably trained nurses are more important to the health

system there than are large number of doctors.

CHRIS WILLIAMS
Derby, UK

Gallic pride

HAS your typesetter/proofreader been affected by the thought of impending French nuclear radiation or has a naughty fairy hopped off your shoulder to create mettlesome mischief?

In my August French letter to Monsieur Chirac part of it should have read: "Must the juggernaut of Gallic pride override the well being of the people of the South Pacific?"

Your version had Gaelic instead of Gallic! To relay this error I shall have to rely on your typesetter/proofreader and trust that he/she has come to their collective senses!

I am delighted to perceive also that my epistle has been caught up in a South Pacific time warp! Your contents page boldly states: Pacific Islands Monthly — June edition. This August — June — edition will no doubt become a prized collectors' item!

Overriding the Gallic influence with the Gaelic, or Gaelic is indeed an achievement but to overcome time itself is incredible indeed!

As an inspired scribe let me state:

Mischief and Miracles
Magic and Mystery
French Colonisation is now only
History!

Poetic mists and Leprechauns
Nuclear weapons have no heart
The decisions irrevocable:
"Monsieur Chirac, depart!"
Mururoa has revolted
You now only offend
No disrespect meant
But it's "the end!"
Your South Pacific hosts are calling it
a day, we bid you adieu without further
delay!

MARTIN LEO
Mt Wellington, Auckland, NZ

Shocking news

THE news that France has resumed

nuclear testing in French Polynesia is shocking, and there's no guarantee that the present series will end after eight tests as the French claim.

Russia and the United States may decide to end their own voluntary moratoriums of testing, thereby providing France with the pretext to extend their tests indefinitely.

This new situation demonstrates that in future France intends to flex its military muscles without consideration for political repercussions in the South Pacific. President Jacques Chirac's term in office will extend until the year 2002, and one can be sure that he will not allow the free and fair vote on independence for New Caledonia promised in the Matignon Accords.

At the very least, he will bully a majority in New Caledonia to vote against independence by threatening to cut off aid (as happened in Vanuatu).

One way for the South Pacific governments to up the stake in this game is to move collectively to have French Polynesia inscribed on the decolonisation list of the United Nations Committee of 24, as New Caledonia was in 1986. This may not stop the French testing, but it will force France to go through the motions of defending their actions before the world.

A vote on independence for New Caledonia is to take place in 1998. If France threatens to cut off aid to an independent Kanaky, then New Zealand, Australia, Japan and others should be prepared to step in and offer to make up the difference.

A public announcement now by those countries that they are studying this possibility will up the stakes another notch, and may convince President Chirac that his current testing programme is too expensive after all.

The South Pacific leaders must be prepared to offer more than just words.

DAVID STANLEY
Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

PNG on the rocks?

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LETTERS

Other letters: *Cigarettes and alcohol*

From *The Fiji Times* in Suva

AS a non-smoker, I fully support efforts made by the National Anti-Smoking Society of Fiji, and health workers in general, to educate the public about the dangers of smoking.

Although as a non-drinker I am baffled at why alcohol has not been targeted with advertisements discouraging people from drinking.

Alcoholism is as dangerous as smoking.

I want to know why the alcohol industry is being ignored.

Is it because sportsmen are said to consume alcohol that it is exempt from being targeted?

Does alcohol not cause deaths, broken homes, violent crimes, diseases, addiction and other social problems?

I urge health workers and the general public to set up a sister organisation to the National Anti-Smoking Society of Fiji to combat the two evils which have created a lot of problems for our people today.

FAIYAZ KHAN, Suva

From *The Norfolk Islander*, Norfolk

RE: a proposed law to prevent the sale of tobacco to children.

Is the best too good for Norfolk's children?

I was surprised to learn that there is no law to protect children from cigarette smoking.

Is there profit in pessimism on this issue?

This law teaches children their childhood is important.

Vulnerability and childhood go together. Even young animals are watched over. We need able watchmen.

The choice to start smoking is not of minor importance! Some possible consequences:

- cancer of the lips, lungs, etc;
- cancer of the bladder is as common as cancer of the lungs;
- heart disease, the biggest killer. There are four deaths from this to each one from lung cancer;
- lung disease, weakened lungs, emphysema from about 50 years on, with difficult breathing. X-rays do not reveal it until the condition is far advanced.
- optic atrophy can occur, probably from the cyanide in tobacco;
- deafness is worse with smokers;
- osteoporosis is accelerated by smoking;

• carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke reduces by 20 per cent the capacity of the blood to carry oxygen to the brain and elsewhere;

• pregnant woman who smoke are twice likely to have a premature baby (premature infants have greater risks than full-term infants).

• passive smoking effects other people; and

• one in three smokers will die from tobacco.

"We often think of smoking as something that will kill in old age. This is simply not so. Half will die in middle age, losing 23 or 24 years," said Professor Peto, of Oxford University.

"It is better to have a fence at the top of a cliff, than an ambulance at the bottom."

A law requiring crash helmets to be worn on bikes to help prevent costly accidents and expense to our Healthcare Fund seems to be acceptable. A law to prevent the sale of cigarettes to people at a vulnerable age is comparable.

Is there one parent, if they had the choice, who would say, "Yes, I would like my child to smoke"?

FLORENCE ANDERSON
Norfolk Island

PIM but I have never read such doom-day coverage of Papua New Guinea's social and economic quagmire.

It is true on all respects of what has been written by your writers such as "changing course", "has the world bank gone soft and green" and "Papua New Guinea prepares forum." (PIM — July 1995)

In these write-ups, one theme has been made succinctly clear and that is PNG is heading for the rocks.

The International Monetary Fund has to prescribe the bitter pill that Prime Minister Julius Chan has to swallow. Obviously, this government has got this resource-rich country in a big mess that

only Chan can get it out of. The 20 years of social and economic plunder by this government in one way or another is coming to roost now. Chan cannot say he has not been part of this because he was there right from the outset of independence.

The obvious question begging answers is, what can one do to take this into social, and economic, prosperity? Before doing anything else, a macro plan should be adopted which can become a social/economic master plan within which targets should be set on all sectors of human activity such as education, health etc.

These targets have to be met by the

government of the day. If Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and his executive government cannot meet the development targets set by the national parliament by adopting such a social/economic blueprint, then the Prime Minister and his government should be sacked and a new government should be appointed by that Parliament.

The eternal and perpetual running of this country in an ad hoc and hotch-potch manner should stop and conscious planning has to be done. The ball is in Chan's court.

PETER IPU PEIPUL (OBE)
Boroko,
Papua New Guinea.

HEADLINES

Declaring war on pests

FOR 10 years a quiet battle has been ranging in the Pacific Islands. It is a battle of blind instincts and numbers against the inventive genius of man. It is called biological control (or bio-control).

The fight is against insects, weeds, rodents and other garden and farm pests and diseases that threaten food production in island countries.

This month, at least 60 experts will meet in Nadi, Fiji, to review bio-control activities in the Pacific in the past 10 years and map out a strategy for the next 10 years. Organised by the South Pacific Commission, the workshops will bring together government bio-control heads and scientists from collaborating organisations.

For many years the control of pests involved the use of chemicals which are now known to be harmful to people and the environment.

More than 10 years ago, scientists in the Pacific began using natural parasites and predators as alternatives to pesticides in the battle against the innumerable organisms and phenomena of nature that threaten agricultural production.

Some examples of bio-control activities in the region include:

- taro beetle control in the Solomon Islands;
- mimosa weed control in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa; and
- the control of rhinoceros beetle on coconuts in many countries in the region.

Among the recent successes in bio-control has been the use of an insect to control lantana weed in the Solomon Islands and the use of weevil to control salvinia weed in Fiji, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

"It was in Tonga in 1985 that the first regional bio-control meeting was held which directed the course of events that have brought about the work carried out so far," said a statement from SPC. "This second meeting aims to review achievements and shortcomings and analyse what needs to be done in the next decade."

Telecom offers new service

THE Fiji International Telecommunications Limited (FINTEL) has launched an international video conference service.

FINTEL has described the facility as "an exciting new technology involving a high-speed, two-way audio-visual communications link that lets you confer face-to-face with people who could be virtually anywhere in the world".

The equipment cost FINTEL \$70,000 (about (\$US49,000) and transmission is by ANZCAN submarine cable "which provides a high speed digital link to Telecom New Zealand's ISDN platform where calls are switched to and from the rest of the world".

Lutali bans smoking

NO smoking is allowed in government buildings in American Samoa. Governor A.P. Lutali, citing the high cost to the territory of smoke-related illnesses, has issued an executive order to this effect. The territorial government, through the LBJ Hospital, is the sole local provider of health care services. The Governor also advocates a rise in the import duty on tobacco products from 150 per cent to 200 per cent.

Copra boosts Vanuatu export

AN increase in copra production has helped to boost Vanuatu's export earnings from \$US5 million in the first quarter of this year to \$US5.34 million in the second quarter. Copra earned \$US2.66 million. Beef was the second biggest earner with \$US1 million. The export of shells, timber and kava also went up. The increase in export has been attributed to some extent to better shipping services in the second quarter.

China protests Taiwan move

CHINA has strongly condemned moves by 13 developing countries, including the Solomon Islands, to make Taiwan a member of the United Nations.

In a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali,

China's representative at the UN, Qin Huasun, said the move was an infringement on China's sovereignty and an interference on its internal affairs. China regards Taiwan as its province and fiercely contests moves to recognise its independence. The bid to get Taiwan into the United Nations will be discussed at the UN session this month.

Fiji, PNG in trade deal

FIJI and Papua New Guinea have completed negotiations on a bilateral trade agreement. The agreement aims to promote the free flow of products like coffee beans, beef, copra, cake and pellets, tea and artefacts.

The agreement allows for the establishment of a joint trade committee which will meet every year to review and plan strategies and developments.

Fiji plans media review

FIJI'S Information Minister, Ratu Etuate Tavai, has warned against cross-media ownership.

He said the Government was reviewing the country's media laws to promote fair trading and encourage Fijian participation in the television service. He said Fiji Television Limited, Fiji's only network, needed to improve the composition of its staff, especially the absence of indigenous Fijians from the screen.

Niue polls announced

NIUE will hold its general election in the second week of January, said Premier Frank Lui. Earlier he had said that it was likely the general election would be held before the year ends.

HEADLINES

New stamps for Micronesia

THE Federated States of Micronesia has issued two sets of four stamps each. The first set was issued in August depicting native fish. The set:

- the 23¢ Yellow-fin Tuna, featuring a creature that challenges even the most skilled fisherman by putting up an intense struggle after it has been hooked;
- the 60¢ Skipjack Tuna, displaying one of the most popular fish for the commercial market;
- 95¢ Bluelined Snapper, showing a handsome snapper that's known to congregate around large coral formations, isolated reefs and wrecks; and
- \$5 Cave Grouper, featuring a solitary inhabitant of caves and crevices such as those found in Micronesia's steep outer reef slopes.

The set is available at the face value price of \$6.78 (stock number 601-4836) and the first day cover is available at the



official Post Office price of \$7.78 (stock number 601-4968), plus the cost for shipping and handling.

In September, FSM issued another set of four stamps to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two and commemorate the United States Navy's liberation of Chuuk (Truk), Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei from Japanese occupation between September 2 and September 11, 1945.

The set of four 60¢ stamps features the US Navy warships which were involved.

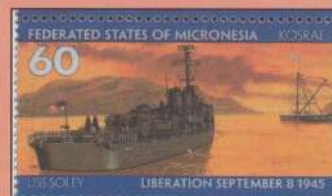
- the cruiser *USS Portland*, aboard which Japanese Lt General Shunzaburo Muqikura surrendered control of Truk;

- the destroyer *USS Tillman*, aboard which the surrender of Yap's Japanese garrison was signed;

- the destroyer *USS Soley* which had docked in the shadow of Lelu Island in sight of the Japanese surrender on Kosrae; and

- the destroyer *USS Hyman* where Lt General Masao Watanabe surrendered control of Pohnpei.

The block of four mint stamps is available at the face value price of \$2.40 (stock number 610-5220). The first day cover is available at the official Post Office price of \$3.40 plus the cost of shipping and handling.



Police 2 get jailed for life

TWO police officers have been jailed for life in Fiji after they were convicted of murder by the High Court in Suva on September 5.

The officers, Constable Ioane Tauraga and Constable Tevita Rosadriwa, were charged with beating to death a man near Suva in January of the past year. The conviction, and other charges by members of the public, have prompted the Fiji Police Force to warn it will not tolerate police brutality.

Tonga gets French gift

THE Territorial Government of French

Polynesia has donated a tanker to Tonga — no strings attached.

The gift, a 2200-tonne former French naval vessel, was announced by French Polynesia Territorial President Gaston Flosse in August when he visited Tonga for three days.

Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou said the ship would provide cheaper transport for fuel products from Fiji, New Caledonia and American Samoa.

Better prices boost copra

COPRA production in Fiji has increased by 22 per cent in the past seven months compared to the same period of the past year. Production to the end of July was

6201 tonnes compared with 5009 in the same period of the past year. The increase in production has been attributed to the increase in price which has been averaging over \$US250 a tonne.

Hepatitis kills 3 in Kiribati

AT least three children have died in Kiribati from an unknown strain of hepatitis. The Government is sending out officials to inspect health conditions in schools in the outer islands. Hepatitis is prevalent in Kiribati. A health official said reports have reached Tarawa of pupils suffering from diseases like night blindness and a mysterious strain of hepatitis.

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THE REGION



Fiji's Parliament: not enough women?

No women? that's poor

By David North

THE Pacific Islands fared poorly in a survey of the parliaments of the world because of a scarcity of women members. Five of the 12 nations covered wound up at the very bottom of the list with either no women in parliament or, in the case of Nauru, no data on the subject. (See Chart).

The survey was released by one of the world's oldest inter-governmental organisations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland. The release date was timed to coincide with the world women's conference in Beijing the past month. In a survey of 176 countries IPU found that, on average, about one member out of 10 in the world's legislatures was a woman. None of the independent nations of the Pacific was at or above this average.

Tuvalu, with 7.7 per cent of the membership of the Palamene (the parliament) being female, came in first among the island nations. (The percent-

age suggests one woman in a 33-member legislative body. Maybe IPU's mathematicians gave Tuvalu too small a percentage. Other Pacific nations with one or more women in the parliament included Fiji (3, now 2), Western Samoa (2), Tonga, the Marshalls, Vanuatu, and the Solomons (one each). Kiribati, FSM, Palau and PNG, reported IPU, had no women in their legislatures.

The IPU survey results shown here deal with either the only legislative body, or, if there are two of them, with the more powerful lower branch. The survey also did not cover any of the island jurisdiction (other than the Associated States) that relate to France, New Zealand or the US. Nor, for that matter, to Pitcairn.

The Pacific would have done much better in the parliamentary survey had some of these islands been included, notably Guam, which traditionally has a good share of women in the Territorial Senate. At the moment there are six women in this 21-member body, and the presiding officer is Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's elected Lieutenant Governor. There have been seven or eight women in that body in most of the recent legislatures.

The nearby Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has two women in its 18-member House of Representatives, both elected from Saipan. There is, however, only one woman in the 20-member lower house in American Samoa. No women have ever served in the upper house in Pago Pago, as the only voters are the village chiefs, who are usually men.

Were the women of American Samoa to take this voting practice into a federal court it would probably not survive the experience — but no one has filed such a suit. Western Samoa also used to have a system of *matai* (chiefly) voting, but dropped it a couple of years ago.

The listing system used by IPU was, if anything, generous to nations at the bottom of the list. Had the numerous statistical ties been handled differently those at the bottom of the chart would have been shown to be in the 160th place, not 105th and 106th. Δ

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

Country Surveyed	% of Women	Rank in World
Sweden	40.4	1
Guam	28.6	not listed
NZ	21.2	14
Marianas	11.1	not listed
USA	10.9	43
Tuvalu	7.7	58
A. Samoa	5.0	not listed
Fiji	4.3	77
W. Samoa	4.3	79
Tonga	3.3	87
Marshalls	3.0	89
Vanuatu	2.2	95
Solomons	2.1	96
Kiribati	0	105
Micronesia	0	105
Palau	0	105
PNG	0	105
Nauru	no data	106

COVER STORIES

Wrong again, Chirac

On September 5 France detonated a 20-kiloton nuclear device deep in the earth in French Polynesia. The explosion ignited violent protests in Tahiti and gained France much unpopularity

By Ian Williams

ON August 21 New Zealand added to its grassroots protests by seeking to reopen its old 1973 case against the tests in the World Court, adding new ground; the lack of an environment Impact Assessment for the impact of nuclear testing on the atolls. Paris maintained a disdainful silence, although it would almost have been in character with its recent behaviour to have sent a posse of gendarmes to flood the World Court building in the Hague with tear gas.

However, if Chirac thought that firm action against the protesters would dampen the protests, he was proven dramatically wrong when the first test on September 5 ignited a storm of protest across the world, if anything exacerbated by previous French highhanded ways in dealing with the Greenpeace boats. In French Polynesia's main island of Tahiti, the indigenous Maohi people went on the rampage, burning the airport at Faa'a and shops in Papeete.

Why would a medium-sized country like France, not under any particular threat by any neighbour, want to alienate people

across the world by exploding nuclear weapons at the opposite side of the globe? Inadvertently perhaps, President Carlos Menem put his finger on the problem with the French government. While condemning the test as detestable and repugnant, "France is our friend, but it is not master of the world," he said, as the 20 kiloton underground blast at Mururoa echoed around an indignant world.

The French may wonder why it is that China could set off a test like a celebratory fireworks within days of the signing of the extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty with hardly a whisper from the rest of the world. Partly that is because the Chinese were foolish, or polite, enough to make their mess in their own backyard. And whatever Paris says, no one in the rest of the world seriously believes that French

Rioting youths overturn a car on September 6 near Faa'a airport in Tahiti. The airport building was set on fire and there were violent clashes between police and pro-independence and anti-nuclear demonstrators.

MARCEL MOCHET / AFP



COVER STORIES



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COVER STORIES

The warning of a peacemaker

By Jale Moala

ASK Oscar Temaru to describe himself and he will look you straight in the face and say: "I'm a peacemaker." That he may be, but this pro-independence leader of French Polynesia also readily admits that a time will come when he will not be able to prevent the violence. "Violence is already there," he said. "For many years people have been put in jail, people had been exiled from Tahiti to France. People around the Pacific don't know what is happening in our country. It's very hard."

Anti-French feelings spilled out last month when France detonated a 20-kiloton nuclear device in French Polynesia despite worldwide protest against any resumption of nuclear testing there. So-called pro-independence supporters stormed the international airport at Faa'a — French Polynesia's largest municipality and of which Temaru is mayor — and set fire to the terminal building and vehicles in the carpark. They then attacked shops in the capital Papeete.

"The Tahitian people are a very, very quiet people," said the 51-year-old Temaru in Suva before the riots in Tahiti.



Temaru: "I'm a peacemaker."

"But when they become angry it is very hard to control them. I am not saying that I am the only person who can calm the people, but I really don't know what will happen if people like me and some other people around me disappear. There will be a lot of trouble on the island. There are some people who are very militant. Our

ultimate date is the year 2000. After that I cannot guarantee anymore what will happen in the future. We want to live in peace. We want the Pacific to remain pacific." Temaru's party, the Liberation Front of Polynesia, or Tavini Huiraatira, is at the forefront of the battle for independence from French rule. "The struggle is not easy," he said. "There is a lot of harassment, threats. They have also tried to kill me. But I am still alive."

"Our hope," he said, "is to get independence in the year 2000. In 1988 the United Nations passed Resolutions 42-47 stating that the decade between 1990 and year 2000 should be the decade in which the world should eradicate colonialism. The decision by French president Jacques Chirac for his country to resume nuclear testing is a very good example of the colonial system. He made that decision without asking the people of Tahiti. It was a unilateral decision by one man. The entire world is protesting against it."

The question obviously is what will happen if France refuses to release French Polynesia by the year 2000? Will there be violence? "I'm not a violent man," said Temaru. "We have decided to use non-violent means to achieve those goals and for nearly 20 years now we have been fighting and educating our people."

"There will be more and more actions and more and more anger throughout the country and also throughout the South Pacific and even in France." And his ultimate goal for French Polynesia? "Freedom. Freedom. Freedom." Δ

Polynesia is really part of the French hinterland. In addition, it is something of a backhanded compliment to the French. While most people have few expectations of the Chinese government, most people see France as a democracy — which is difficult to reconcile with storm troopers behaving like pirates boarding and damaging protest vessels.

Part of the problem is precisely that some French politicians have never accepted the declining position of the tricolour around the world. Their centuries-old rivals, the British, were much more

pragmatic. Once the economic rationale for the empire disappeared, so did they, taking their Union Jack with them. Indeed, they left with almost indecent haste, pulling out of some places that would just have soon kept them.

But like aged parents in their decline, the British could take vicarious comfort from their children. Canada, Australia, New Zealand to some extent, but above all, the United States, the rising star to which the fading kingdom hitched its chariot. Between them the English speaking countries, without trying very hard, have a

massive, indeed one could say critical, cultural mass that races away, engulfing the world.

English is spoken almost everywhere, despite a conspicuous lack of official encouragement by the Anglophone governments. French is spoken less and less despite fanatic encouragement from Paris, which bombards agencies like the United Nations to ensure that the language has its due respect.

We all have sympathy with indigenous languages and cultures being swamped by Anglophone culture, but France has tradi-

COVER STORIES



Stop the Bomb: France also faced protests in Europe

tionally had little sympathy for other cultures as any Kanak or Breton can testify. The French chauvinist's big complaint is not the disappearance of other cultures, but that it is another language, English, that is making them disappear. Without getting

too psychoanalytical, you could almost say that the test was Paris's way of saying "*non*" to the English-speaking world.

Former French President, the late, Charles de Gaulle who epitomised these principles put it succinctly: "No country

without an atom bomb could properly consider itself independent." In his day, right across the political spectrum French voters, sandwiched between the Soviets on side and the British and Americans on the other, were unquestioning about their country's need for nuclear weaponry.

Now even that has changed. Only 16 per cent of French voters totally support the tests, while almost 60 per cent of French people object to the new tests, and President Jacques Chirac's standing has suffered as a result of a policy he made uniquely his own. Almost all the opposition parties have registered their objections. The ordinary French increasingly see no threat of war, and regard themselves increasingly as part of the European Union.

While government protest in Europe have been relatively muted, that should not imply approval. It is more to do with Paris's potential for rocking the boat in the Union where the principle of consensus makes decision-making exceptionally vulnerable to a bloody minded partner. But across Europe, popular resentment has shown itself in some very public ways. A Swiss football team protested on the pitch during a match with Sweden. "Stop it Chirac" was their message.

In Germany, it took procedural manoeuvring by the ruling party to stop a morning-after vote of protest from the opposition parties. There was talk of banning French trucks in Italy. In Denmark, environmentalists clambered up the French embassy with protest banners, while their Dutch colleagues sealed off the French mission in the Hague. In Vienna, police fought off protesters with tear gas.

While French missions were under assault across the world, in Paris, other countries' missions were silent as nations like New Zealand and Chile recalled ambassadors. Russia and America regretted, while the Japanese were "deeply disappointed" at the tests. Farther afield, Latin American countries joined the Pacific rim nations to make vehement protests while in South Korea, French property was assaulted while in Manila a tricolour was burnt.

Even in French Polynesia itself, the underground explosion ignited surface

COVER STORIES

fires as anti-colonial Polynesians burnt the airport and shops in the capital Papeete before threatening a strike.

No wonder the French voters are wondering at a policy that has made France a byword for environmental insensitivity across the world. Many French opponents have also seized upon what is probably an even stronger factor than concern for the environment of the South Pacific: the timing of the tests. Chirac, perhaps like many people, underestimated just how relieved much of the world was to be out of the chilling shadow of a nuclear holocaust after four decades of Cold War that always seem to be about to explode into M.A.D., Mutually Assured Destruction.

In the year that saw the re-negotiation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the firm promise of a nuclear test ban, Chirac's series of eight tests bring back haunting memories of those times when nuclear bombers and submarines patrolled incessantly waiting to pounce.

It remains to be seen whether Chirac reacts brusquely to the new protests. Suggestions from Paris are that the government will reduce the series, perhaps to six. It is a measure of the seriousness that French Foreign Minister Herve de Charte broke all the rules of the language wars to address a press conference in English to say that "France is very attentive to world opinion."

If it is, and they can listen in any language, then they will not risk another global wave of protests like this one, that is damaging them diplomatically and economically while, if many of its own experts are to be believed, doing little to strengthen them militarily. Perhaps one consolation for the Pacific Islands is that rarely have their governments had such world-wide attention and support for their position. But it's a heavy price to pay. Δ



A French commando boards the *Rainbow Warrior* outside Mururoa in an earlier protest July

When the French arrested a US congressman

By David North

PARLIAMENTARIANS from all over the world went to Tahiti the past month to protest French nuclear testing, but only two of them were arrested by the French navy. They were American Samoa's Congressman, Eni Faleomavaega, and the French Polynesian opposition leader, Oscar Temaru. "We were held in house arrest by the French for 16 hours," the Congressman told *PIM* upon his return to Washington.

Boat arrest, really; the two legislators had been arrested on board the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior* after it broke the 12-mile limit around the test site location, Mururoa.

The French did not really turn aside the parliamentary protesters — but Faleomavaega, Temaru and the accompanying European journalists were not subject to the

tear gas, stun grenades, and rubber bullets subsequently employed by the French against the protesters in Tahiti, which was burning as this was written.

The Congressman returned from his encounter deeply angry, and highly critical of the French Government. "Pure colonialism at its worst," he said about the French nuclear blasts and France's treatment of her Polynesian citizens.

"It is outrageous that the home of the Enlightenment should treat the Polynesian people this way," he continued. He also spoke of his "disappointment" with Gaston Flosse, whom he has known for years, who is both the President of Territorial Government in French Polynesia, and a political ally of explosions.

Faleomavaega arrived in Tahiti from Pago Pago on Wednesday, August 23; the US Congress was in recess, and he had gone to

COVER STORIES



Protester Philip Pukapuka and Mimo after the storming of the *Rainbow Warrior* outside Mururoa Atoll in an earlier protest in July

Tahiti to protest the planned nuclear experiments. He paid a courtesy call on Flosse, which led nowhere, and then joined 5000 local protesters in front of the area's largest LMS church.

Shortly thereafter he was invited to board a ketch along with some German journalists for a protest sail to Mururoa; tens of thousands of residents of Hamburg, Germany, had funded the ship and the Congressman was tempted to board it, but he could not be assured that it would return to port in time for him to catch his plane back to the first session of Congress following its summer break.

Then Greenpeace issued an invitation to Faleomavaega and to Temaru. Would they fly to Tureia, some 60 miles from Mururoa, and board the *Rainbow Warrior* there for a protest at the testing site?

The two Polynesian legislators accepted and on August 30 they arrived on Tureia where they met with the local residents who have used Mururoa for fishing and for the harvest of coconuts for generations, and who regard themselves as owners of what previous to the nuclear testing had been an uninhabited island. "The people of Tureia invited us to visit their island," Faleomavaega told me.

The *Rainbow Warrior* left for Mururoa

that evening and by three in the morning — of what would turn out to be a very long day — it was being trailed by a French warship.

"Then twelve remarkable young people — Australians, New Zealanders and Americans — pushed off from the mother boat in six zodiacs and headed for the atoll. The French ship never noticed this," the Congressman said happily.

A couple of hours later, however, the French Navy warned the Greenpeace ship that it was about to break the 12-mile limit; the *Rainbow Warrior* ignored the warnings and kept moving toward the test site.

"Then the French commandos came after us in big zodiacs, they used their military equipment to board and swarmed all over the ship, destroying the communications equipment and the generator."

At this point the Congressman, Temaru and the European journalists were on deck, watching events. "The French commandos must have recognised Temaru because they did not approach us, but they stopped the journalists from using video cameras."

"Then they spray-painted the windows to cover some cartoons of Chirac; they roughed up the crew and destroyed the engine, and then held us in house arrest for the next 16 hours," he continued.

Meanwhile, the Congressman said, that the French on the ship were busily making their own videos, interviewing each other about what had happened, apparently in an effort to get their spin into the news coverage of the event.

The French, after disabling the ship, had to enlist a tug to tow the vessel, and it was not clear for hours what would be done with either the ship or its passengers.

In the meantime, the French interrogated everyone on board.

"They asked me if I knew that I had violated the 12-mile zone," Faleomavaega reported. "I told them the people who own the island had never given the French permission to set off the bombs, but they had given me permission to go to the island."

At the end of the 16 hours, about midnight, the French authorities decided to put all of the *Rainbow Warrior's* passengers and crew into a PT boat; they were then landed on the atoll and were flown back to Tahiti in a military plane. The young people from the small zodiacs had been captured and were in handcuffs on the plane as were some of the crew members. The politicians and journalists were not.

It was 5am on September 2, when the group arrived at Tahiti's Faa'a Airport, which, according to the Congressman was

COVER STORIES

The innocent French

By Patrick Decloitre

ANTI-FRENCH feeling is strong in Australia, since France's announcement to resume its nuclear tests in French Polynesia. A media campaign launched last June has hit hard at French companies and individuals who have been residing in Australia for years. But some now realise this may be more detrimental to Australians than the French.

Protests against the French decision have indeed gone through many different channels: it is even possible to send an electronic mail message through Internet to President Chirac. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation also sells pre-written postcards to be sent to Chirac as a sign of protest. In the streets, Greenpeace posters remind the public of the strong protest feeling in Australia.

Greenpeace is also posting messages in display windows, a campaign run jointly with the Body Shop natural products retail chain stores. In Sydney's Darlinghurst district, not far from King's Cross, Marc Laucher and Murielle Linares are the owners of Le Petit Creme, a popular French cafe they set up some seven years ago. One morning, not long after France's national Bastille Day, they found the windows of Le Petit Creme had

been smeared with excrement. The day after the French decision was announced, last June, Julie Smith, who has been living in Australia for the past 15 years and owns the French Riviera cafe, said the French decision was "disgusting" and told the Australian press that she was "not proud to be French". Anne Fallou has also been living in Australia for 15 years; since the past June, the turnover of both her *Delicieux* French patisseries in Sydney

have gone down by 30 per cent. Fallou also wants her customers to know that she does not approve of the French tests in the Pacific; in one of her shops, she displays a petition against it.

The issue even causes rifts among the French community in Australia; Marc Laucher disapproves of such an attitude from some French people whom he says are collaborators. "Even if we're not for the tests and even if we live in Australia,

we remain French. Some of the French here have gone over the top, maybe they want to protect their business," he says.

An Australian regular of *Le Petit Creme* however says the anti-French feeling is not as widespread as people think. There are about 200 French companies in Australia and they employ some 40,000 Australians.

For French companies in Australia, sales have dropped since June. Δ



Business goes on: Marc Laucher and Murielle Linares at their cafe in Sydney

blockaded by Temaru's supporters, who were worried about his safety and that of his companions.

"I have never seen such mean, determined people as those protesters," Faleomavaega said.

When Temaru learned that his people had surrounded the airport he told the French authorities that they had better take the handcuffs off the Greenpeace people or he and Faleomavaega would not leave the tarmac; the implied threat worked, and the young environmentalists were finally unchained.

The Greenpeace protesters were

relieved of their handcuffs at least partially because of a series of geographical and political coincidences. Temaru is not only a member of the territorial parliament, he is also (in the French Mainland political parliament tradition) mayor of his hometown, Faa'a. Faa'a, the largest municipality in French Polynesia, is the home of many displaced residents from the outer-islands who tend to be among the poorest residents of the island of Tahiti. And Tahiti's airport is in the middle of Faa'a. Before the Congressman left Tahiti for the US mainland, he and Temaru, presumably the stars of the show, joined parliamentar-

ians from all over the world in yet another demonstration against the nuclear blasts. They were joined in this by the ranking politician present, the Japanese Minister of Finance, Masayoshi Takemura, who presumably was happy to be talking about something other than Japan's financial problems. Upon his return the US Faleomavaega expressed his disappointment in one aspect of the press coverage of the controversy. "The press seems to have sought only the opinions of Europeans, and to have disregarded those of the island, the people most effected by the explosions," he said. Δ

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Construction in the Pacific

The code for survival

By Yunus Rashid

CYCLONES have a liking for the Pacific Islands. They dance through the ocean and land on our shores as uninvited guests and leave in their wake losses accumulating to millions of dollars. It also kills a lot of people. Time and again structural damages have been blamed on architectural flaws. It is with this in mind that the Australia International Development Assistance Bureau, now AusAID, funded a programme whereby Kris Ayyar of Kerala, India, was hired to head the Pacific Building Standards Project. The project upon completion was expected to come up with codes for building in the South Pacific so that cyclone damage to infrastructure would be minimal. However, not all countries opted for Ayyar's recommendations. Some thought the implementation of Ayyar's report would mean extra building costs. But Fiji, which is an attraction for the

wandering cyclones (in 1986 Fiji was hit by seven cyclones within two weeks), decided to accept Ayyar's report.

In his report, Ayyar said: "Houses have been built around the world for hundreds of years without the benefit of any formal structural analysis and design. It was only in the recent past, from about 20 years ago that many began to question the wisdom of this practice. Recurring cases of death and large-scale destruction of houses through natural disasters in many parts of the world began to demand urgent remedial action. There were two main reasons for the absence of any engineering design input for houses. Firstly, a house is an extremely complex structural system, far more complex than many other engineering structures. Secondly, the cost of performing the detailed structural design of an individual house is very substantial when compared to the rest of the cost."

He added that "the structural complexity

of houses has been partially overcome by experimental research. Such research has progressively established a number of increasingly reliable mathematical relationships between the forces (such as from cyclonic winds) acting on a house and the resulting effect on various components of the house. Further, it is possible to spread the cost of detailed structural design by performing the design for a variety of systems in terms of a limited number of modular sub-systems. We have taken advantage of these to produce this manual."

Similar manuals have been prepared before in the Pacific and were commonly used in Australia and New Zealand. Fiji's first such code manual was produced by Fiji Pine and was known as the Fiji Pine Code.

Ayyar said ideas had been borrowed from those manuals.

"However, this manual has for the first time in a single publication included exten-

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Construction in the Pacific

sive details of conventional timber and masonry construction, prepared to cater to the specific environmental constraints of Fiji.

"The manual fully conforms to the structural requirements of the National Building Code of Fiji. Ayyar said the manual takes into account current local building practices which means that the code would not mean an increase in building costs. And where there are marginal increases they are offset by the increased durability and safety of the buildings.

He said the manual was intended for use by para-professionals in the building industry for the speedy design of simple houses which conform to the structural requirements of the National Building Code.

Apart from Fiji, the building code was intended for Tonga, Cook Islands, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Papua New Guinea had shown interest but was not eager when the time for consultation came. Western Samoa opted out of the programme because Ayyar's office was not relocated in Apia. The reason Western Samoa gave for opting out was that Ayyar's recommendations meant that people would have to pay

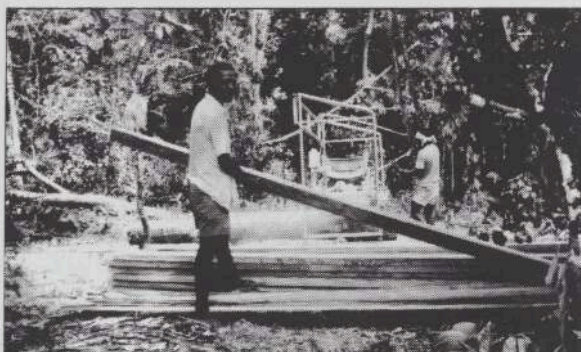


The remains of a village church in Fiji after it was hit by a cyclone

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Construction in the Pacific

higher costs for building. Tonga pulled out of the programme when New Zealand funded an alternative project using a private consultant. Countries which now enjoy the use of the manual include Niue, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands and Solomon Islands. Fiji and Vanuatu have manuals which will help them cope with greater wind forces.

Ayyar's view is that the island nations should wake up to the fact that many lives are lost and damage to homes is colossal during cyclones. He said countries would spend more money trying to repair damaged homes than pay for initial safety measures in new homes.

Fiji's trend setter

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BIL is enjoying the largest market share in Fiji and has emerged as a major exporter of the wire/fence products and hardware items to the Pacific Islands. It is BIL's policy to provide the customers with reliable quality products and services for all the time to come. In the past two decades BIL has grown and prospered steadily by satisfying the customers with its reliable products and services. In 1993, BIL set the trend by winning the consultancy contract

for Nail Making Project in Kiribati through the Forum Secretariat. BIL successfully installed and commissioned the project in Tarawa in record time. Today, more than 45 per cent of BIL's products are being exported to the Pacific Islands against stiff global competition. This performance has led BIL to win the FTIB Exporter of the Year Award in 1993 and 1994.

BIL is Fiji's first locally-owned engineering company to be accredited with ISO 9002 certification for the manufacture of barbed wire, chain link fence, welded mesh, and bright and galvanised nails. Quality has been made the way of life at BIL. The management continuously aims at improvement and innovation. For building in quality at every stage, all employees are imparted continuing training inhouse as well as by reputed organisation like SGS and FNTC.

With its quality system accreditation, BIL plans to penetrate the niche market in the developed countries and thus bring repute to Fiji. BIL believes that by delivering for customers (domestic and overseas) with reliable products and services, we will prosper and keep Fiji working.

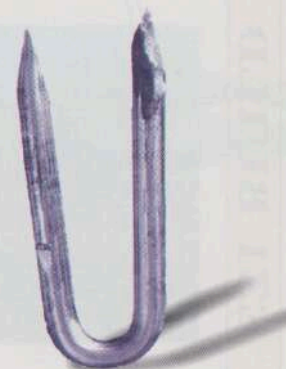
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entered markets of South Africa and Canada. On the home front, Peterson's have achieved some very prestigious awards over the years, including the 1988 New Zealand National Fielday Invention Award, the 1991 Rotorua Business Innovative Export Award, the 1993 Forestry Corporation Business Innovation Award, and the 1994 New Zealand TRADENZ Highly Commended Export Award. All these awards prove Peterson's commitment to excellence and continued research and development into their products.

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Mill designer and previous Fiji resident, Carl Peterson, attributes several factors to the mills' success: Production capability, portability, quality, efficiency and price. Peterson mills achieve recovery rates of up to 80 per cent and throughputs of up to 2 cubic metres of sawn timber per hour in good conditions.

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Another key factor of Peterson's success lies in the quality of materials used in construction. The mills are constructed largely of aluminium and stainless steel making them lightweight (around 300kg) non-corrosive and extremely durable. This

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Peterson's claim that their designs many be copied, but their long-lasting technology can never be duplicated. No other portable sawmill can boast long-term performance and reliability under such harsh working conditions.

Versatility is also a necessary attribute for any portable sawmill — conditions always vary in timber species, operator experience and terrain. The ability to adjust to these differing situations and requirements is of utmost importance. With a Peterson mill, the log is rolled or placed into the mill, or the mill is erected over the log (in around 10 minutes). All models can be hand-carried onto the milling site and set up on moderately uneven terrain.

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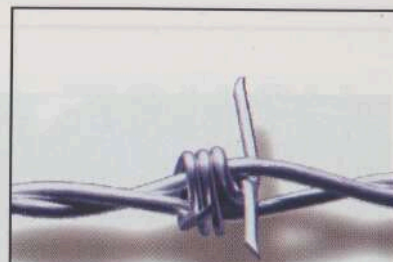
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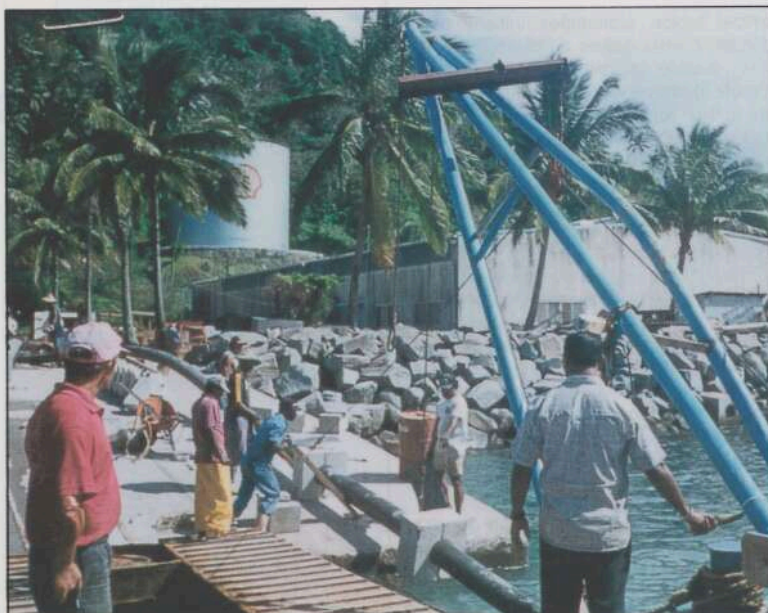
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Sinclair Knight Merz is involved in the installation of this sea floor effluent disposal pipeline for Pacific Fishing Company Limited at Levuka in Ovalau, Fiji.

investigations, design and construction work on this project, with the Patrol Boat workshop opening in July 1995.

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- Sarakata Bridge on the island of Santo, in Vanuatu. Sinclair Knight Merz and Vanuatu consultant, VEMC, are undertaking the documentation and construction supervision of an 86-metre long bridge to replace a 40-year-old deteriorated steel structure at Luganville.

- Third Urban Water Supply Project, involving a K25 million upgrading and expansion of the water supply systems at Madang, Rabaul and Kokopo, in Papua New Guinea. Sinclair Knight Merz and Frame Harvey West & Maso provide the engineering services for this project which is funded by the Asian Development Bank, Bank of Taiwan and PNG Government.

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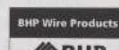
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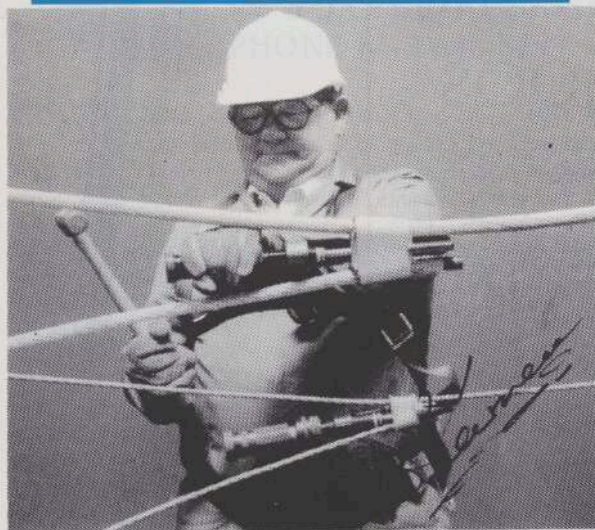
Council shows trend

THE number and types of buildings being built and the rate at which they are built in Fiji are all indications of social and economic and in some instances cultural trends. A study of statistics with Suva City Council shows trends of the past 10 years. The city's Chief Engineer,

Dipak Solanki, said in 1994, 878 building applications with an aggregate value of \$54,115,472 of building works were submitted to the Council and 729 applications representing an aggregate value of \$61,273,646 were approved. He said the statistics showed that

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THE REGION



The new partnership: Indonesian paratroopers join a major military exercise in Northern Australia.

ROBERT SIMMS

New horizons

The shadow of East Timor is cast aside as Australia charts a new partnership with Indonesia

By Robert Simms

THE Kangaroo 95 (K95) war games recently played out in northern Australia brought together non-combat personnel from Singapore, Malaysia, Canada and the United Kingdom as well as a United States infantry battalion taskforce and a parachute company from Indonesia.

The Chief of the Australian Defence Force, General John Baker, said the invitations extended to the participating countries were in keeping with the 1994 Defence White Paper policy and will help bring Australia's near neighbours into a closer regional defence alliance.

However, the inclusion of the Indonesian fighting force in the exercise

caused protests in Australia. The annexation of East Timor by Indonesia and the 1991 Dili massacre of civilians by the military are still divisive issues. While both governments would like to leave these controversies behind them in the interest of more productive military and commercial relationships, many in Australia feel continuing protests are justified. They say human rights issues take precedence over inter-governmental associations and until East Timor is able to determine its own future, Indonesia should be kept at arms length.

Regional security, however, is regarded as a priority by the Australian government. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has been given the task of working with neighbouring countries in a cooperative pro-

gramme that will be of mutual benefit to all participants. "The Australian government policy is to have military relationships with ASEAN nations," Commander of the ADF Northern Command, Commodore John Lord said. "We maintain relationships with the Indonesian Eastern Command as part of this regional involvement."

The K95 exercise was designed to test Australia's ability to detect and neutralise enemy forces that had infiltrated the northern regions of the country. The exercise scenario involved the incursion of the fictitious Orangeland enemy into Australia following protracted and unresolved resource-based disagreements. The Orangelanders were in groups of platoon to company strength and numbering about

THE REGION

1200 in total. Their aim was to attack ADF facilities, disrupt high profile economic targets, mine approaches to port installations, and generally embarrass the Australian government.

Opposing these aggressors were approximately 11,000 Australian, US and Indonesian military personnel assisted by local police and coastal surveillance aircraft. Ships of the Australian navy patrolled the coast between Darwin and Bamaga on the tip of Cape York Peninsula. A Papua New Guinean patrol craft was to join this group as part of their training but was withdrawn for undisclosed reasons prior to the start of the exercise.

Indonesian involvement in Australian military training programmes is not new but this is the first time their commitment has been so extensive. During the K95 exercise, the Indonesian 502nd Airborne company was integrated into the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR). Two weeks' training in Sydney with the 3RAR prior to K95 was followed by two joint operations in northern Australia.

During the first at Wyndham in north-west Western Australia, approximately 350 paratroopers were deployed to dislodge the Orangeland forces who had taken over the town. The second attack was in response to enemy activity in the Gulf country where they were occupying McArthur River mine and the towns of Boorooloola and Bing Bong.

In this attack, 152 Indonesian and approximately 160 Australian paratroopers jumped from five Hercules 130C aircraft, landing in a drop zone a kilometre wide and three kilometres long. The forces regrouped then proceeded to Bing Bong where they drove out the enemy forces.

"This type of operation builds comradeship between the 3rd Battalion and 502nd Airborne," said Brigadier Adrian D'Hage, ADF Director General Public Information. "It's all about working together to make the region safer." He agreed that instability in East Timor was a concern but said it should be dealt with at a political level. Colonel Agung Revoluton, the commander of the Indonesian company would not be drawn on these issues. His comments, through an interpreter, were restricted to the increasing cooperation between Australian and Indonesian forces and the similarity of their operational approach in the field.

Although no plans have been made regarding foreign involvement in future military exercises in Australia, the 1994 Defence White Paper states that increasing priority will be given to strategic exchanges, combined exercising and training cooperation with countries in the region. Australia's continuing military



An Australian soldier in Kangaroo 95



Col Revoluton: Will not be drawn into political issues

relationship with Indonesia is regarded as most important to its security. The Indonesian archipelago forms part of the barrier to the north of Australia through which any invasion force would have to pass. Stability in that country and friendly ties with Australia will contribute significantly to Australia's and the region's security.

As Indonesia's economy grows and its military capability improves, Australia's

security will be further enhanced, on condition that the positive nature of the relationship with its northern neighbour is maintained. Given this situation, it's no surprise the Australian government wants to strengthen bilateral ties and increase joint participation in naval, land and air forces exercises.

While the Defence White Paper acknowledges the differences in the roles of the defence forces of Indonesia and

THE REGION



Australia in their respective political systems, it stresses the mutual advantage of stronger cooperation and shared strategic interests. It also includes other South East Asian nations in the military relationship it proposes, and it hopes the move will lead to long-term stability in the region.

Malaysia and Singapore are already considered important defence partners, and the move to develop military associations with Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei will add "depth and resilience to our defence links with the region as a whole", it stated.

In future, emphasis will be placed on understanding the strategic policies of the countries of north-east and south Asia, and making them aware of Australia's security aspirations. As these countries develop economically, they will be encouraged to maintain activities consistent with regional security.

Involving Asian nations along with the US in its military exercises is one way Australia believes it can influence regional defence policy.

By building a security web of defensive military forces that have strong mutual support agendas, a significant deterrent will be created to dissuade potential aggressors from attempting incursions into the region. Δ

VIEWS

Nuclear comfort

THERE are a number of reasons for France's insistence on bombing the Pacific Islands. The Military justifies it by pointing out that actual tests are absolutely required even for developing test simulations.

Strategic considerations, it is said, would remind us that although Russia and an East Bloc are no more, the Middle East is so volatile and unreliable — and there may be ill-advised little countries beside — that it must be provided for or somehow deterred. And politically France requires to demonstrate her autonomy (a de Gaulle legacy) and proclaim, in no uncertain terms, her vital interests.

The man who can put all this into practice just happens to be at the helm at this very moment. And he's no novice in this game. Chirac, after proclaiming the resumption of the tests, made sure that any negative reaction inside France is neutralised by initiating talks about the Vichi government which has been a taboo subject for a number of years. For showing he has the nerve to do this, Chirac is now regarded as a hero.

But make no mistake about it; the French people themselves are generally against the tests. A 1994 poll showed 72 per cent of the French public are against them and want them to be banned for good if other nations stop theirs. The Tahitians, however, are all for the Bomb because they would all starve to death, etc, if the Bomb Programme is discontinued. And they have always favoured the Conservatives because of their proclaimed anti-Communist policy. But this is normal in an intensely Catholic community.

The French nuclear tests used to be conducted in the Sahara but since Algeria got her independence in 1962 that country has banned the French from that area. And because France can't do it in her own backyard that leaves her with no other choice but the idyllic islands of her Polynesian territory as the logical sites for this enterprise.

That, however, is small comfort to the Pacific Islands. For their peoples, it is a matter of life and death, of ghastly deformities for their children, of strange diseases for their future generations.

That is why the islanders are protesting. New Zealand, the Cooks, Samoa — the whole lot are blending their voices together. And Australia has come out very strongly against France and the latter answering by recalling her Ambassador etc. The issue precipitated a crisis in the



TONGA

FUTA
HELU

Fiji parliament over whether a strong protest (urged by the Opposition) or a soft-toned amendment (proposed by the Prime Minister) is to be sent to Paris. When the amendment was defeated — by

two Ministers voting with the Opposition and one abstaining — the PM caused one to resign and two to be expelled from Government. Tonga is sending a protest, but no one to be on the ground in Mururoa.

All this may not be enough to cause the French to budge. The people of the Pacific are sacrificeable, are of a different race from the French, and their cultures have no universal appeal like those of Europe. Japan's voice would be heard. The US and UK can do a lot if they wanted to. But they are keeping their peace — remember their silence before and after the *Rainbow Warrior* affair?

Yes, the great powers give with one hand (in aid) and take back with the other (in nuclear proliferation). Watch that US ship of death peddling her lethal merchandise in the Marshalls. And Japanese aid has a strange knack to run back home, except a pittance in low wages for the islanders and a scattering of structures they cannot maintain. But the price of French aid is certainly the acme, the ultimate in duplicity. Δ

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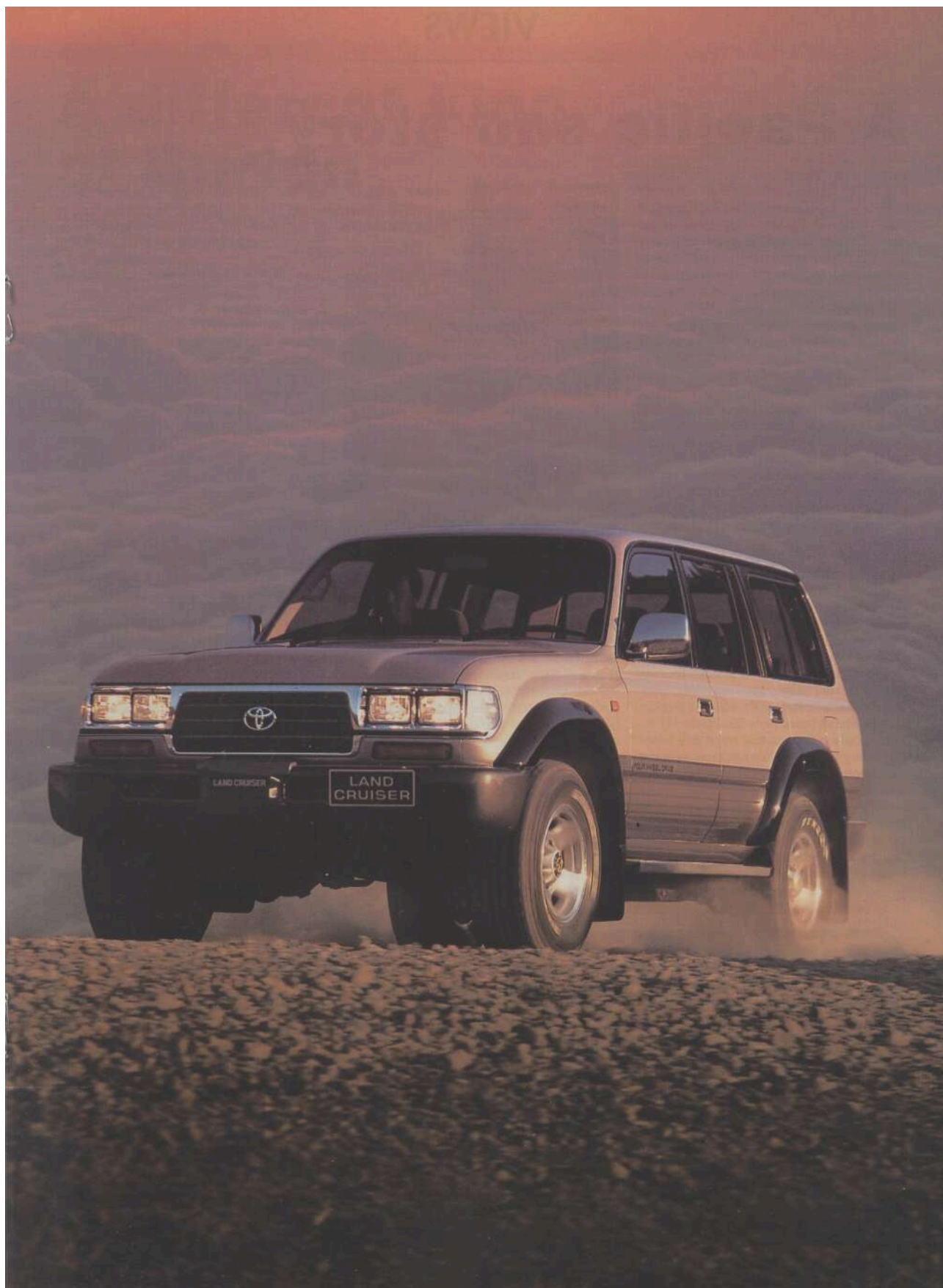
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VIEWS

A Pacific sad story

THE figures tell the sad story of Pacific Islands youngsters' participation and achievement levels in the New Zealand education system. Nearly half the island population over 15 leaves school with no qualifications and only one-in-five go on to tertiary education.

Although more are going to school and staying on longer, rising participation has not translated into rising achievement levels.

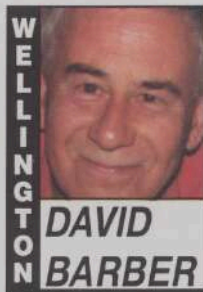
In the 1993 School Certificate examinations, for instance, only 8 per cent of Pacific Islands students won an A or B grade (against 29 per cent of the total) and 70 per cent received a D or E grade (compared with 41 per cent of all candidates).

The Ministry of Education sums up the situation: "It is a population at risk of continuing under-achievement in education, of alienation in classrooms and classroom practices, of unequal educational opportunities and of being unable to access resources and information."

Given that a better education is the key to improving the employment prospects of island youngsters, thereby helping the community breaking out of its poverty cycle, changing this situation is critical.

The Education Ministry has, for the first time, and some say, belatedly, produced a formal plan for developing Pacific Islands education in New Zealand.

It is only a draft at this stage and wisely is being refined in consultation with the island community. It will be given a high priority, said ministry head Dr Maris O'Rourke, noting that island social indicators on health, employment and income levels illustrate the need for urgent action. "We have to break this cycle," she said, "and we believe early intervention is the way to go." The strategic plan starts at the



groups, which the ministry hails as a successful model for parents and children, with long-term benefits for continued education in later years. It suggests they need to be developed in primary and secondary schools, where nearly 45,000 island students are enrolled, if Pacific languages and culture are to be maintained and enriched.

Lesieli Tongati'o, a former Tongan teacher employed two years ago as the ministry's first Pacific Islands Adviser, is in charge of the programme. She told me that while education was a high priority for Pacific Islands people, surveys had revealed they were falling for a variety of reasons. "The statistics don't really bear out the importance Pacific Islands people put on education," she said. "They want their children to do well, but they have problems with the systems." A key one was the difficulty many parents had in attending school conferences — "they are very busy trying to make ends meet" — and understanding what resources are available for their children. Few join school boards of trustees.

"Sometimes the cultural environment is not very welcoming," Lesieli said. "There is often a language barrier so they can't

ask the right questions." Students themselves tend to blame their parents for not giving them enough support. Living conditions in many families are often such that they do not have any suitable space for study, and because they tend to work alone — unlike Asian students, for instance — they don't have the advantage of peer assistance.

A shortage of Pacific Islands teachers compounds the problem for students who lack successful role models. An accent has been put on English, maths and science subjects because they tend not to participate in these as much as other students, and a Pacific Islands university student taken on as facilitator between teacher and pupils. A parent education programme has also been launched, with parents going to evening courses to learn how to support their children's education.

Good intentions, but will it work? No, says John Russell, head of Mana College, near Wellington, where 22 per cent of the pupils are Pacific Islanders. The reason, he says, is the plan calls for more resources to be put into the 3.2 per cent of schools, mainly in Porirua and the Auckland area, where Pacific Islands students are in the majority. But the parents are increasingly opting to move their children out of those schools and into others with wealthier populations and better grades.

Those schools are isolated from the island communities and will not be interested in adopting special measures to help them, Russell says.

So ironically, the island youngsters risk being further handicapped by their parents' desire to help them do better.

Once again, the Pacific Islands population in New Zealand is in a Catch 22 situation. Δ

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THE REGION

A different kind of Burton

A move has started top tag United States aid to the support it gets in the United Nations

By David North

CONGRESSMEN Burton was a familiar name to the US flag islands until his death a dozen years ago — a swashbuckler, a liberal Democrat, and very generous to the islands. He was Phil Burton of cosmopolitan San Francisco.

The current Congressman Burton is also important to the islands, but in a different way — a piece of his legislation just passed by the House of Representatives in Washington threatens to eliminate the flow of US funds to the independent island nations and reduce that flow to the Associated States. Congressman Daniel Burton is a different kind of guy, too, a very conservative Republican from that squarest of American cities, Indianapolis.

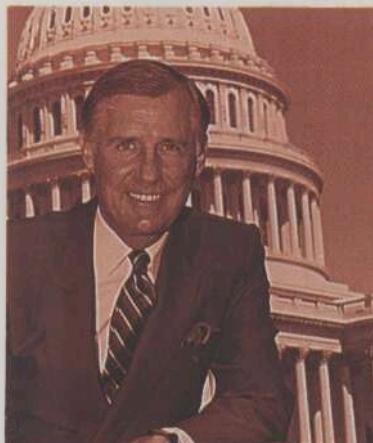
Many Republicans have never quite accepted the United Nations; that the US often does not get its way in UN votes riles them. Daniel Burton decided to do something about it, so he tacked an amendment on the foreign aid authorisation bill which said that none of those funds would go to countries whose delegates to the UN vote against the US more than 25 per cent of the time. The authorisation bill with Daniel Burton's amendment passed the House of Representatives and has been sent to the US Senate.

Daniel Burton's provision, if it is not removed by the more internationalist upper body, would wipe out US foreign aid to Fiji, PNG, and the Solomons (not that the US is spending much in this category in the Pacific anymore.)

The provision would also reduce, by several million dollars a year, the US payments to the Associated States of Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshalls and probably Palau. (Most US funds for those three entities flow through the Department of Interior, and are not covered by the pending legislation.)

The amount of money at stake, in fiscal year 1995, and the percentage of the times that the island nations voted against US positions can be seen in the chart. Palau does not appear on the list because it did not have a seat in the United Nations General Assembly during 1994.

Western Samoa and Vanuatu are missing, too; they have UN delegations, and probably vote like most of the islands, but



Burton: Threatening legislation

they apparently did not have bilateral funding from the US during fiscal year 1995.

The range of island nation opposition to US positions in the UN ranged from a low of 31 per cent for FSM to a high of 59 per cent for PNG. None of the island nations were even close to meeting Daniel Burton's stringent standard.

Washington observers think that:

- overseas aid will be cut sharply by the Republicans, generally; and
- that Daniel Burton's provision — now that he has made his point — will quietly die when the House and the Senate versions of the legislation go to conference some weeks or months hence.

But in the meantime, it did revive some talk in island circles in Washington about

the late, not-always-lamented Phil Burton. Phil Burton was a power to be reckoned with. He made his mark by crafting districting bills that preserved Democratic majorities in both the legislature and in

the Congressional delegation. As a matter of fact he once did something in the districting process that probably never happened before in American history; his brother, John, another Democrat, was also in the Congress at the time and brother Phil gave brother John some of Phil's very best Democratic precincts, to assure John's re-election.

In the islands, Phil Burton was both powerful and generous; he was chair of the insular affairs subcommittee of the then House Interior Committee for over a decade, and saw to it that substantial chunks of money were sent to American Samoa, Guam, and to what was then the Trust Territory of the Pacific (now FSM, the Marshalls and Palau.)

It was with his encouragement that the House voted to seat delegates from Guam, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands (in the Caribbean).

While the delegates cannot vote on the House Floor, they can in committees, and the delegates are sturdy lobbyists for their islands in Washington. Further, each office is funded by about \$1 million in federal funds.

Phil Burton was generous, but there was a bit of a colonial attitude as well; he enjoyed being the power broker who made major decisions about island affairs.

Phil Burton reached the peak of his power in January 1977 when he came within one vote of becoming the Democratic leader in the House, losing to Jim Wright of Texas, who went on to be the Speaker (the most powerful member of the House in the American system.) The island delegates all voted for Phil Burton in that caucus election.

By the time of Phil Burton's death, his brother John (rumoured to have had drug problems) had dropped out of the House.

But even after his death the Phil Burton influence lingered. His widow, Sala, held his seat for a while, until she, too, died. And, even to this day, a former Phil Burton staff member serves in the House of Representatives. He is Congressman Eni Hunkin Faleomavaega of American Samoa. Δ

United States aid funds and votes against US position in the United Nations

Country	Bilateral US aid \$ in fiscal 1995	% vote against US in UN '94
PNG	\$2,336,000	59%
Fiji	\$1,786,000	50%
Solomons	\$1,228,000	40%
Marshalls	\$795,000	35%
FSM	\$2,035,000	31%

One goal on poverty

THEIR experience may in some cases have been vastly different, but their goal was the same — to come to a consensus about the means of eradicating poverty.

Delegates representing non-government organisations (NGOs) from all 51 Commonwealth countries recently converged on Wellington to discuss the theme "Paths out of Poverty — the role of NGOs". Among them were a dozen delegates from Pacific countries, who attempted to come to grips with the question of just what poverty means for a Pacific Islander.

In the face of horror stories from Africa and India, the initial temptation might have been to conclude that relatively well fed, clothed and housed Pacific islanders had little to complain about.

Take Nigeria for example: its military dictatorship denies a large proportion of its population the most basic needs while itself amassing enormous wealth. The fact that Nigerian dissenters fear for their physical safety was underlined by the tearful speech of delegate Glory Kilanko, who voiced her concern about the four government "observers" despatched to the Forum by the Nigerian government.

Delegates were forcibly reminded of how privileged citizens in democracies can be when Maori lawyer Moana Jackson welcomed them — including among the guests the secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Chief Emela Anyaoku — to the land of what he described as "myths, lies and deceit," as he catalogued the injustices heaped upon his people.

Former Labour Government minister and Mayor of Wellington Fran Wilde later pointed out that the fact Jackson was free to air his grievances was proof that New Zealand was not as he portrayed it.

Pacific delegates had their own perspective on poverty to take to this, the second NGO Commonwealth Forum. Sponsored by the London-based Commonwealth Foundation, the Forum's deliberations should be incorporated in the

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in Auckland in November.

Abraham Baeanisia of the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) said what struck him in discussions with other Commonwealth peoples was the extent to which many of them were "landless".

"That's not been our experience in the Pacific. We have never been landless. But poverty shows itself in other ways: in education, health, the environment. For example, large scale logging is a path into poverty," he said.

Baeianisia singled out education systems in the Pacific as being in need of reform.

"We need education which is relevant to our needs. Only 15 per cent of Solomon Islanders are employed in the paid sector, and although our economic growth rate is increasing, the rate of those in the paid sector is not," he said. "The formal system of education needs to be supplemented by a non-formal option so that young people learn the skills that are required at the village level — gardening, woodwork, mechanical skills. SIDT works on strengthening village life, conducting education and disaster workshops and includes a village theatre group to put across messages about nutrition and logging."

Gabriel Tetiarahi of the Tahitian NGO umbrella group Hiti Tau, agreed that Tahitian poverty was not as dramatic as in Africa.

Nevertheless, there were 25,000 unemployed, and 30,000 people living in shanty towns around the capital.

"Although we have a relatively low illiteracy rate, we do have a problem of access to the Tahitian language. Around 80 per cent of Tahitians speak the language, but there is little formal training in it," said Tetiarahi.

Samoan delegate Korofeta To'o complained of "bio-piracy", whereby multinational drug companies were patenting drugs taken from Pacific plants.

"These drugs are worth millions and

millions of dollars to the companies but there is no return at all to the people of the Pacific who actually own the resources," he said. Other concerns raised by Pacific delegates included logging, mining in Papua New Guinea, and the dumping of rice and tinned fish which encouraged villagers to abandon their traditional, self-reliant lifestyles.

A significant proportion of the conference was taken up with discussion of the role of NGOs, often regarded with suspicion by governments.

The past 20 years has seen an explosion in the growth of NGOs around the world. In the United Kingdom there are more than 500,000, thousands of those charities with turnover estimated at £17 billion (\$US26 billion) a year. Around half of Australia's welfare services are supplied by not-for-profit charitable organisations, with a turnover of \$A4.4 billion a year.

With roots that go back to philanthropic efforts such as the abolition of slavery or child labour, NGOs are involved in both "care and welfare" work as well as activities at the sharp end of political change.

Increasingly donor aid money is being channelled through NGOs. The 1994/95 year saw New Zealand's aid development programme spending \$NZ5.9 million (\$US3.9m) on small-scale, community-based schemes, mostly in the South Pacific. Around 85 per cent of New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad funding of (\$NZ1.8 million (\$US1.1m)) comes from the government's aid budget, and NGOs received over 60 per cent of the \$NZ3 million (\$US2.1) spent on emergency and disaster relief last year.

As NGOs' professionalism increases, so has their status. The credibility of UN-sponsored talkfests like the Rio summit, the Cairo population conference or the Copenhagen social summit is measured by the inclusion or not of NGOs. Often such conferences will be accompanied by parallel NGO meetings.

Some Pacific delegates (preferring to remain unnamed) said their governments did not always understand the role of NGOs and sometimes demanded excessive accountability for funds that were channelled through them from overseas aid agencies.

Whether the Forum's communiqué will now be debated by Commonwealth leaders at the Auckland CHOGM meeting depends on how much pressure the NGOs apply to their governments to put it on the agenda. △

Big firms are patenting drugs taken from Pacific plants

THE REGION

Not so sweet sugar

By Bruce Dunford

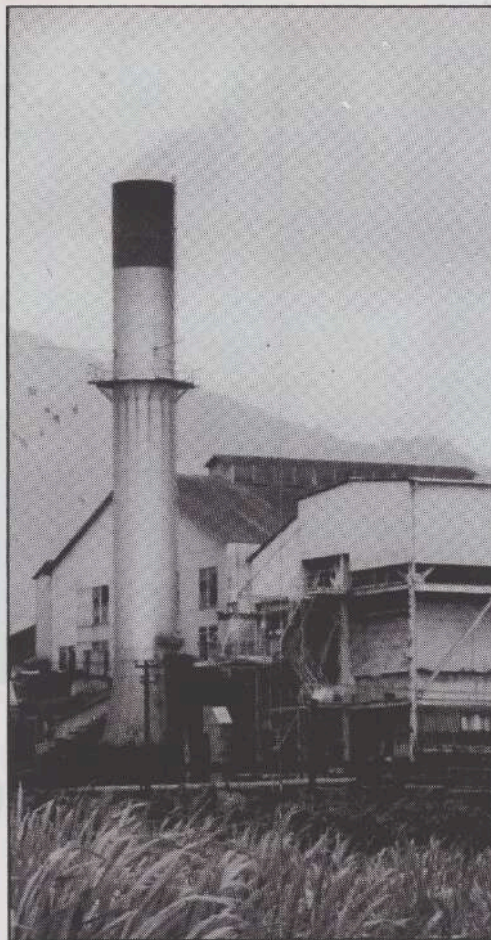
FOR more than a century, sugar was king in Hawaii, a powerful force that drove the islands' economy and politics. Now, the dynasty's sweetness has gone sour. Where there once were tall stands of lush sugar cane spreading across thousands of acres, many fields are fallow, tarnished with a dry, yellowish stubble of scrub cane and weeds.

West of downtown Honolulu, cane fields are giving way to sprawling subdivisions and a planned "second city" urban centre. It's detracting from Hawaii's world-famed tropical splendour.

The sugar industry moulded Hawaii's modern social and political fabric. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the vast plantations owned by the so-called "Big Five" companies, imported contract workers from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Portugal, leading to Hawaii's largely harmonious ethnic diversity.

The often repressive conditions on the plantations also led to sometimes violent union organisation and a union-backed political revolution by the educated children of the immigrants in the 1950s. But the number of workers in the sugar industry is now dwindling rapidly.

From some 9000 employees a decade ago, the industry's work force has shrunk to about 2000, according to Eusebio Lapenia Jr, president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 142. In June, McBryde Sugar Co. on the island



Troubled times? Waialua Sugar Mill at Oahu

of Kauai joined the growing list of plantations shutting down, citing decades of financial losses.

The shutdown follows the closures last year of Hamakua Sugar Co. and Hilo Coast Processing Co., both on the island of Hawaii, and Oahu Sugar Co., just west of Honolulu.

Waialua Sugar Co. on Oahu and Ka'u Agribusiness Co., also on Hawaii Island, have planted their last crops and will shut down once they complete a final harvest next year.

Remaining are Kekaha Sugar Co., Lihue Plantation Co. and Gay and Robinson Inc's operations, all on Kauai, and Maui's Pioneer Mill Co. and Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Co. HC and S is the state's largest sugar

operation and the only one in recent years to add substantial sugar acreage. The five plantations will produce about 400,000 tonnes of raw sugar annually on 27,000 hectares compared with a peak statewide output in 1966 of more than 1.2 million tonnes on 95,000 hectares. The viability of the remaining sugar operations could rest on Congress' decision on keeping federal sugar price supports, which expire in October. The price supports provide moderate protection from cheaper foreign sugar being dumped on the US market. "I don't think Hawaii's sugar industry can survive without some kind of price support," say James Andrastick, president of C Brewer and Co. Lapenia agrees. Lowering or eliminating price supports could spell quick doom for two or three of the plantations with only marginal profitability, leaving only the two strongest companies, HC and S, and Gay and Robinson, he says. "In the

past, all the companies shared the shipping, marketing and research costs," Lapenia says. "When you shrink that base, that puts a bigger burden on the remaining companies and the profit margin becomes even less. That's basic economics."

Some in the sugar industry say it is in its death throes. Others say it's only being honed to its strongest players who will survive for years. It's bringing to an end the tight knit plantation communities where companies provided cheap housing, medical services and recreation for the workers whose hourly pay ranges from \$US7 — \$US13.

Once considered a social stigma, growing up in a plantation camp is worn today as a local badge of honour. Δ

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Papua New Guinea



This is the Papua New Guinea many of us do not see. It is the Sepik ... beautiful, peaceful and quiet

Land of Diversity

TOURISM is a grossly under-exploited industry in Papua New Guinea today, says that country's Tourism Promotion Authority. Due to existence of rich mineral and forest resources within the country, little political attention was focused towards this service industry in the past. However, with its widely diversified geographical terrain within a small region and unique vibrant cultures, it has high potential to develop as a major tourism destination in the South Pacific region.

Papua New Guinea is a land of geographical diversity with high mountains, low lying swamps and volcanoes. The dominant features of the country is the central spine, a complex of high mountain ranges intersected by alpine valleys and many plateaux.

Vast tracts of Papua New Guinea are still wild and underdeveloped. Extremely rugged mountains, thick jungles, swamps and the sea have for centuries restricted contacts among different tribes, inhibiting the growth of a common language and contact with the outside world. This has given rise to numerous distinct, unique and

vibrant cultures and traditions which have remained practically unchanged for centuries.

From the point of view of diverse geographical setting, the country is a vast, primitive and sensationally beautiful destination for travellers. From a tourist's viewpoint it is the "last great frontier on earth".

Since independence in 1975, tourism remained a potentially sensitive issue in PNG and interest in its development waxed and waned under successive governments. Physical growth in the sector was very slow, and the appreciation of the currency (Kina) in the past on the back of large-scale resource development meant that tourism became an expensive, low volume and high yield sector.

However, the tourism scenario in PNG is undergoing a rapid change now. The national government of the country now regards tourism as one of its key priority areas for generation and employment.

The government established a new and specialised body, the Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA) in early 1993 to change the nature of tourism in the country. It is to

operate as a stimulus for the private sector by promoting the overall tourism image of the country and by facilitating the growth and development of the industry at home.

TPA expects that there will be a significant upsurge of visitors in PNG in the near future — the great majority of them being holiday-makers. However, to maintain the quality of tourism products of PNG unaffected, a sudden upsurge of international visitors may not be desirable. It ideally needs a slow but very steady process of growth maintaining close link with the carrying capacity of the industry at home.

After decades of no growth, to achieve this, it is essential that the momentum and direction initiated by the TPA in the marketing and developmental areas so far be maintained and enhanced in future years. And, at the same time, structural bottlenecks in the areas of aviation and other infrastructural areas need to be eased. Then only we can have a strong and viable tourism industry in PNG in the near future which can provide a practical solution to the economic and social problems the country is facing today.

ADVERTISING FEATURE
Papua New Guinea

The bird of paradise

IN Papua New Guinea, all roads lead to an airport. Rugged mountain ranges and dense tropical jungle have established the aircraft as king, with thousands of people across the country reliant on air services for basic supplies and transport. This year, as PNG celebrates its 20th year of independence, the country's national airline, Air Niugini, reflects on 22 years of aviation excellence that has contributed to the growth of a nation.

Aviation has played a crucial role in the development of PNG since the first European exploratory expeditions in the 1920s and the gold-rush boom in the following decade. Air Niugini continues the tradition, flying mining engineers across the country, tracking the minerals that have led to the growth of PNG's most successful export industry.

Air Niugini began operations in November 1973 using aircraft from Ansett and TAA (now Qantas Australian Airlines). The fleet consisted of 20 aircraft — eight Fokker Friendship F27s and 12 Douglas DC3s. The name Air Niugini proudly painted in the airline colours was taken from the pidgin for New Guinea.

In its first year of operation, Air Niugini carried over 350,000 passengers. As local destinations were added and passengers increased, Air Niugini was able to play a major role in unifying the remote provinces of Papua New Guinea, assisting progress towards Independence in 1975.

In the early 1980s, computerisation of the reservation system was completed and the now internationally recognised logo of the raggiana bird of paradise was unveiled. The in-flight magazine of the airline, *Paradise*, began and won several prominent awards, including the prestigious PATA Gold Award for the best in-flight magazine in 1988.

The Air Niugini fleet has also developed and expanded. Today the airline operates six F28-1000s, two F28-4000 and two Dash-7 45-seater aircraft domestically, while the international routes are serviced by two Airbus 310-300s.

Air Niugini has a route network with eight international destinations including Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Honiara and Jayapura as well as servicing 20 domestic airports in PNG. Sales offices are now located in Europe, the United States, Asia and Australia. The Air Niugini network, under the direction of chief executive Dieter Seefeld, has also expanded to offer innovative services to its customers. Air Niugini



Air Niugini's A310 Airbus approaches descends into Hong Kong

has been instrumental in promoting PNG as an exotic destination to the international tourism market. Package tours now cater for a variety of traveller interests. The airline offers weekend breaks for business travellers in PNG, adventure holidays featuring whitewater rafting, trekking the Kokoda Trail and visits to remote villages, as well as special eco-tourism itineraries.

The airline was recently awarded a plaque from the Professional Association of Dive Instructors for an outstanding contribution by an airline to dive tourism. The award signified formal recognition of Air Niugini's role in the promotion of PNG as a premier professional and amateur diving

location by offering innovative charters and tours for enthusiasts in exciting across the country.

The airline assists local exporters with the transport of cargoes of local seafood flown fresh to Hong Kong and Japan using overnight domestic flights connecting with early morning international services.

This year's Independence celebrations in PNG are especially poignant with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two. Air Niugini recognises the strong relationship with its Pacific neighbours strengthened during World War Two battles in places such as Kokoda. This year, the airline has taken many veterans back to

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Papua New Guinea

A remarkable collection

PAPUA New Guinea lies barely south of the Equator, just north of the Australian continent. It is the last of a string of islands spilling down from South-East Asia into the Pacific. Apart from the mainland, Papua New Guinea comprises a remarkable collection of islands, atolls and coral reefs scattered around its coastline.

The mainland is divided by the Owen Stanley Range — a rugged central spine with peaks over 4000 metres high. Great rivers begin their journeys to the sea from these mountains — among them the mighty Sepik and Fly waterways. Below the mountain chain, fertile coastal plains, flooded delta region and mangrove swamps exist alongside broad sandy beaches, sheltered bays, and dense rain-forest.

It is probable that the first human settlers reached Papua New Guinea by island-hopping down the Indonesian archipelago from mainland Asia some 50,000 years ago. Although Papua New Guinea was never physically linked to a land mass in the west, human migration would have been relatively easy due to lower sea levels caused by an ice age.

The first European sighting of Papua New Guinea on record took place in 1512 when two Portuguese explorers sailed by. The first landing was also Portuguese. Jorge de Meneses named the country "Ilhas dos Papuas" — Land of the Fuzzy Hairs. In the following centuries various European nations sailed past, but an inhospitable country and savage warriors kept them from seriously considering a permanent landing. Finally, in 1660, the Dutch decided to claim the territory, which they named New Guinea.

It wasn't until the 1870s that the inevitable traders, adventurers and missionaries arrived. Towards the end of the century, the country had been divided into three zones — Dutch, German and British. In 1906, British New Guinea became known as Papua and the administration was taken over by Australia.

In 1920 the League of Nations handed control over to Australia as the Territory of



Dancing is part of the Papua New Guinea lifestyle

Papua and New Guinea. Progress towards independence escalated in the 1960s and in 1973 internal self-government came into effect. On September 16, 1975, full independence was declared, and the country became known as Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea's art forms are as diverse as they are distinctive. In a country where language varies from village to village, it can be expected that artistic expression will differ in style just as dramatically. Pottery, weapons, carvings, basketwork, musical instruments — produced by different people in different places, according to their traditional skills and beliefs.

Papua New Guinea artefacts and handicrafts can be purchased from individ-

ual artists and retail outlets in towns and villages. The Faculty of Creative Arts — UPNG at Waigani — is also an excellent source of paintings, pottery and etchings. Artefacts can also be found for sale at most high schools, teachers' colleges and galleries.

Bilums are natural fibre string bags made in most province. They are very strong bags used for everything from storing food to carrying a baby. Most provinces specialise in different kinds of weaponry. Bows and arrows, are traditional in several areas. Shields have a decorative and spiritual role just as important as their defensive purposes. The Chambri Lake carvers in the East Sepik region decorate their spears to match their masks.

PNG to attend memorial services for soldiers killed in action.

In August this year, the airline assisted Rotary International and the Returned Services League of Australia to bring representatives of the Papuan Infantry Battalion and the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels" to

Sydney for the Victory in the Pacific Day Commonwealth March and Service. The attendance of these veterans signified the role played by the people of PNG in defending the Pacific region.

Today, Air Niugini embodies the pride of a young nation. Local people enjoy watch-

ing their airline take off with its raggiana bird of paradise blazing as it flies to represent PNG at destinations in other parts of the world. This year, Air Niugini reflects on its contribution to the growth of a nation and looks to continuing its success in the 21st Century.



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beaches and a slumbering volcano. Navigate vast

rivers snaking through virgin rainforest. Be welcomed by a myriad of unique

and colourful peoples, each with their own distinct cultures and traditions.

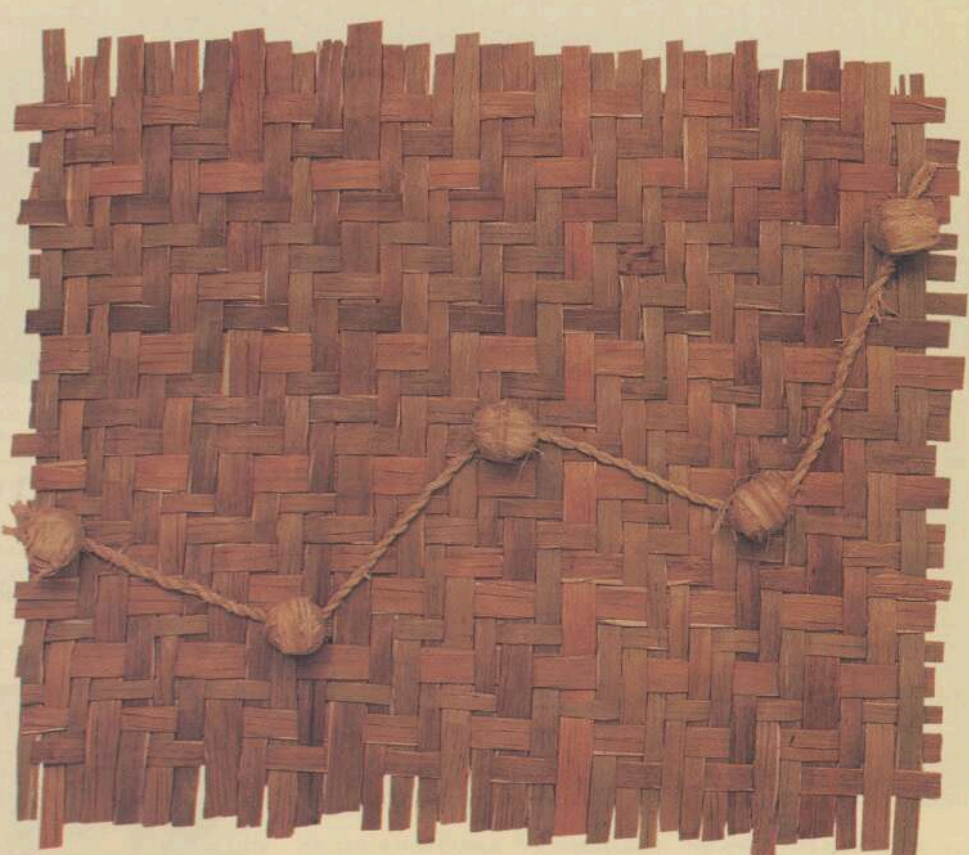
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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Papua New Guinea

Moresby's bustling lifestyle

THE birthplace of European influence, Port Moresby was named after Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby by his son, Captain John Moresby, who mapped the southern coastline in 1873. It later became the capital of British New Guinea, and then Papua New Guinea after independence in 1975.

Port Moresby — or "Moresby" as it is popularly known — is a bustling cosmopolitan city of 196,000 people. Rich in cultural diversity, the city has the country's largest foreign community, and counts among its citizens people from almost every tribal group in the land. The centre of the city is on a peninsula at the entrance to Fairfax Harbour, where the docks and business district are located. Nearby Paga Hill is a favourite city lookout spot among visitors.

Port Moresby is a "spread out" city, extending along the coastal bays and back into the hills. Hanuabada is the original Motuan settlement — a stilt village located close to the city centre. Although once destroyed by fire, the houses have been rebuilt to retain some of the character of Motuan tradition.

The infamous Kokoda Trail is within striking distance of Port Moresby, and is a main attraction of the area. From popular Ela Beach in the city, the shoreline runs up to Koki Bay, a traditional meeting place for Papuans. Koki Market attracts traders and bargain hunters every day, but on the weekends it is crowded with stalls offering fresh fruit, vegetables, seafood.

Port Moresby is a fascinating blend of the old and the new. The National Parliament building exemplifies the striking harmony of modern architecture and traditional design. The National Museum and Art Gallery exhibits cultural features of Papua New Guinea's complex and varied

tribal lifestyles. Port Moresby is the hub for most Papua New Guinea air travel. With a staggering 466 airfields scattered throughout the country, Papua New Guinea is dependent on the efficiency of its domestic flight network. Jacksons International Airport has established Port Moresby as the gateway to Papua New Guinea.

Sogeri Plateau is a 46 kilometre journey from Port Moresby. At 800 metres the air is cool and comfortable. From Sogeri, short drives (and walks) lead to peaceful picnic areas, jungle walks, and swimming holes. Sogeri is also the starting point for the

Kokoda Trail. Variarata National Park is a spectacular natural mountain region providing excellent views of Port Moresby and the coastline. Wildlife and native flora are plentiful and provide photographers with an opportunity to test their skills.

West of Port Moresby the Hiritano Highway connects to Bereina, home of the colourful Mekeo people who are renowned for their impressive dancing displays and striking costumes. In the high country, the village of Tapini can be reached by walking tracks, or by aircraft to its heart-stopping cliff-face airstrip.



Village life in Papua New Guinea

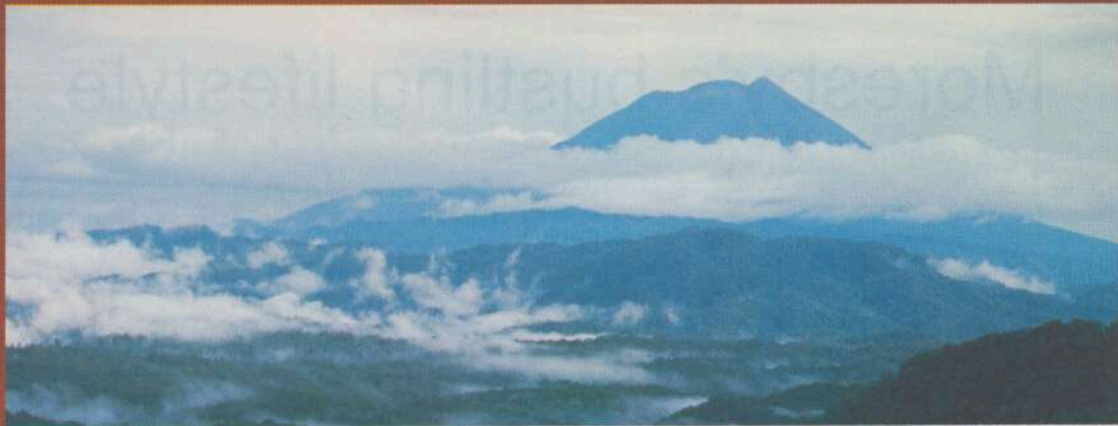
So many living things

A GREAT percentage of Papua New Guinea's land mass is covered with a dense blanket of rainforest — and exotic tangle of vines, creepers, flowers, plants and trees. Wild orchids blaze from the green background of rainforest canopy. PNG has more orchids than any country in the world. Bird life proliferates in the forests of Papua New Guinea, including the many species of the famous bird of paradise. Of

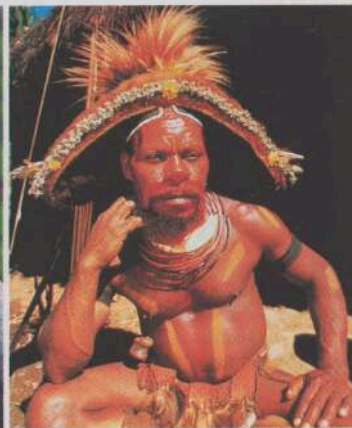
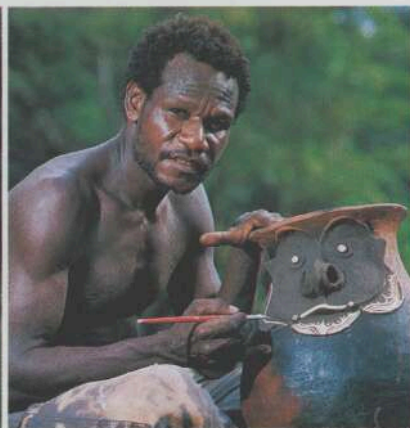
the 43 known species of birds of paradise, 38 are found in Papua New Guinea. These brilliantly coloured birds perform bizarre ritualistic and mating dances, and were hunted by early traders for their feathers. Most animals in Papua New Guinea are marsupials, descendants from those found in Australia. Although not indigenous to Papua New Guinea, pigs are a valuable source of food and an important status

symbol among Highlands tribal people. Rusa deer are a more recent arrival, brought into the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya by Dutch colonists, they then crossed into the Southwest part of the country. There are 200 species of reptiles, including 13 different turtle species and 100 snakes. PNG is a paradise for insects, and is home for the world's largest butterfly, Queen Alexander's Birdwing.

This is Papua New Guinea.



If you think our scenery is impressive
wait until you meet our people.



PRIMITIVE cultures? Think again. Some of our ancestors were tending irrigated market gardens thirty thousand years ago. ♦ Others devised giant multi-hulled sailing vessels to increase cargo volume on trading voyages. These *Lakatois* are still built each year in celebration of those epic voyages. ♦ You may also marvel at the skills needed to construct massive *Haus Tambarans*—buildings soaring to heights that would shame many a modern architect. ♦ Yet the most impressive fact for the jaded traveller is that so many fascinating cultures and traditions are still a part of everyday life; not something turned on for the benefit of tourists. ♦ And with over 800 languages in PNG, we probably have more ways of saying “welcome” than any other people on earth. ♦ So come to PNG for the natural, breathtaking scenery and you will quickly discover that it’s our people that make PNG a truly unique destination.

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ACME TPA

THE REGION

25 at last

Fiji celebrates 25 years of independence this month but growing up has not been easy

By Yunus Rashid

TWENTY-FIVE years ago on October 10, 1970, the British lowered the Union Jack for the last time and Fiji proudly hoisted its national flag, symbolising the birth of a new nation achieving independence from the rule of colonialism. A new constitution was put to the test as Fiji went forth to enjoy its new-found freedom.

In the next two decades, under the leadership of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as Prime Minister, Fiji was to prove itself as a fine example of how a Third World country could quickly develop with a successful economic growth and positive social changes unseen in the Pacific islands.

The 80s, however, were to bring about changes — not always happy ones — that would rewrite the course of history in Fiji. In a meeting in Suva in 1985, the Fiji Trades Union Congress decided to form a political party, which it called the Fiji Labour Party, and prepare to contest the general election due in two years. A coalition of the Labour Party and the Indian-dominated National Federation Party swept to victory in the 1987 general election, unseating Ratu Sir Kamisese and sowing the seeds of dissent among many of the Fijian people. Led by the Taukei Movement, Fijians protested, supposedly in fear of an Indian-dominated Government, although the Government itself was led by a Fijian, Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra, a former senior civil servant and former President of the Fiji Trades Union Congress.

Dr Bavadra's Government did not last long. The protests, and violence, triggered a military coup on May 14, 1987, led by Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, at the time the third highest ranking officer in the Fiji Military Forces. International pressure failed to change the course of events after Rabuka's coup and Dr Bavadra was never



Adi Kuini: Had expected chiefs to rise above the improper

to regain power and eventually poor health took his life. His widow, Adi Kuini Vuikaba, has remarried and lives in Suva. She is the President of the Fijian Association Party which has five seats in Parliament.

Adi Kuini can still remember vividly the events that led to the formation of the Fiji Labour Party and which effectively sealed the fate of her husband. "It was an exciting period," she says. "There was an air of anticipation and optimism in the months leading to the formation of the Fiji Labour Party. At this time racial differences had no meaning and there was no element of animosity between the races."

Adi Kuini said politics was traditionally a leadership-driven thing where chiefs like Ratu Sir Kamisese and Ratu Penaia Ganilau were automatically accepted as leaders by Fijians, and former Opposition leaders Siddiq Koya and A D Patel were accepted by the Indians.

She said even though the 1970 Constitution had racist elements to it, the political set-up allowed the races to exist peacefully. She is not happy with the new constitution which was promulgated in July 1990 and which is being reviewed. She said the 1990 Constitution is too pre-

occupied with racial issues that it fails to deal properly with social, economic and cultural issues. Says Adi Kuini: "Dividing people into ethnic groups is never good. I wish our leaders had come up with a solution to bind the people." Of the coup, she says it has "dashed all ideals and principles of harmonious democratic existence. I had hoped that the chiefly system would not have supported it. Doctor (Bavadra) and I both felt let down. As one related to chiefs I had expected them to rise above the improper, illegal, un-Fijian, un-traditional action of the coup leaders. "Dr Bavadra was heart broken. We who were close to him could see that. He never could digest the implications of the coup nor he ever expressed his true feelings. He was stunned by the fact the voice of the people had been shunned. But this is not to say that he had lost hope. He impressed upon me the fact that the cause was more important than one person."

Her views on a better Fiji is to stop compartmentalising the people and develop a new system whereby districts would send their representatives irrespective of race to help form a

government. Adi Kuini says Fiji's problem surfaced from deep-rooted fears held by each of the two major races. Indians feared that Fijians had rights which they did not have and Fijians feared that Indians had the economic clout which outweighed the political clout they had. She added that the fears were held by "non achievers".

She says "many Fijians are now beginning to ask themselves now that if political power had been in their hands since 1970, why is it that they lost out socially, in economics and in education?"

On why she has abandoned the Fiji Labour Party for the Fijian Association, Adi Kuini says politics is about being pragmatic. "I decided that the best way I could serve and make the Fijian people understand the realities of Fiji's politics was to join the Fijian Association."

She says talks held between the Fijian Association and the ruling Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei party will be helpful if the Fijian Association is allowed to input its views and have those views recognised by SVT. "Otherwise we would be giving in to a system which we all recognise is not fair and it is for all political leaders to work hard and rectify the situation," Adi Kuini said. Δ

THE REGION

The report that shocked

By Martin Tiffany

QUITE a few feathers were ruffled in Fiji by a World Bank report which made headlines in the country in early September. It said a lot of things people did not want to hear or see made public.

The report titled *Fiji: Restoring Growth in a Changing Global Environment* was released in June and covered the fiscal year to December 31, 1994.

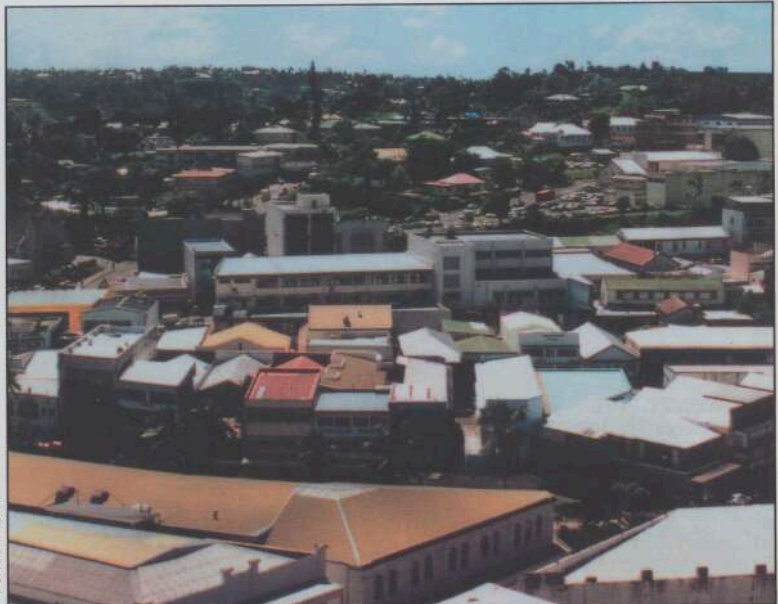
The gist of the report was that Fiji's economy had stuttered and become stagnant in the past four years and needed a good kick up the pants to get it back on track. It says a number of critical problems are facing the Fiji economy and it blames those problems on the Government's failure to put in place a strategic vision for the economy.

The report says continuing political uncertainty, the lack of confidence regarding public policy, and concern over loss of competitiveness have seen private investment fall to only five per cent of the GDP since 1990.

In the aftermath of the 1987 coups, two political issues need to be resolved to encourage an environment for growth, says the report. "Fiji is the issue of political rights: the 1990 constitution limits the rights of Indo-Fijians, and the outcome of the ongoing constitutional review will be closely watched by the private sector," the report says. "The second is impending sugarcane land lease renewals, which if mishandled, could further aggravate relations between ethnic groups. With political and property rights in question, many entrepreneurs are reluctant to make long-term investments."

The report touches on many things, from agriculture to poverty, looking at shortfalls and offering suggestions. Overall the report predicts a fairly positive short-term economic outlook but says critical changes must be made to ensure an economic upturn. The report should be used as a basis for change, and while some, understandably, feel the need to dig into the nitty-gritty of the World Bank report, such energy will be better used as a catalyst for change rather than as a platform to argue against the report.

The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests disputed claims by the report that Fiji's agricultural sector had slid into a low-productivity, low-growth trap. John Teiwa, the ministry's permanent secretary, said "the report was not accurate because it was based on the assumption that agricul-



Fiji's capital Suva: Issues need to be resolved

tural growth is lagging. I'm disappointed with the report because agriculture has grown in comparison with other sectors."

Teiwa said that based on a recent report by the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Fiji's GDP increased by 3.2 per cent in 1994; the agricultural sector grew by 7.4 per cent compared to 4.9 per cent for services. He said the report also fails to acknowledge the success of the forestry and fisheries sectors.

The report also highlighted the problems faced by the poor administration of the Value Added Tax and the failure to collect VAT money. In its first year alone, VAT arrears amounted to \$50 million.

Fiji's Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Tui Mailekai, questioned the World Bank source, saying "we never had any discussions with them at any stage" and did not know where they got their figures from. He said that if the World Bank had the latest information available in Fiji it would have seen that VAT was working well. VAT was introduced on July 1, 1992 and Mr Mailekai said the compliance rate in 1993 was 70 per cent and not 30 per cent as suggested by the World Bank. Says he: "The arrears of \$50 million as at December 1993 consists mainly of Default Assessments.

These are assessments made when a

business has not furnished a return. They are not necessarily accurate because until a return is furnished the department really has very little idea how much VAT has been collected. In fact the amount of actual VAT arrears as at December 1993 was \$4,544,766."

The report also suggests a devaluation of the Fiji currency to make Fiji more competitive. But the Reserve Bank of Fiji disagreed with that, saying broad economic indicators do not justify the need to devalue the Fiji dollar. It is healthy that there has been strong reaction to some of what the World Bank report says.

For Fiji, the short-term economic outlook has improved according to the report; sugar and tourism are doing well, inflation is down, and growth is higher than in the recent past. But in the longer term changes need to be made. The report says that "the breathing space afforded by the economic upturn must be used to push ahead with changes that will address the critical challenges facing the Fiji economy." These include:

- restoring economic growth sufficiently to provide jobs;
- diversifying the economy to reduce vulnerability to volatile export markets and take advantage of opportunities; and
- creating an environment conducive to growth that encourages investment. Δ

VIEWS

Madang's tough stand

PAPUA New Guinea's northern coastal town of Madang has become the first provincial capital in Forum Islands countries to host a meeting of the South Pacific Forum. In doing so, the townsfolk and the Government of PNG spared no effort to ensure the leaders and officials felt at home during their short stay.

Except for Solomon Islands and Western Samoa, leaders of all member countries attended the three-day summit held at the Madang Resort from September 13. Solomon Islands was represented by its Deputy Prime Minister while Western Samoa's Education Minister stood in for the PM.

It was at Madang, too, that the newest member, the Republic of Palau, was formally admitted as the 16th member of the South Pacific Forum. But Madang is likely to be remembered, too, in another context. It was there that the South Pacific Forum leaders took some decisive steps to deal with French nuclear testing in the Pacific and nuclear testing in general.

They have placed France on notice that if it did not desist from its nuclear testing programme in the South Pacific, its Post-Forum Dialogue partner status would be reviewed. It would be a sad day indeed if the South Pacific Forum were to be forced to take such an action, given that France had made positive contributions to the overall development in the region.

The argument by France that the anti-nuclear campaign was orchestrated by certain members of the South Pacific Forum to get Paris out of the region has no foundation. It is nothing more than an act of desperation to salvage lost prestige in the face of international condemnation and isolation. It is a price for ignoring world opinion.

The argument is an insult on the intelligence of the Pacific leaders and their people. How does that argument sit with the results of public opinion polls in Paris which show voters opposed to the resumption of nuclear testing at Mururoa and Fangataufa now account for 64 per cent and rising? Or the demonstrations which had been held and continue to be held in just about every metropolitan city in the world. Even most members of the European Union to which France belongs have stated in no uncertain terms that they are opposed to nuclear testing.

The fact that French President Jacques Chirac tried to sell the nuclear persuasion argument as an umbrella to its European



campaign is one orchestrated by the world opinion that there is no need to continue to develop such weapons. There's enough of it in the world already to blow this planet away in a matter of seconds.

The fact is that since the Cold War era has ended, the world has finally realised that we all can live together without the threat, or even the perceived threat, of a nuclear attack hanging over our heads. Developing nuclear technologies and testing them is not going to help us all to forget what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and those still suffering from the test fallout, particularly in the region.

The world has seen suffering through illnesses, let alone those still suffering the effects of fallout from past experiments. The statement by the leaders in the South Pacific Forum on nuclear testing is pretty telling. It was directed at both France and China. It is also to thank the people of the region and around the world in their support in a united front against nuclear testing. The statement was issued after the leaders of the 16-member South Pacific Forum met in an informal session, known as the Retreat, with the first four hours of the private discussions devoted to French nuclear testing in the Pacific and nuclear testing in general. Here are excerpts:

"Leaders express their extremes outrage at the resumption of French nuclear testing the Pacific. Forum leaders again demand that France desist from any further tests in the region and call on other countries also to seek to persuade France to cease testing.

"The Forum also note that the painful memories resulting from nuclear testing conducted in the region a half-century ago still haunt many people in the region. Should France continue its testing in the Pacific, the Forum will review France's status as a Post-Forum Dialogue partner.

"The decisions by the governments of

allies is a telling blow which makes the "leave the Pacific now" argument almost obsolete. By allowing the tests to proceed, Chirac has lost a golden opportunity to get world opinion right behind him. The anti-nuclear

France and the People's Republic of China to continue testing are completely contrary to the undertaking at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review and extension conference on 11 May 1995 to exercise "utmost restraint" in nuclear testing pending the completion of negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that would ban nuclear tests for all time.

"The conclusion of a CTBT is an objective of the highest importance for the international community. Leaders therefore welcome the recent announcements of the United States and France to support a truly comprehensive CTBT. They call on all members of the international community, and especially the nuclear weapon states, to spare no effort to ensure the conclusion of a CTBT no later than 1996.

"In the spirit of the renewed emphasis on global disarmament, leaders call on France to sign and ratify the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone (SPNFZ) Treaty. They urge the United States and The United Kingdom to do likewise, noting that the People's Republic of China and Russia have already signed the protocols. The decision of the Government of Vanuatu to sign the SPNFZ treaty at the Forum is warmly welcomed. The forum will continue to oppose nuclear testing at every opportunity including at the United Nations General Assembly.

"Leaders commend the efforts commenced by the Forum Delegation to Paris in June. They thank the Forum Regional Action Committee for its work in supporting the activities of Forum Governments and endorse the report of its activities presented to the Forum.

"Leaders welcome New Zealand's action to resume its 1973 International Court of Justice case against French nuclear testing.

"Leaders reiterate the call by the Melanesian Spearhead group leaders through the Lakatoro Declaration and by the South Pacific Environment Ministers' Meeting in August 1995 for France to close its nuclear testing facilities in the Pacific, except as required for environmental monitoring; to accept full and exclusive responsibility for any adverse impacts from French testing on the Pacific environment and people; and to provide access for the international community to all the scientific data it holds and to the testing sites themselves to enable an independent and comprehensive assessment of the risks involved." Δ

Last chance, France

France comes under more attack as the Forum leaders lash out at nuclear testing

By Sudesh Kissun

AS expected, the resumption of French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll dominated the agenda of the 26th South Pacific Forum meeting in Madang, Papua New Guinea which began on September 13. The Forum leaders came out with an ultimatum to France: drop the tests or face expulsion from the Post-Forum Dialogue meetings. The Forum leaders said they were "extremely outraged" at France's decision to resume testing in the face of strong opposition from within the Pacific and abroad.

The Forum attracted a record 140 journalists to the meeting at the northern coastal town of Madang. Security for the three-day meeting was stepped up with nearly 400 policemen guarding the meeting venue. Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said the nuclear issues clouded the other important regional issues at the meeting.

Other important issues discussed by the leaders included securing development in the region beyond the year 2000, a new Code of Conduct on logging, tourism and transportation.

France detonated a 20-kiloton nuclear device on September 5. The leaders decided that Forum chairman, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, would call an emergency meeting if France conducted a second test.

The emergency meeting will review France's status as a Post-Forum Dialogue partner. Mr Rabuka said the Pacific leaders spoke very strongly against France. A Forum statement said the decisions by France and China to continue nuclear testing was completely contrary to the undertaking at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review and extension conference in May this year.

The two nuclear powers had agreed to exercise "utmost restraint" in nuclear testing pending the completion of negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that would ban nuclear tests for all time.

The conclusion of the CTBT is an objective of the higher importance for the international community, the Forum leaders said.

A new vision for the region

THE Pacific leaders who met at the Forum meeting in Madang the past month have promoted a vision for enhancing regional co-operation for the next 25 years. That vision is:

- Co-operation on the basis of equality, friendship and mutual respect — with due regard for what each can afford — in efforts to maintain security, improve living standards and ensure sustainable development throughout the region;
- Creating opportunities for co-operation with other governments, non-governmental organisations and international organisations, including other bodies in the Asia-Pacific;
- Developing resources — including fisheries, forestry, minerals, water and land — with proper regard for conservation;
- Unity in securing shared interests which contributes to the national, regional and global good;
- Material progress matched by improvement in the quality of people's lives, including human development, equality between women and men, and the protection of children;
- Overcoming the vulnerability to the effects of natural disasters, environmental damage and the other threats;
- The respect and promotion of indigenous and other values, traditions and customs of the region through cultural, sporting and other exchanges;
- Have self-determination in the remaining dependent territories, and the end of unwelcome activities by external powers, including nuclear testing;
- Promotion of international economic co-operation through trade, investment and other exchanges to strengthen subsistence and commercial agriculture, industrial development competition, leading to growth — with equity, broad-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance;
- Openness, accountability and other principles of good government are embodied in the practices, policies and plans of regional institutions; and
- National sub-regional and regional efforts to achieve the Forum's vision.

The leaders welcomed New Zealand's action to resume its 1973 International Court of Justice case against French for its nuclear testing and the effects those tests will have on the environment of the Pacific.

The leaders reiterated the call by Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders

through the Lakatoro Declaration, signed in August, and by the South Pacific Environment Ministers meeting in August this year for France to close its nuclear testing facilities in the Pacific, except as required for environmental monitoring.

Greenpeace Pacific Limited charged that the statement by the Forum leaders

THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

was "strong on rhetoric and very weak on action".

"The international community expects the Pacific to set the benchmark for opposition to the resumption of testing by France, and this statement falls far short of that," said spokesperson Bunny McDiarmid.

The Forum decided that individual countries were free to penalise France.

The Forum opened with colourful traditional dances. The Forum's newest member, Palau was welcomed at the opening ceremony. A canoe carrying Palau's flag travelled to PNG and berthed at a man-made lake where the ceremony was held.

Based on the Forum theme, *Securing Development beyond year 2000*, three leaders were asked to present regional overviews on important issues.

Mr Rabuka spoke on regional co-operation and trade, Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua spoke on transportation and Sir Geoffrey Henry, of Cook Islands, spoke on tourism.

On economic policy issues, the Forum supported a number of national policy measures and regionally based activities which would secure development in the region beyond year 2000.

The Forum decided that by enhancing competitiveness, implementing trade reforms, promoting harmonious trade within and outside the region, improving public sector efficiency and improving aid management, economic goals could be achieved.

On regional air service, the Forum agreed to convene a meeting of civil aviation ministers, aviation authorities, airline representatives and other experts to discuss the further development of civil aviation services throughout the Forum region.

On Tourism, the Forum noted that Pacific Islands lay at the centre of one of the most rapidly growing networks in the world. "Leaders agreed, therefore, to direct their respective tourism authorities to explore options for increasing joint promotions, both within and beyond the

Innovative International School Seeks Bright, Talented and Enthusiastic Educators

The International Miyazawa Educational Foundation has over 25 years of experience in the management and operation of schools in Japan. The Foundation is now opening an innovative international school in Saipan. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Saipan is a tropical island located near Guam and just a few hours from Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Taiwan and Hongkong. Saipan has a multicultural population of about 60,000 people and is uniquely suited as a center for providing an international educational experience to students from the Pacific, Asia and the United States.

JOIN US in 1996 for our first phase which will include kindergarten, junior high and high school (grades 7-10). The second phase, 1997, will include an elementary school and high school grades 11-12. A college preparatory curriculum will be emphasised at the high school levels and all courses will be taught in English.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE: Currently, the Foundation is accepting applications for: (a) Principal (junior high/high school); (b) School Administrator; (c) Counselor; (d) Teachers for junior high school courses including computers, music and art (multidisciplinary credentials will be given special consideration); (e) Kindergarten Teachers, and (f) a School Nurse.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: All positions are being offered as two (2) year contracts with options to renew. Competitive salaries will be offered based on qualifications and experience.

BENEFITS: Benefits include a generous annual vacation, health and life insurance. For off-island recruits, benefits will also include air fare to Saipan and shipment of household effects up to a limit. Return air fare and shipment of household effects will be provided upon satisfactory completion of the contract.

Creative, motivated individuals with top qualifications and experience are invited to participate in establishing the foundation for a dynamic school that will grow.

Please send letters of inquiry or resume to: International Miyazawa Educational Foundation, Attn: EDR and Associates, PPP 460, Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950-9504. You may also fax: (670) 234-8381 or telephone (670) 233-8666.

Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme

For Information on sustainable development issues, contacts, sources . . .



undp

**Pacific SDNP,
South Pacific Commission,
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji.**

Fax: 679-370 021

Tel: 679-370 733

E-mail: spcsuva@pactok.peg.apc.org

THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

region," a Forum communiqué said. "In particular, they will examine transport needs, including national facilities and international links, as well as needs — and opening for investment — in relation to accommodation."

Another interesting topic of discussion at the Forum was the proposed Code of Conduct of Logging. The communiqué said Forum members endorsed the draft code and committed themselves to the implementation of its provisions as part of their national codes.

Forum Spokesman Sir Geoffrey explained that the code presented at the Forum was the final draft. He said member countries were asked to commit themselves to the code and the issue would not be brought up at the Forum again. The code was snubbed by Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, countries with controversial logging records. Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating was pushing for the endorsement of the code in the region.

On fisheries, the Forum welcomed and

noted the significance of the adoption at New York on August 4 this year of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The Forum expressed its appreciation for the outstanding work of the United Nations conference chairman, Fiji's Satya Nandan.

The Forum said that in light of the outcome of the UN conference, the leaders considered that comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements, and a structure consistent with UN conference outcomes to administer them should be developed as a matter of urgency. On the Law of the Sea, the Forum urged all members to become parties to the 1982 UN Convention of the Law of the Sea at the earliest opportunity.

On social issues, the Forum noted with satisfaction the contribution made by Pacific Islands countries to the outcome of the recent international conferences of population and development, social development and women. "It encouraged regional efforts to integrate population and environmental concerns," the communiqué said.

Environmental issues touched by the leaders included climate change, (global) environmental facility, biodiversity and international coral reef initiative.

The Forum adopted a convention to ban the importation into Forum countries of hazardous and radioactive wastes and to control the trans-boundary movement and management of hazardous wastes within the Pacific Islands. It also expressed continuing concern about shipments of plutonium and radioactive wastes through the region.

"It noted with appreciation concern about shipments of plutonium and radioactive wastes through the region," the communiqué said. "It noted with appreciation the co-operation of Japan in responding to the Forum's concerns by the provision of, and consultation about the shipments."

A review of the Forum Secretariat which called for streamlining of the secretariat's activities was endorsed by the leaders.

Absent from this year's Forum were Solomon Islands PM Solomon Mamaloni and Western Samoa's Tofilau Eti Alesana.

Next year's Forum will be held in the Marshall Islands. Δ

SPREP

South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme



PROE

Programme regional
océanien de l'environnement

P.O. Box 240, APIA, Western Samoa. Tel.: (685) 21929
Fax: (685) 20 231, E-mail: sprep@pactok.peg.apc.org

Post Title: Information and Publications Officer

Applications are invited for the position of Information and Publications Officer at the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Office, Apia, Western Samoa.

Candidates must have appropriate tertiary qualifications from a recognised tertiary institution with at least 5 years work experience in any field related to this position.

Other essential requirements; the ability to work as part of an inter-disciplinary team, to manage the work of consultants, to meet deadlines, often under difficult circumstances. Applicants with a demonstrated interest and involvement in environmental issues affecting the region will be highly regarded. A working knowledge of French would be an advantage.

The position will be at Project Officer level of SPREP's salary scale for contract staff.

SPREP remuneration is tax-free in Western Samoa for non-residents and for people who are not citizens of western Samoa.

Duties:

- Provide technical assistance to SPREP by coordinating production (layout, editing, printing and distribution) of SPREP technical documents and meeting reports, including the quarterly SPREP Newsletter. Coordinate production of French language and Pacific Island language versions of some documents and the French version of the SPREP Newsletter.
- Prepare press releases on various issues and act as the press liaison officer for SPREP meetings and media campaigns.
- Liase with other organisations and participate in developing and implementing communications programmes for the SPREP secretariat and its member countries and territories. Coordinate radio and video material production and related training activities.
- Supervise the regular updating and maintenance of SPREP's Contacts Database, especially for mailing lists and for distributing publications, supervise distribution of technical reports and extension materials inside and outside the South Pacific Region.
- Perform other duties as required from time to time by the SPREP Director.

The initial term for this position is 3 years, renewable for a further three years based on the viability of funds and merit of employee's performance.

All applications should be accompanied by 3 copies of curriculum vitae containing full personal details, information on qualifications and experience for the position, previous appointments, samples of recent communication work, including publications and press releases, current position and salary, the names and addresses and telephone and/or fax contact numbers of three persons associated with the applicant professionally and who would be prepared to provide testimonials. An indication of how soon the applicant would be available should be indicated within the application.

Closing date: 30 November, 1995.

All applications should be addressed to:

The Director,
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240
Apia
Western Samoa.
Telephone: (685) 21-929
Fax: (685) 20-231
E-MAIL: SPREP@PACTOK.PEG.APC.ORG

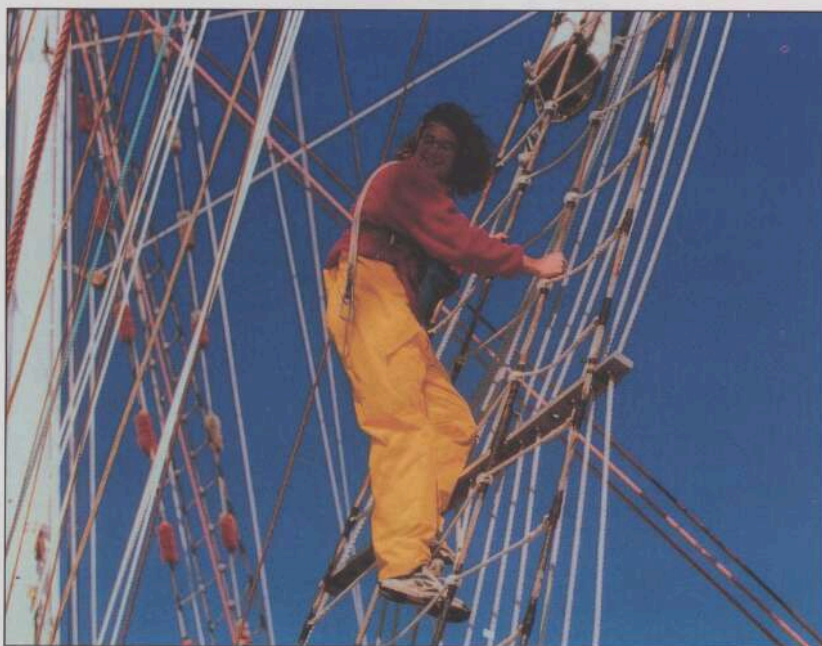
Enquiries for further information, please contact Mr Eneliko Seiuli, Administration Officer.

140523v6



Sir Geoffrey

LIFESTYLE



Phil Goodfellow climbs the *Concordia's* ratlines: Finding courage to do more

Reaching new heights on a rig

By Sally Andrews

SQUINTING into the wind and bracing ourselves against the freshening breeze, we spotted the 188-foot tall ship *Concordia* on the horizon, her two jibs flying in 25 knots of wind. Aboard the *Concordia*, nearly 50 North American students were returning home after 10 months at sea. They had sailed across the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans and had visited 41 countries.

Standing beside the lighthouse north of Sydney, Nova Scotia (Canada), the students' families wave arms, blew horns, flashed headlights, and wiped tears as the ship and her crew approached harbour. The 1994/1995 Class Afloat was ready to graduate.

The *Concordia* is barkentine-rigged and can carry 10,000 square feet of sail. Below decks, there are 21 cabins for the students, teachers and crew, and blackboards, maps, charts, textbooks, audio-visual equipment and a CD ROM library. She serves as a floating campus for students wanting to study aboard a tallship

while sailing around the world. Since 1985, over 350 students have sailed 350,000 miles to hundreds of ports of call world-wide. While at sea, teachers conduct classes in anthropology, marine biology, career and life management, international politics, and philosophy as well as English, maths and science. Students also study navigation, sail theory, maritime history and stand regular watches. Sleep is often elusive.

Class Afloat is a unique experience. Students learn the language of the sea and the unwritten rules of shipboard life. They soon adjust to the ship's routine. "The cabin that was claustrophobic is now cosy; the lookout that was boring is now peaceful; the 50 strangers from the first day aboard are now my best friends," says Kyla Tienhaar, a 12th grader from Ontario.

Student Stephanie Waterman learned that fears can be overcome: "On day one, with knees shaking, I climbed the ratlines to the lowest yard, discouraged that I would never have the courage to climb higher. Since then, I've reached and worked on the royal yard, 110 feet above

deck. I've learned that I can go beyond my previous limits, and pull harder, work longer, and do more, despite exhaustion, discouragement or failure.

"I've resisted the temptation to die when seasick, and have done my jobs on deck, in the classroom or in the galley, because others depended on me doing my share. I've responded to the responsibility of being a team member, in either the simple job of furling the jib, or the larger task of tackling *Concordia*. I've learned that I can't do everything by myself and it's OK to ask for help." At Jaluit Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the *Concordia* was greeted by the whole community of 600 people singing Marshallese songs. Summer Cameron, a student from British Columbia, was surprised by how the people lived with so little. "They had no telephones, no sewage systems, and no running water," she says. "Our contrasting western perspective were challenged as we saw how content these people were despite their lack of possessions and basic facilities." In the Solomon Islands, *Concordia's* Class Afloat students took a scuba diving course. Maths teacher Jay Goldman did five scuba dives in Gizo, Solomon Islands, and saw a spectacular array of reef fish and corals. "We have coral reef fish identification books aboard, and after one dive in Gizo, I saw more than half the species identified in the book!" Annie-Claude

Levalle, a 12th grader from Quebec, visited Skull Island in the Solomons. "After a 90-minute boat ride we pulled up on a reef in the middle of nowhere. The skulls, real human skulls preserved from the head-hunting days, were kept in a large case divided into little boxes — one head per box.

"We went to a beach on a small island directly across from Kennedy Island, where JFK (former US president John F Kennedy) was rescued. We were busy with a marine biology field study all day — 50 students and two teachers mapped an entire 200 yards of reef. What a great way to do homework — with pen, paper, mask, fins and snorkel! After several hours of this we were treated with a traditional BBQ. It was great."

This year, Class Afloat heads to South Africa via the East Coast of the USA, Europe and the Red Sea. Students will arrive in Australia in March; New Zealand, Tonga and Fiji during April; Apia Fanning, Palmyra and Hawaii during May; then home to Victoria, British Columbia, in June. Δ



THE ENVIRONMENT

The last

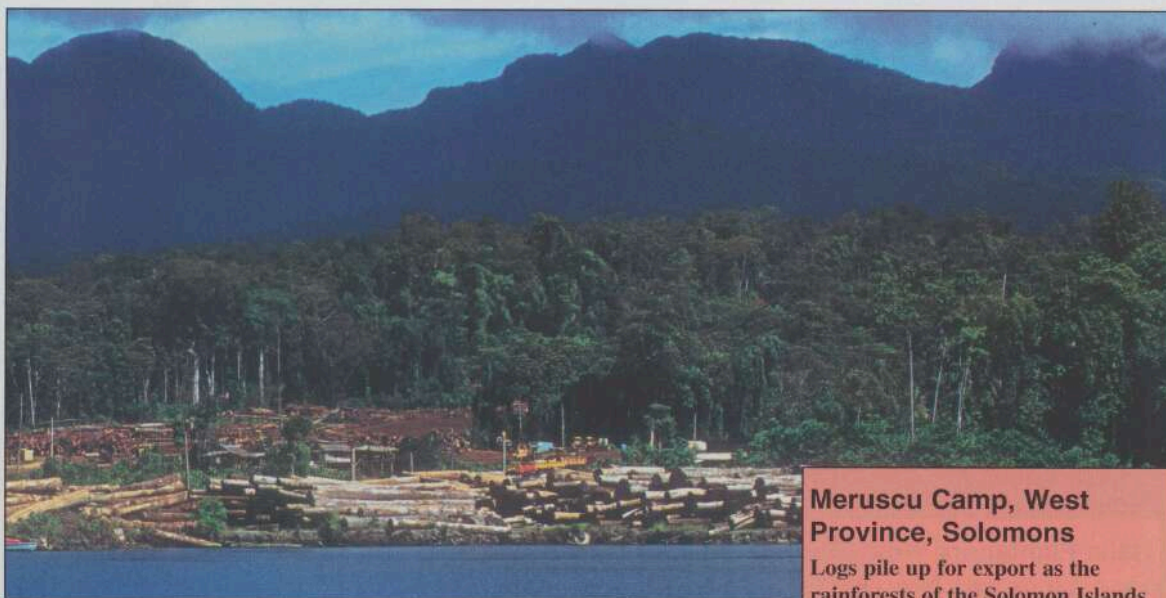
**Bob, contract logger,
Guadalcanal, Solomons.**

Bob is a contract logger for Pacific Timbers and earns 45¢ an hour, \$3.60 a day. He describes his work as being hard and dangerous. He says he doesn't like his work much, but needs the money. His contract

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Rainforest



Meruscu Camp, West Province, Solomons

Logs pile up for export as the rainforests of the Solomon Islands begin to disappear. Logging is a major cause of trouble between the landowners, the Government and the expatriate logging companies.

PETER SOLNESS / WILDLIGHT

The great rainforests of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are in great danger of being logged to extinction because of greed, bad management, bad decisions and poverty

By Peter Solness



TO the near north of Australia, blanketing the remote Melanesian archipelago of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, there survives one of the world's last extensive tracts of pristine tropical rainforest. It is

expires this month, after which he will return to his village. He does not expect to find any further work. Bob knows he is damaging his land but feels he has no option but to take the work offered by the logging company, who in turn reap great rewards on the sale of the timber.

Photo: Peter Solness / Wildlight

the largest remaining rainforest in the Pacific, acclaimed for its incredibly rich bio-diversity of flora and fauna. Depending on perspectives, it is also rich in other ways. The commercial timber value of this unique rainforest area has been estimated to be as great as \$100 billion.

To the powerful Asian economies nearby, with their increasing hunger for natural resources, this is an opportunity that has unsurprisingly not gone unnoticed. Over the past several years, a combination of events have led to a dramatic surge in logging activity on these islands, the extent to which many Australians may find surprising.

These events were precipitated during the 1980s when it was realised that Asia's traditional tropical hardwood supplies were beginning to dry up.

Countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines began shutting down their depleted rainforest

reserves to large scale log exports. As a result world prices for whole logs began escalating, (approx. 200% over the past couple of years) as the insatiable Japanese and South Korean timber markets started vigorously bargaining for the region's remaining timber supplies. (Timber is largely used for such undignified purposes as disposable concrete form work for Japanese building sites.)

Consequently, aggressive Asian logging companies, in particular the notorious Malaysian conglomerate Rimbunan Hijau, have targeted to great effect the gullible and poorly educated villagers of the Melanesian islands, (the traditional holders of 97% of the land) to successfully shore up long-term, and highly lucrative, logging supply deals.

Deep in the forests of Melanesia, the exotic displays of the "Birds of Paradise", are now competing with the interminable howl of chainsaw.

To state it simply, within this tranquil

THE ENVIRONMENT



Hella Plantation, West New Britain, Papua New Guinea

Large scale clearing of land for agricultural programmes is one way logging interests are increasingly accessing wealthy timber supplies, otherwise considered unavailable for regular logging concessions. Foreign companies are known to raze large areas of forest, harvest the resulting timber, and then leave the landowners highly dependent on the oil palm harvest as their only

source of income. Because of fluctuations in oil prices, oil palm is not a stable or reliable income source. In the nearby Kimbe markets, the wife of a local plantation owner was selling betel nuts as a way to make ends meet. Oil palm is not compatible with any other form of land use, so the under story of oil palm plantation is barren.

PETER SOLNESS / WILDLIGHT

the well meaning dollars of donor nations such as Australia.

Such "enthusiasm" by foreign logging companies working in this region, and their ability to sway opportunistic and short-sighted governments, promoted the now legendary 1988 Justice Toss Barnett inquiry into forest management of PNG, which concluded: "It would be fair to say of some of these companies, that they are now roaming the countryside with the self assurance of robber barons; bribing politicians and leaders, creating social disharmony, and ignoring the laws in order to rip out and export the last remnants of the province's timber. These companies are fooling the landholders and making use of corrupt, gullible and unthinking politicians. It downgrades Papua New Guinea's sovereign status that such a rapacious foreign exploitation has been allowed to continue with such devastating effects to the social and physical environment, and with so few positive benefits."

Observers confirm that if anything, in the seven years since the Barnett Report, things have deteriorated even more, as logging companies feverishly scramble for further concessions before the industry becomes, (if ever) fairly regulated.

corner of the Pacific, the controversial tropical hardwood business is booming.

Despite the promises, logging wealth which is supposed to aid these countries, through landowner royalties and state taxes, is clearly inadequate and disproportionate to the value of the resources taken. (Largely due to well documented scams such as "transfer pricing" and "mis-declaration and undervaluing of species"). Quite simply there is little long-term benefit to these countries, but a lot of long term problems.

Whole log exports from these forests have doubled, even tripled, over the past couple of years, extracting yields far beyond what analysts consider sustainable.

Such rapacious activity by foreign

companies is having serious implications through Melanesia, not only with the immediate problems of environmental degradation, or even through the insidious dislocation of human cultures considered intact since the stone age, but also for what this exploitation means in terms of the hard truths of global economics.

If logging continues at the current rate, it is estimated that the forest resources of these countries will be extinguished within as little as a decade. The World Bank has made it repeatedly clear to both the PNG and Solomon Island governments, that unless they reign in their unsustainable logging exports, their economies will inevitably implode. Into such a sorry melee, there would inevitably be dragged

THE ENVIRONMENT



Russel Islander, dwarfed by *vasa* tree, Pavuvu Island, Solomons

This majestic forest is under imminent threat from the logging companies. The photograph was taken shortly after the photographer, Peter Solness, was expelled by security guards from the controversial Maving Bros logging camp on the south coast of Pavuvu Island. This mature *vasa* tree was estimated to be worth about \$700 to the loggers.

To tax or not to tax

By Dr Roman Grynberg



Over the past few years AusAID has published what are occasionally some very interesting well thought out consultancy reports on the Pacific Islands region.

The Pacific region, if not being well studied, is certainly consulted to death. Much to the embarrassment of the many Pacific Islanders in the region is the world's highest per capita recipient of aid. However, what is not so widely known and understood is that 50 per cent of what the OECD calls Official Development Assistance or ODA is going to the Pacific Islanders also includes the cost of the gaggle of technical advisors and consultants ('the lap-top brigade') that have been the stock in trade of the aid business in the Pacific Islands region.

Most conservative estimates of aid to the Pacific suggest that over half the total ODA going to the region is in the form of consultancy reports and technical assistance.

One of the most recent and certainly controversial reports on Melanesia has been published by AusAID and the policy advice, if not the economics, has been a good measure of what value for money the Australian taxpayer, leave alone the over-consulted Pacific Islander, is getting from AusAID and its consultants. Professor R. Duncan, the author of the report, documents what is already well-known about

In the meantime, efforts are afoot to assist local villages, buffeted by the arrival of the logging industry. Non Government Organisations such as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund, are providing programmes to educate village people about the pitfalls of commercial logging and teach them to take control of their own destinies. Despite the overwhelming odds, there are some pleasing results.

Campaigns such as eco-forestry, where local people cut their own saleable timber

with the aid of portable sawmills, are benefiting communities. There are also eco-tourism projects, which allow villages to preserve the integrity of their cultures, whilst ensuring an ongoing source of much-needed cash for basic necessities.

Logging can drastically alter, not only the landscape, but importantly the many lives who happen to depend on the rainforest for their sustenance and cultural identity. There are many tragic stories in the wake of the loggers. Δ

PETER SOLNESS / WILDLIGHT

THE ENVIRONMENT

the unsustainable rates of logging occurring throughout Melanesia and in particular in the Solomon Islands and PNG.

The main area of the good professor's report is not sustainability but the horrendous trade malpractice that has seen several dozen largely Malaysian, Korean and Japanese logging firms destroying PNG, Solomons and Vanuatu and paying virtually no company taxes in the process.

The odd thing is that all this has already been well documented ever since the famous Barnett Inquiry into the Forest industry in PNG in 1988.

Last year the government in PNG recognised how limited its capacity was for the management of the forestry sector and has handed over the regulation of exports to the Swiss company Society Generale de Surveillance.

In the past few years AusAID has moved into the Solomon Islands and through the Timber Control Unit (TCU) has done an excellent job in helping the Solomon Islands government to try to control trade malpractice. The TCU has also found evidence of widespread trade malpractice. But again all this is well known.

What is at least slightly novel is Professor Duncan's main policy conclusion. He calls for the governments of the region to reconsider "log export bans and government support for timber processing". Professor Duncan goes on to say: "Timber processing activities should be self supporting, not subsidised by landowners — which would be the case if log exports are banned or even when export duties are charged on log exports."

Export taxes and export bans push domestic prices for logs below world prices and basically force log owners to subsidise log processors. Such policies devalue the forest — when forest conservation demands that forests be made more valuable ... If timber processing is not profitable paying world prices for logs, it makes no economic sense to subsidise it in order to create jobs"

It is hard to imagine how one could it get it so wrong. In PNG one of the main reasons the government wishes to pursue down-stream processing and keeping high export taxes had little to do with a desire for down-stream processing, per se. The malpractice in the logging industry exists because the forestry and customs officers who police it are badly trained, poorly paid, widely dispersed and subject to bribery and corruption.

This, Justice Barnett most adequately documented without a \$50,000 consultancy fee. In the late 1980s in PNG all you had to do to get customs or forestry officers to allow a shipment of what was labelled "mixed quality logs" but which was really furniture quality rosewood and

taun was to pay 100 kina bribe and a couple of crates of beer. High export taxes in PNG were never meant to induce processing. Even at rates of export tax of 40 per cent plus for the best species there is still almost no substantial processing of timber in Melanesia. The only exception has been Vanuatu with its tiny resource which process all its timber for export.

These high export taxes were meant to raise revenue in PNG and Solomon Islands and not to stimulate down-stream processing. This was necessary because both in the Solomon Islands and PNG the governments get almost no company tax at all from the forestry sector because the logging companies are virtually all into transfer pricing, mis-identifying species and undermeasuring logs. Export taxes are the only revenue that the state would get.

The export bans, which Professor Duncan opposes, may create jobs through down-stream processing but the reason for bans is not the big bad bogie man of 'protectionism' being sent to suck the competitive juices out of the Melanesian logging industry but rather because of the needs of the region's anaemic customs services.

The real policy reason for bans is that log exports are geographically dispersed over scores of islands and isolated locations and hence require a level of policing and administrative efficiency not possible in poor developing countries like those found in Melanesia.

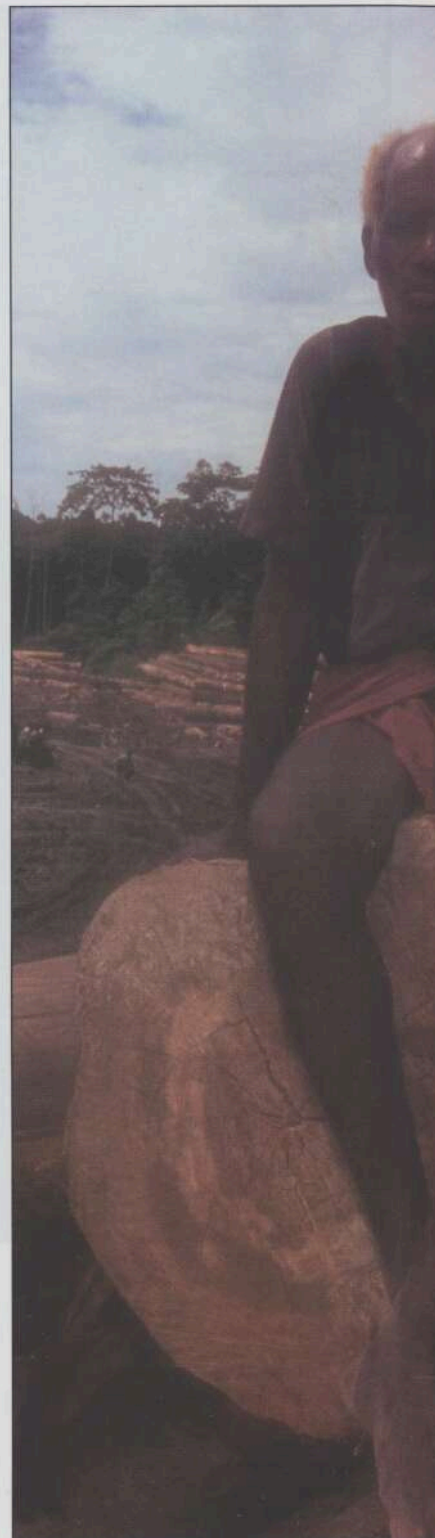
Processing those logs into even fitches or sawn timber, because it would happen in only a few places and because sawn timber is more difficult to mis-measure or mis-identify, would make policing easier and landowners may actually receive more money if the timber is processed and trade abuse decreased or eliminated.

Professor Duncan argues that if we lower export taxes this increases the value of the forest to the owner who then will conserve the forest because it will be more valuable to its owners. That's not correct.

First if you lower the export tax in such a situation of bilateral monopoly transfer prices then the exporter will simply pocket the benefit. These are not competitive log prices.

Second, the forests of Melanesian are not a renewable resource but a non-renewable one, because the policy makers, driven by greed, bribery and corruption, and the landowners, driven by poverty, treat them as such. And as is well-known in economics if you increase the current price of a non-renewable resource you accelerate its depletion — not conserve it.

Third, this advice completely overlooks the real politic of logging in Melanesia — it is the corrupt policy-maker and logging company that drive the pace of log mining or extraction — not the landowner. Δ



THE ENVIRONMENT

Daniel Kaidavu, Devoy clan leader, Silovuti, West New Britain, PNG

Daniel is a 2 Kina man. That is the share of royalties he receives every six months from the logging company which has been harvesting his people's land. Daniel is a classic example of villager expectation gone wrong. The logging company signed

a contract to work these forests at Silovuti in 1982. The forests have been drastically depleted. As the land continues to become degraded by logging, and the forests cannot deliver the same sort of sustenance, communities will ultimately become more cash dependent, drawing unskilled villagers into the major commercial centres looking for work. This is already causing major social unrest in Papua New Guinea.

Logging revelations

By Sam Valumu



WHILE allegations of corrupt activities by leaders continue to plague one of Papua New Guinea's most controversial resources, the forest resource, the livelihood of many landowners are increasingly being threatened.

The latest of these allegations were made on July 24 by sacked Public Service Minister Jerry Nalau. Nalau spilled the beans at a farewell lunch hosted for him by the department in Port Moresby. He was among four other ministers sacked by Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan for refusing to vote for the new provincial and local governments reform Bill.

Nalau revealed that some managing directors of logging companies had direct access to national ministers. He said they used the ministers' backing to promote their business interests. The revelations came days after a Leadership Tribunal recommended the dismissal from Parliament of Forest Minister Andrew Posai for misconduct in office.

While many of Posai's charges related to his activities when he was Home Affairs and Youth Minister in the previous Wingti Government, two counts relate to his involvement with Arowe Holdings, a landowner company in the West New Britain province of which he is the chairman of the board of directors.

Leaders have also been alleged to have influenced the signing of an agreement of a major logging project, the Turama timber project in the Gulf province. Although the

project agreement had been signed, the National Alliance of Non Governmental Organisations (NANGO) was insistent that the Forest Authority and the Board had been politically pressured to grant the permit. NANGO led a campaign through the media against the signing of the project agreement by acting Forest Minister Titus Philemon. Further action has yet to be taken at the time of this writing.

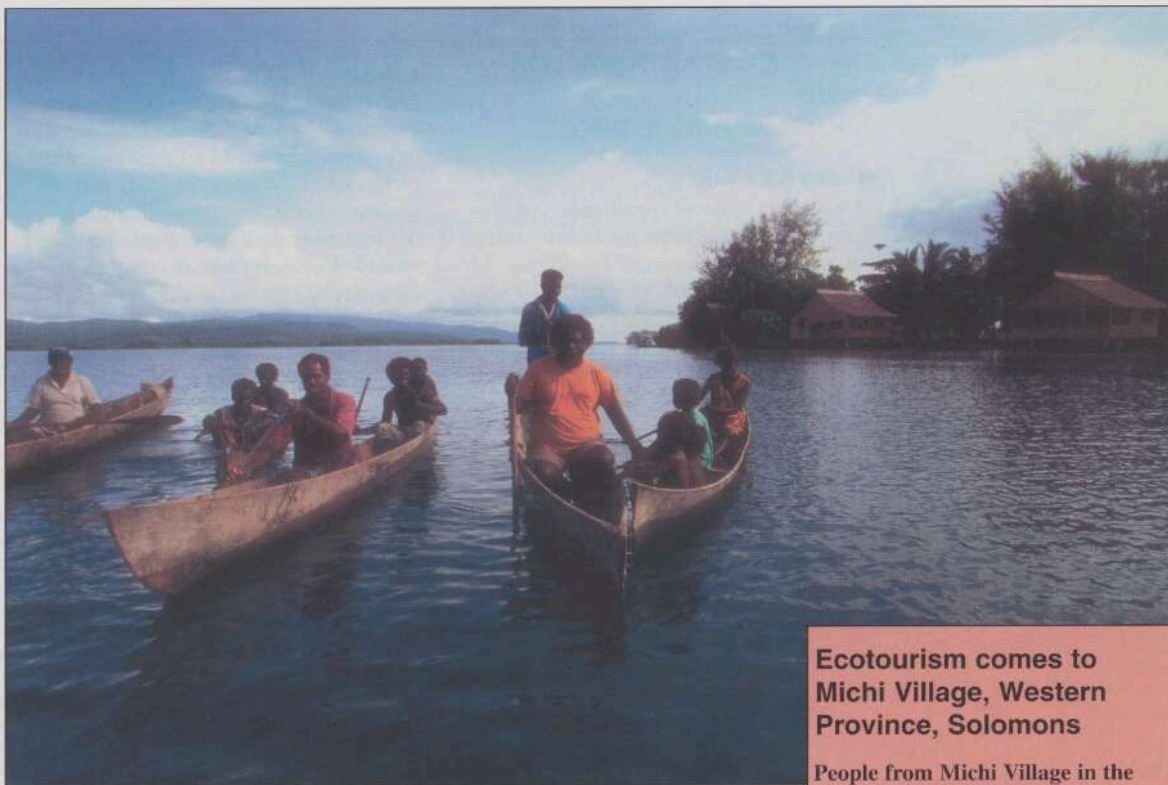
And earlier on in May, another government minister, the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Parry Zeipi, made stunning revelations about the conduct of some politicians and public servants in the approval of new logging permits. Zeipi reportedly revealed in the *Post-Courier* newspaper on May 24 that those people were resorting to illegal and corrupt means to get Government approvals for logging operations to make a quick buck.

Time will tell when all the true facts about the current situation would come to light, however, what is disturbing though is the question of whether those involved in these activities have any concern for the majority of timber landowners scattered throughout the country. What has become of their living standard, and whether lives are in any way endangered since the introduction of forestry activities in their respective areas.

It has become apparent from reports that for many of them, other than the usual social and economic problems associated with any resource project, their cultural lifestyles, which for ages have been the fabric of their societies, are increasingly being threatened. The extent of the situation varies from one area to another,

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THE ENVIRONMENT



Ecotourism comes to Michi Village, Western Province, Solomons

People from Michi Village in the remote Western Province of the Solomons paddle beside thatched huts recently constructed as part of an eco-tourism project supported by foreign NGOs including the World Wildlife Fund. The hope is tourism will provide some basic income to small villages without the villagers having to take the logging option on their land. For tourists it offers a unique opportunity to experience the character and traditions of village life at close quarters.

depending on the kind of lifestyle they pursue. The influences are more damaging in areas where the landowners' view of the outside world is limited to their surroundings and government and economic activities have been poor or non-existent prior to the introduction of forestry activities.

One classic example of this situation is the case involving the landowners of the Lolo timber project in the Cape Gloucester district of West New Britain province, a district under the electorate of the sacked Forests Minister, Posai. The landowners in this project area are going through a lot of changes, which for many of them is the way to go after years of struggle.

However, the danger lies in the loss of their traditional lifestyle as they are being dragged quickly into the cash economy brought about by the new timber industry. Many of them used to produce cocoa and copra. Now they have stopped because of the money being earned through timber royalties. In some areas, people no longer bother to cultivate gardens for the family, now relying solely on goods like rice and tinned fish in shops.

Additionally, respect for government authority is slowly diminishing. Evidently, the heated debate over the provincial and local governments in recent months and the wrangling over the proposed land

reforms are of very little concern to them.

The local landowner company, Lolo Development Corporation, to which many of them hold shares through their clans, centres all its activities in the provincial capital of Kimbe. Its only presence in the districts is through a wholesale operation and as agent of a small airline called Airlink and the Copra Marketing Board.

The company has, however, to some extent, helped many landowner groups to buy vehicles, a wasteful initiative. The people's lack of understanding of the impacts of the project was clearly identified in a report by the Australian International Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), now AusAID, carried out under the Kandrian Gloucester Integrated Development Program.

Excerpts of the report indicated that with the exception of a few university and tertiary educated locals, including the community school teachers, there is little awareness in the district of the long-term environmental damage which uncontrolled logging will cause. The villagers, and even the political leaders, do not understand the degree to which the fauna, flora, soil and water conditions of the forest will be changed by logging. The report says that now people are beginning to see the damages that logging is causing, but it is

too late. The landowners, local company officials and politicians do not have access to information on the environmental implication of logging, of alternative methods of logging, of their environmental and company law and of alternative means to their land and their communities.

Says the report: "They have been offered one model of development by the foreign logging contractor. This model disadvantages them financially, and will damage their resources — the ones available to them for development — the land and the forest on it." Δ

Being wise on land

SUBSISTENCE agriculture is, or has been, an integral part of the lives of the majority of people in the Pacific region. However for many communities this is no longer the case.

Given that shifting cultivation (sometimes called bush fallow or slash and burn) is the typical method of sustainable agriculture and large amounts of land are required for its practice. As a result of various pressures provoked through factors such as population increase, urban drift etc, it is now necessary to develop alternative systems.

If people are to continue to be able to support themselves through their own produce, traditional methods of agriculture need to be combined with modern agricultural techniques and philosophies. A new project is about to commence in the Solomon Islands, appropriately titled, *Integrated Kastom Agriculture* it is an attempt to do just this.

Integrated Kastom Agriculture is a project initiated by APACE (Appropriate Technology for Community and Environment), a Sydney-based organisation, and funded jointly by APACE and AusAID. Its objective is to develop new agricultural systems which allow villagers to continue to sustain themselves in the face of massive social and environmental changes.

Changes which are currently making this practice, in many places, almost impossible. The reason traditional methods are becoming more impractical are numerous.

The population increase which has taken place in many countries is one significant factor. To be ecologically sustainable, shifting cultivation requires large areas of land and low, often mobile populations. It is projected that much of the Solomon Islands population will no longer have enough land to practise sustainable shifting cultivation in the near future. At present 50 per cent of the population is under 14 years of age with the population expected to double in the next 20 years.

There is little doubt that this increase will decrease available gardening land and the overuse of available lands will result in

diminished soil fertility and greater land degradation.

Changes in traditional land settlement patterns is another contributor to the problem. As a result of urban drift and people migrating towards community points,

churches, expanding villages and urban areas, the population has become much more geographically concentrated. In the past people would have been far more dispersed and therefore there would not have been the same build-up of pressure for lands as there is now in these new, highly populated locations. Plantation agriculture such as coconuts, cocoa and oil palm now take up a lot of the areas previously used for gardening by villagers. Large-scale logging operations which

have taken place close to areas in which gardening activity exists has had a detrimental impact on the environment. Often resulting in soil compaction, erosion and invasion of introduced species these activities have a negative impact on gardens.

Now as a result of all these pressures shifting cultivation is itself becoming an environmentally destructive practice as fallow periods shorten to critical levels and soil fertility declines. Today, steep sided slopes previously left forested and untouched forest are being cleared for gardens to feed growing populations.

The idea of the *Integrated Kastom Agriculture* project is to address these issues by developing models of permanent agriculture as an alternative to shifting cultivation. Land pressures mean that shifting cultivation in its present form is unsustainable.

The project lists its objectives as:

- increasing the local population's awareness of the ecological consequences of current land use patterns;

- teaching people ecologically sustainable land management and soil conservation practices;

- teaching people about modern tropical ecologically sustainable agricultural systems and how these might best be incorporated indigenous systems; and

- developing community gardens using the integration of these two systems.

In addition it is hoped that through providing these alternative scenarios there will be a greater conservation of bio-diversity.

There are also plans to create an organic growers' network which will preserve genetic crop resources, create a seed bank and research which will preserve genetic crop resources, create a seed bank and agricultural methods such as chemical fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides — with their negative environmental impacts and high cost — will be discouraged. It is intended that these objectives will be realised through a combined process which includes local training, the establishment of village models in which all these ideas are implemented and the setting up of an organic farmers' network. The project will involve rural people, grassroots NGOs, educational institutions and government departments.

A training programme will be implemented after an initial period of further research. The focus of this programme is to teach rural people, NGOs, extension workers and educational institutions about

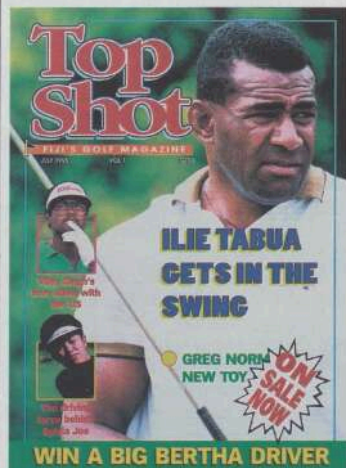
permaculture, organic agriculture, bio-dynamic agriculture, Melanesian agricultural systems, seed saving and crop bio-diversity conservation, integrated traditional methods and organic certification and export growth potential. This training programme will combine the knowledge, skills and teaching of Australian, local and regional experts. A number of workshops will be conducted and five rural communities will be involved in an intensive training programme in alternative integrated methods of subsistence agriculture.

These communities will receive ongoing support and their gardens will draw on agricultural methods explored in workshops but using local management

Large logging operations has had a detrimental effect on the land

A growers' network will preserve genetic crop resources

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THE LAND

and innovation. The main project beneficiaries will be rural people dependent upon subsistence agriculture (87 per cent of households) of which women form the majority directly involved in food production. Wider effects will of course be felt by the community in general and the economy through the process of improving the sustainability of subsistence agriculture in a country where the majority of people are directly involved in it.

It would hopefully slow down the process of urban drift, a widespread phenomenon throughout the Pacific region, decrease land disputes, stimulate more economic activity, reduce food imports and at the same time strengthen indigenous knowledge and the capacity to adapt these local methods for the benefit of the community.

The document produced by APACE outlining the project and its objectives, specifically lays stress upon the impact it hopes to have upon women.

That is, as principle food producers, the project aims to strengthen the role of women. By increasing the ecological and cultural sustainability of subsistence agriculture it is believed that the position of women will be improved.

As sustainable agriculture declines and the community becomes more dependent on a monetary and the purchase of food, the women's role is diminished and their dependency aggravated. There is little doubt that there is an urgent need to

address the problems of the impracticality of sustainable agriculture as it is currently practised.

As it stands it is no longer an ecologically sustainable option. The pressure resulting from the increasingly limited available land are numerous. Land degradation, soil erosion, declining soil fertility, loss of bio diversity, land disputes, urban drift and nutritional problems are only a handful of them.

It is likely that land disputes will become more common as land for gardens expansion becomes increasingly in short supply with population growth exacerbated by cash-cropping and logging, decreasing the amount of suitable land available for gardening as is already happening in north and east Guadalcanal.

The project's primary goal is to build models that reverse negative environmental impacts associated with the population growth and the shifting cultivation system. It is hoped that its implementation will establish a system which can function independent of APACE's support, with local people trained in developing alternative agricultural systems who will be able to develop their own village-based models.

The project stresses the continued importance of areas of traditional practice and that the implementation of this is not a wholesale introduction of entirely new and foreign ideas but a concerned attempt to integrate traditional practices and customs with new methods. Δ

Tour of value

CAN communal values be maintained in the face of capitalism?

That question, facing many South Pacific communities today, was the focus of a recent tour of Maori enterprises by Pacific Islanders.

On the face of it the two seem to be in hostile opposition to each other, with capitalism's emphasis on the individual. Nevertheless, an increasing number of Maori enterprises believe they have learned the trick of using the capitalist system for the benefit of the tribe.

Take the Mangatu Incorporation in Gisborne. It owns around 45,000 ha of land, of which 34,000 ha is divided into 18 farms and studs, and the remaining 11,000 ha is in indigenous forest. The people running the farms represent 3000 shareholders, all members of Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki tribe. Thanks to astute management, between 1975 and 1994 the return to the shareholders has been increased nine-fold.

The Mangatu example, outstanding as it is, is not an isolated case. For that reason

the Aid Development Division of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade wanted to share Maori experiences and expertise with Pacific representatives.

The Mangatu Incorporation is a rural, tribally-based enterprise. However, with increasing urbanisation, large numbers of Maoris have lost touch with their roots. Sometimes described as "the lost Maori tribe", these 150,000 urban Maori suffer high rates of unemployment and crime.

In West Auckland the Te Whanay O Waipareira Trust caters for the 17,000 Maoris who live in the area. It is now the largest provider of training and employment in West Auckland, it runs a food co-operative for 300 families, a medical centre and is a major sport sponsor.

In all, the tour took in more than a dozen enterprises. "It was so exciting," said Lusia Tukidia, a Fiji education manager. "I've learned a lot, especially about how Maoris are marrying tradition with technology, and how they use the natural environment in their enterprises." Δ

NEIGHBOURS

Banking on service

By Penny Baba

A BANK officer who puts in a couple of hours work a week towards helping the disadvantaged has won \$5000 (\$US3500) for his social service club Apex. Davendra Dass is the first Fiji citizen to win one of the annual awards given by Westpac Banking Corporation to its workers to promote community service.

It is people like Dass, from Fiji's jetset town of Nadi, on the main island of Viti Levu, who form the backbone of the many social service organisations that try to make life more bearable for the underprivileged, the poor and the handicapped in society.

A loans officer at Westpac's Nadi branch and a son of a sugarcane farmer, Dass said there were a lot of underprivileged people in Fiji. "And there are so many of us who can help," he said. "Those fortunate enough to have a good living standard have an obligation to help those less fortunate." It is this philosophy on life that led him to be Apex Fiji national president at the young age of 29, after being



Dass: service

would take up the task. He is passionate about Apex's 1995 national service scheme — the prevention of child abuse — and plans an ambitious programme to raise community awareness of the problem and how people can stop it. While in Australia to receive his award certificate from Westpac, he will visit Apex clubs to seek help for the project.

Dass said social service came to him naturally after growing up in a house where politics and service were always discussed. He is the second of four sons of Nadi sugarcane farmer and farmers' representative Sitaram Dass. Many of his uncles

national vice-president and Young Apexian of the Year in the past year and his club president in 1993. He has only been in Apex for seven years. Although Dass said he hadn't felt ready to be president this year, no one else

are involved in politics. "I grew up in an atmosphere full of the importance of politics and service," he said.

Dass was born at Qeleloa, a sugarcane farming area near Nadi, and attended Nadi Sangam Primary School and Sangam College where he was both a prefect and a Head Boy. He said the leadership skills gained at school had stood him in good stead and contributed to a lot of current success. His desire is to help the underprivileged and his leadership positions have allowed him to attend Apex meetings and conventions overseas to learn new methods to help.

Dass said social service should have many aims, with the ultimate aim being to help everyone have an acceptable standard of living. Young people should be helped to be useful members of society by giving them skills that make them employable and give them leadership qualities. Those who couldn't make ends meet should be given practical help, he said. And social service clubs must be ready to step in to fill a need wherever necessary.

Dass does not limit his social work to Apex. Married with one child, he is also actively involved with his village temple, Nadi soccer, and various youth groups in his district. He takes interest in all sports, although he can no longer play because of a leg injury suffered in 1989.

He loves live and recorded Indian music and the Qeleloa Music Club has its base at his home. Δ

BOOKS

The travels of a UN man

A BOOK has been published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. *HIBISCUS YEARS; Travels of a UN man*, is a memoir of travels in service of UNESCO, UNDP and the European Commission.

Born in Northern India, speaking "the language of the Sherpas", George Bishop, after war service, took a science degree in the United Kingdom, taught and specialised in the training of science teachers, a skill in great demand during the enormous expansion of education and development in the post-war Third World-wide movement to independence.

After initial stints in Lesotho, South Africa, and in the University of the West Indies, travelling to schools all through those scattered islands, he directed a UNESCO project for the training of science and mathematics teachers for Tan-

zania and Uganda. 500 graduate teachers later, in 1971, he moved to direct a broader UNDP Project in the South Pacific.

Working from and with the new university there, Bishop, his team, and local assistance developed appropriate and acceptable curricula and trained hundreds of teachers for countries from the Solomon Islands to the Cook Islands and from Nauru to Tonga. In later years he returned to Africa, to Swaziland, and, with his wife, for a last, hair-raising visit to report on manpower in Mozambique — amid soldiers, bandits, and the FRELIMO/RENAMO civil war.

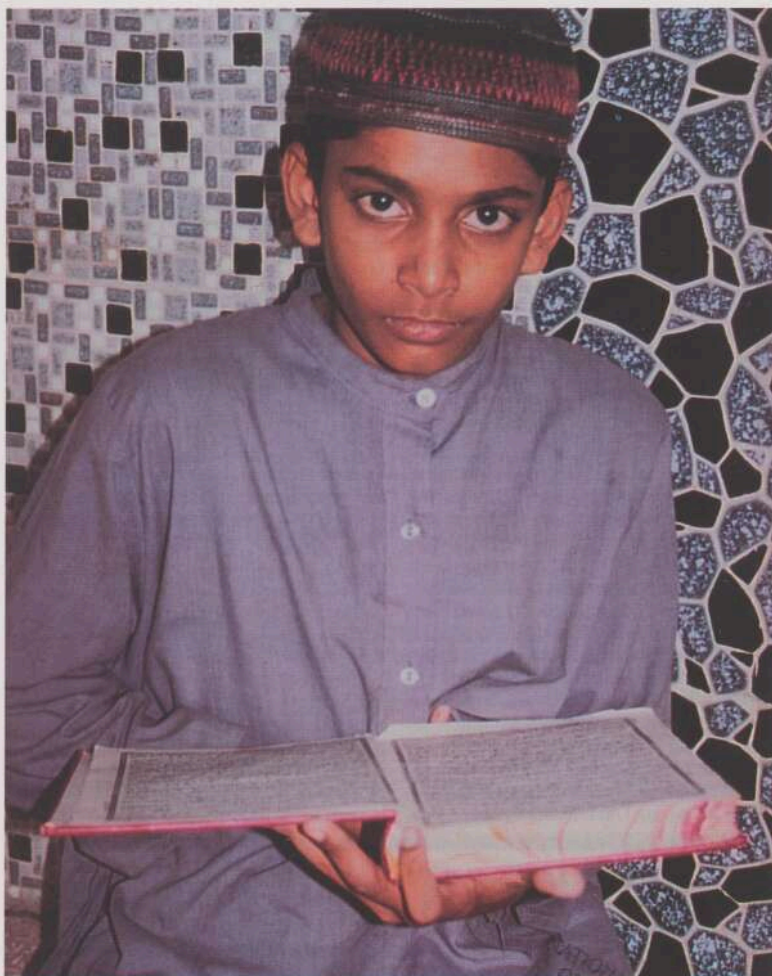
Bishop has an eye and a memory for places and scenes, and his accounts are always colourful, as are those of the unusual characters and the usual and sometimes dangerous incidents he encountered.

There is little detail of his own work, the Projects themselves, their successes, difficulties and frictions, or of the role of UNESCO, "a great creation of human enterprise", as he describes it.

But he was significantly involved in the most rapid, widespread, and extensive educational and national-developmental change in human history — the colonial Directors of Education he meets in 1971 had disappeared by 1981 — and this provides the backdrop for an interesting memoir of travelling and living in exotic lands.

• *The Hibiscus Years*, by George Bishop. Paperback original; 261pp; 6 colour illustrations; ISBN 1-899077-01 4. Published on 31. 3. 95 by Fisher Miller Publishing (Wits End, North Waltham, Basingstoke, hants, UK, RG25 2DG. £10.99. Δ

NEIGHBOURS



Irfaan Mohammed: the day begins early

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In God's hands

Irfaan's lessons in the mosque has nothing to do with the growth of Islam; it is a chance to escape the claws of poverty

By Yunus Rashid

IT was hardly dawn in Fiji's capital Suva, but 15-year-old Irfaan Mohammed was already getting out of bed. For him the day has begun.

Irfaan is a student of Islam, one of many teenagers devoted to the laws of the Koran, and learning Arabic to know the word of God. The ultimate aim is to

become a *maulvi*, one who can teach Islam in schools or preach it in mosques. Today Irfaan lives in a dormitory and studies in the mosque. It is not an easy life. For Irfaan, the day starts at 5am when he has to crawl out of the warmth of his blanket and perform *wuzu*, the first duty of the day, which involves the ceremonial washing of the face, mouth, hands and feet. Only then is he ready for the first of the five daily prayers called *Fajr*

Having fulfilled the ritual, Irfaan makes his way to the mosque at Toorak, an old part of Suva; a cool, pre-dawn breeze blows in from the sea, slowly stirring the rest of the city awake.

Irfaan came to the mosque after the death of his father. He was running away from the hopelessness of poverty. Back home are two brothers, and a mother who cannot find work.

At 5.30am, Irfaan is at the mosque and the *azan* (prayer call) is made, echoing around the neighbourhood and waking Muslims in this part of the world. It's all over in 25 minutes and for Irfaan, study begins. He gets a copy of the Holy Koran and revises the previous day's lessons. The reading of Arabic is hard — and so is discipline. In an hour, breakfast is served and the little teenager settles in for the day.

Sometimes Irfaan feels the loneliness of being away from home for too long. He misses his mother and brothers and yearns to return to the warmth of their company. The thought of the hardship at home and education's promise of a better life keeps him in the city.

The second prayer, *Zohar*, is said at lunch. And Irfaan continues to study, learning to read and write Urdu, a combination of the Arabic, Sanskrit, and Persian languages. These lessons conducted by Maulana Bashir Ahmed Diwan, a Muslim priest originally from India, continue until 3pm. Then it is time to clean the mosque and do personal chores like washing and mending clothes before getting ready for the afternoon prayer.

After the afternoon prayer, *Asr*, Irfaan learns more about his religion and by sunset he is ready for the fourth prayer, *Magrib*.

Dinner is served in the dormitory and the aspiring priest returns to the mosque for more lessons. The tutorials continue after, *Isha*, the last prayer of the day has been said. And at 9.30pm Irfaan is in bed and falling off to sleep.

It is a regimented lifestyle, well rostered and adhering strictly to the discipline and teachings of the Koran. For Irfaan it offers a light at the end of the tunnel. It is an opportunity to escape the claws of poverty.

And it is a partnership with God. Δ

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