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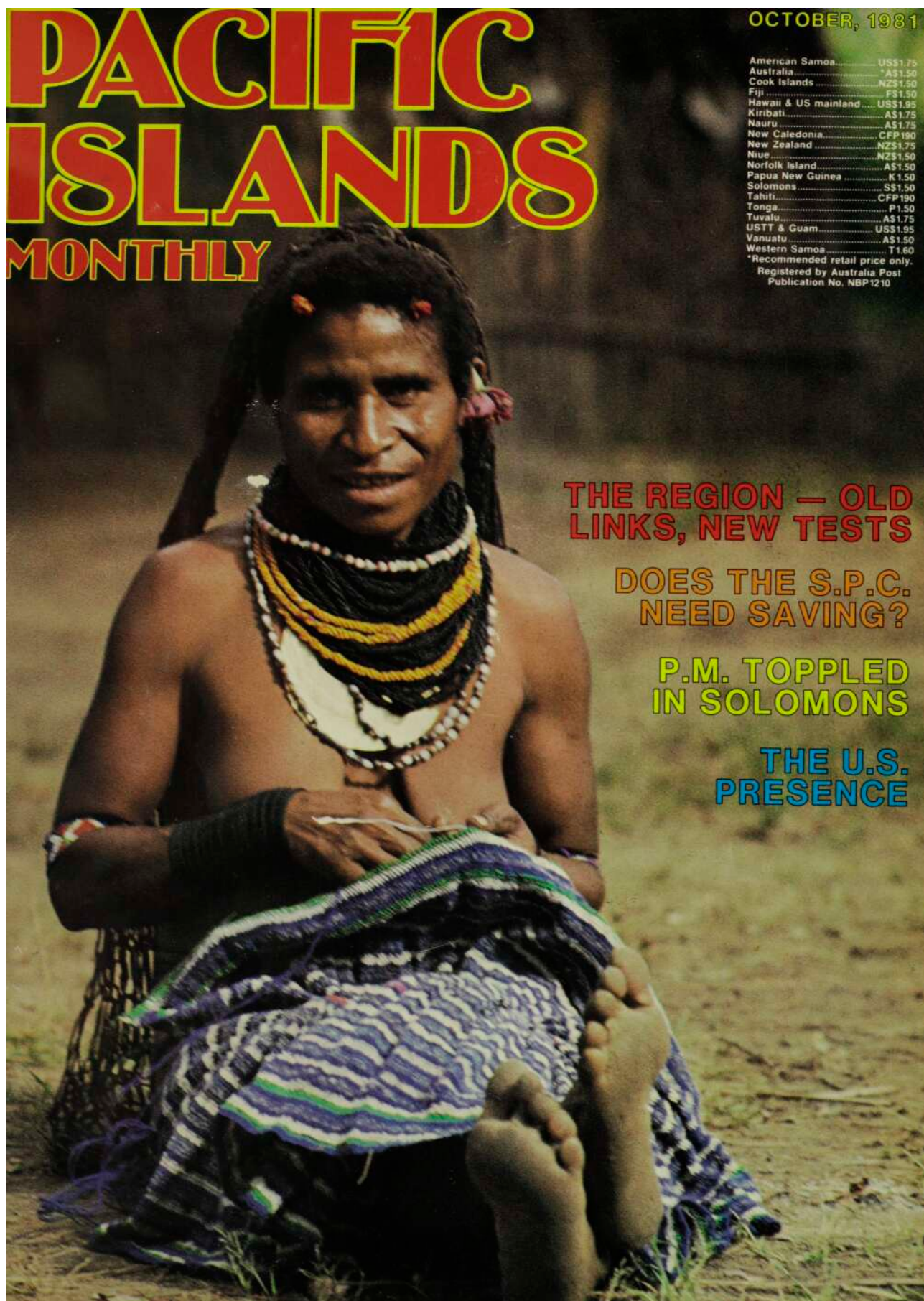
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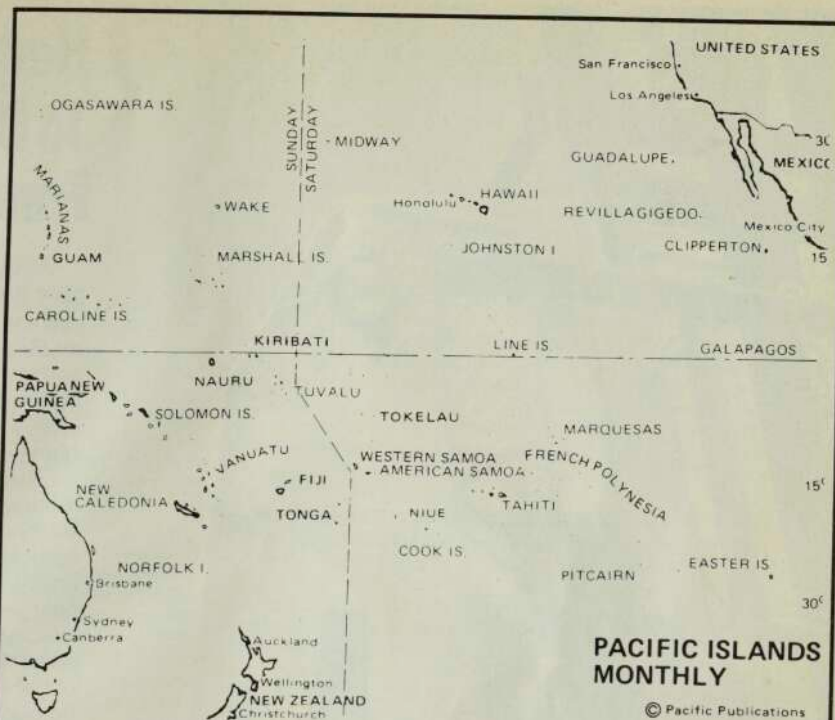
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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY

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This Month's Features

- **THE REGION** — Stuart Inder and Don Stewart work in tandem to describe, first, the course of events at the recent 12th meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Port Vila, and, second, to analyse the problems besetting the South Pacific Commission and Conference, and propose possible salvage measures 13, 17
- **THE FRENCH TERRITORIES** — From their different vantage points in French Polynesia and New Caledonia, Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson, and Daniel Tardieu, describe the impact of the recent visits by the French Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories Henri Emmanuelli 22, 26
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- **REMEMBERING THE GRAND OLD 'WHIZZBANG'** — Alan Gill writes a memorable tribute to the late Archdeacon Charles William Whonsbon-Aston 36

This month's cover picture:

Anthropologist W.A.F. Zukowski of Sydney recently visited the highlands of Papua New Guinea on a pictorial research project involving village societies and the development of a national theatre of dance, drama and mime. He photographed this woman at her village near Goroka in the Eastern Highlands.

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Pacific Report

STRIKE OVER NOUMEA 'POLITICAL' MURDER

Trade unionists in New Caledonia were called out on a 24-hour strike on September 21 in protest at what was alleged to have been the political assassination of an independence leader. Mr Pierre Declercq, secretary-general of Union Calédonienne, was shot dead at his home near Noumea in the evening of September 19. The party is the major one in the Independence Front which seeks to end French rule over New Caledonia. A leader of the front who called the strike claimed that Declercq was killed by a French settler. He said the assassination was 'tantamount to a declaration of war against the Melanesian people of New Caledonia'.

MUST RATU MARA PICK AGAIN?

The defeat of Solomon Islands Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea and his replacement by Solomon Mamaloni (see p33), means that Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara may have to re-examine the composition of the delegation he is to lead to Paris for discussions on France's Pacific territories with President Mitterrand. Ratu Mara, at the behest of the recent South Pacific forum meeting in Port-Vila, had made the choice of his travelling companions on the trip. They were to be Mr Kenilorea and Tonga's Minister for Foreign Affairs Crown Prince Tupouto'a.

VANUATU ELECTS PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Vanuatu's domestic political life moved several steps closer to normality with the successful holding in August-September of elections to provincial councils in the islands of Malakula, the shepherds, Aoba-Maewo, Tafea (Tanna, Anatom, Futuna, and Aniwa), and Erromanga. Results overall showed a roughly 50/50 division of seats between candidates of the country's ruling Vanuaaku Party and non-VP candidates. Effective resolution of the problems of setting up local governments has been close to the heart of Vanuatu's troubles both before and after independence.

NEW ZEALAND ASKED TO TRAIN SINAI MEN

New Zealand has been asked to train the 600-man team which Fiji plans to contribute to the international force to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli units from the Sinai Desert in the Middle East.

FRENCH POLICY TURN ON PACIFIC TERRITORIES

In its first official statement on France's Pacific territories, the new French Council of Ministers has called for 'a radical change of policy' in New Caledonia, and said that the Melanesians were living in 'an unacceptable state of inequality'. The statement said the government would ensure that equitable land redistribution was effected in the territory, and a package of reforms developed within the framework of a plan for Melanesian development, including economic and cultural aspects'. On French Polynesia, the statement spoke of the creation of a state/territory working group on the statute of the territory, and on the (economic) development plan. For Wallis and Futuna, there would be a continuation of the present equipment plan. The Noumea weekly *Corail* has meanwhile reported an interesting exchange between Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories Henri Emmanuelli and local socialists during his visit to New Caledonia. *Corail* reports Mr Emmanuelli as saying: 'I don't understand why you, New Caledonian socialists, support Kanak independence. I can understand that Kanaks support it, but white men? Surely you don't believe that socialists are going to grant us independence which would take the Melanesians back 100 years, and deliver them over to a feudal power which we absolutely could not accept.' He explained to Independence front leader and National Assembly deputy Roch Pidjot that granting independence was impossible, he, Emmanuelli, was going to work to 'reduce white power' and build a socialist society in New Caledonia in which the Melanesians would hold the essentials of power. Then, he said, the question of independence would no longer have any meaning. Mr Pidjot was said by *Corail* to be attracted by these ideas, but hesitated to accept them fully

for fear of being outflanked on the Left by the Libération Kanake Socialiste group led by Nidoish Naisseline.

'PUT WASTE ON POISONED ATOLLS' — KABUA

Marshall Islands President Amata Kabua in a September statement suggested that the Japanese abandon their ocean dumping plans and consider storing radio-active waste on land that is already contaminated, reports the *Pacific Daily News*. Although the president did not specify a particular land area, the Marshalls include two atolls — Bikini and Eniwetok — that have been contaminated by the testing of nuclear bombs by the United States. 'Is it possible that a tragic misfortune which befell our people could be turned around to provide a safe, practical way to deal with a world problem and provide a form of economic recovery for people who have lost so much?' the president asked in a statement during a conference of Pacific Basin chief executives held on Guam. Simultaneously with this conference — the third of its kind — the chief executives held discussions on the dumping issue with a delegation from Japan's Science and Technology Agency. 'The day-long discussion was polite and the voices were soft, but in the end the Japanese scientists and the Micronesian politicians were as far apart as ever on the issue of nuclear dumping,' according to the September 3 edition of the *Pacific Daily News*.

MARSHALLS GOVERNMENT BUILDING BURNS

The Marshall Islands Government's main administration building in Majuro burned to the ground before dawn on August 24. The 35-year-old US Navy-built quonset hut housed the chief secretary, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, finance, immigration, social security, revenue, and the Marshall Islands credit union. Two nearby warehouses were also destroyed by the fire, which was immediately described as Majuro's most expensive ever. Chief of Police Robert Kumtak said his men were questioning three youngsters seen fleeing the scene of the fire at about 3 am. 'But we haven't got any solid information, if indeed they were the ones who started the fire, or if, in fact, it was due to faulty wiring.'

AIR CRASH KILLS ONE IN VANUATU

One person was killed and four injured when a Piper Aztec aircraft crashed soon after take-off from Port-Vila's Bauerfield airport on September 7. The plane, part of the fleet of Vanuatu's internal airline Air Melanesiae, apparently suffered engine failure.

BIG HOTEL GROUP SOLD FOR \$A105 MILLION

The Sydney-based Southern Pacific Hotel Corporation Holdings Ltd (SPHC), the largest hotel and resort group in the South Pacific, has been sold to an Australian company controlled by Singaporean hotelier Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat. The sale, for \$A105 million, was approved by the Australian Government under its foreign investment policy. SPHC owns and operates hotels and motels, including the Travelodge, Parkroyal, Beachcomber and Island Inn chains in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia, Tahiti and Papua New Guinea. SPHC's present chairman Peter Munk is to remain on the board, and the previous owners will retain a significant interest in the group.

NEW BILINGUAL MONTHLY IS LAUNCHED

Hubert Chavelet, a French journalist who for four years directed the Noumea daily *France Australe* until its backers in the nickel company SLN wearied of picking up the tab for its losses (PIM Feb 1980 p9), has resurfaced in the Pacific. October 1981 is to see the launching of a new Pacific-oriented monthly magazine run by Mr Chavelet. To be named *30 Jours*, the magazine will be printed in English and French and distributed in Australia, New Zealand and generally throughout the Pacific Islands. The Noumea weekly *Corail* reports that Mr Chavelet has secured the backing of the French Government for his project, that the magazine will be distributed free on aircraft of the French airline UTA, and that it will appear as a free monthly supplement in Saturday editions of the Papeete daily *La Dépêche de Tahiti*. *Corail* adds: 'This monthly will probably seek to be something like a counterpart of *Pacific Islands Monthly*, which for 50 years has been informing the English-speaking Pacific.'

RATU SIR GEORGE SAYS 'THINK TWICE'

Fijians have been given a blunt warning by their Governor-General Ratu Sir George Cakobau to avoid what he called 'disruptive' political forces that were sweeping across the country. He told the annual meeting of the Council of Fijian Chiefs that the country was in danger of being plunged into instability if Fijians followed the 'opportunism and greed' of some new political leaders. He urged Fijians to think twice before giving

support to political parties that were preaching philosophies opposed to those of the government. Ratu Sir George was directing his remarks at two minority Fijian parties, the Fijian Nationalists, who among other things suggest that Fiji's Indian community should be deported, and the recently formed Western United Front (PIM Sep p48). Both these parties say they will topple the ruling multi-racial Alliance government in a general election due next year.

NO TO TV, FROM PNG, FIJI

Papua New Guinea has ruled out any immediate plan to introduce television services according to Media Minister Clement Poye, speaking at a recent broadcasting seminar in Rabaul. In the past 15 years PNG has had two formal studies into the possibility of television. Mr Poye told the seminar that at present television was viewed as a luxury requiring high technology and the extensive use of skilled manpower. The government simply could not afford this type of commitment during the present period of financial constraint, Mr Poye said. Current priorities in broadcasting expenditure were to improve the radio services provided by the National Broadcasting Commission. Radio services were available to the entire community, he said, but even with extensive capital investment television could serve only a small proportion of the community. In an August announcement, the Fiji Government had also stated its decision to postpone indefinitely the launching of a national television service.

ROW ON WAIVER OF STUDENTS' FEES

Students from Papua New Guinea and other South Pacific countries doing tertiary courses in Australia no longer have to pay fees, following a little-publicised decision of the Australian Government on August 26. The move has brought a sharp response from the National Overseas Student Service in Australia whose director, Kah Weng Loh, has branded it as part of the Australian Government's attempt to 'influence the regional politics of the South Pacific'. While fees for the approximately 700 South Pacific students have been waived, fees for the more than 10 000 students from other countries were increased by 10% in the 1981 Australian budget. The NOSS is putting pressure on the Australian Government to drop fees for all students, and wrote to all Commonwealth heads of government asking them to ensure that the issue was raised at their meeting in Melbourne in September-October. Several of the Third World members of the Commonwealth have already expressed anger about the introduction of fees for overseas students by certain Commonwealth countries. Mr Kah Weng Loh said in a statement to the press: 'The Australian Government has obviously decided to treat a specific region with special care. The presence of the Soviet Union — offering fishing agreements and other aid packages — has obviously spurred on this decision. The fact that Papua New Guinean and South Pacific students are going to New Zealand because they are not charged tuition fees has been an added incentive.' The Australian Government was using overseas tertiary students as 'political pawns', he said. An item appearing in the September 2 issue of the weekly *Background* published by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs says the decision on fees 'reaffirmed Australia's special relationship with Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island countries, and represented an extension of assistance already provided by Australia to these countries'. It implicitly rebuts the claim that New Zealand does not charge fees when it says that the government's 1980 decision to introduce for the first time an Overseas Student Charge was influenced by the fact that 'other countries which offer training facilities for overseas students (such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand) charge fees, as do most countries from which students come to Australia'.

TED DIRO, MP?

Brigadier General Ted Diro, who recently resigned as commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, is to stand for parliament after all. When he announced earlier this year that he intended to resign he said he would be taking a position in private enterprise or the public service. But he told interviewers in Port Moresby after his resignation became effective that he was seeking a political career. 'I could not confirm this earlier because I was a serving military man who had to keep apart from politics,' he said. Diro has still not announced any party affiliations, but said he would stand at next year's general election. He will nominate for a seat in the Port Moresby or Rigo areas.

CAMACHO LOSES NOMINATION CASE

A trial court judge in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas has ruled against Governor Carlos Camacho and upheld the

Democratic Party's certification of Senator Herman R. Guerrero as its candidate for governor, according to a report in the *Pacific Daily News*. Camacho had sued party officials after they disqualified ballots from the island of Rota to the June 21 nominating convention, and gave the nomination to Guerrero (PIM Aug p6). Although the Rota ballots were never officially counted, the unofficial results gave the nomination to Camacho, 322 to 321. When Rota's 75 votes were disqualified, the tally was 311 to 247 for Guerrero. At press time it seemed that Guerrero and his running mate, Froilan C. Tenorio, would face Republican Senator Pete P. Tenorio and his running mate, Pete A. Tenorio, in the November 1 gubernatorial election.

RIOT POLICE OUT AT PNG HIGH SCHOOL

After two days of unrest, riot police armed with teargas arrested more than 400 students at Keravat High School in Papua New Guinea's East New Britain Province on September 10. Fifth and sixth-form students at the school had been demonstrating in support of three European teachers sacked without notice on August 26. Earlier, the teachers — two from the United Kingdom, and one from New Zealand — had given evidence to a departmental inquiry of alleged homosexuality at the school and among Education Department headquarters staff. The department denied any connection between their evidence and the sackings, maintaining only that their contracts had been terminated 'in the best interests of Papua New Guinea'. Secretary for Education Paul Songo said that 'about 200 students' were being 'interviewed' by police in connection with damage caused to the school.

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION FOR KIRIBATI

Australia has announced that it will establish a resident High Commission in Kiribati. It will be Australia's 10th representative mission in the South Pacific Islands. The others are in Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby and Lae), Solomon Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

TASMANIAN SEAFOOD FOR HAWAII?

A political leader from the Australian state of Tasmania sees 'unlimited markets' in Hawaii for Tasmanian seafood — particularly crayfish, scallops and abalone. Returning from a visit to Hawaii, the Tasmanian state parliamentary Leader of the Opposition Geoffrey Pearsall said the only difficulty would be whether Tasmania could meet demand. A major Hawaiian food broker was prepared to accept up to 1500 kg of scallops, 2000 kg of cray tails, and three container-loads of abalone from Tasmania. Mr Pearsall said he planned to hold urgent discussions with Tasmanian fishing interests on the prospect.

PLANS OF PIERRE HESNAULT

French transport magnate Pierre Hesnault announced on a recent visit to Noumea plans to build a hotel of 300-500 rooms overlooking Port-Vila's Erakor Lagoon, and establishment in Vanuatu of several small industries. The hotel will be associated with a geriatric centre, enabling old folk to enjoy holidays at this beautiful spot. The outspoken magnate, who heads the biggest transport company in France and serves as an adviser to the French Government on overseas trade, strongly attacked the presence of Polish Ocean Lines vessels on the Noumea-Koumac run in New Caledonia. He vowed he would do his utmost to drive them away and replace them with French vessels. In a comment to PIM, R. Barnett, shipping adviser to the Noumea-based SATO shipping company, noted with surprise that Mr Hesnault had made no mention of ships from four other foreign companies which similarly ply between New Caledonian ports. Mr Barnett pointed out that since the POL operation began, all its port accounts payments and transfers have been made in French francs. During his visit to Noumea, Mr Hesnault announced the opening by his company of an unstuffing and container storage area in the port of Noumea.

PITCAIRNERS WANT AN AIRSTRIP

Most Pitcairn Islanders over the age of 18 would like to see an airstrip built on their remote island, which has never in history been accessible in any way but by sea. A survey conducted by the *Pitcairn Miscellany*, (PIM Aug p 45) has revealed this. There is as yet no plan to build the strip, but there is a possible site at Aute Valley in the island's high central area. During World War II it was heavily cultivated as a market garden to support a much larger population than now (50 Pitcairners). The point of contact by air would be Totagegie in the Mangareva Islands and then up through the Tuamotus to Tahiti. The tourist 'industry' on Pitcairn would probably be restricted to about a dozen people at a time living with Pitcairn families.



Fiji and the Sinai force

I am prompted to write to you after reading the item 'Fiji to Join Sinai Force?' (PIM Jul p5).

Your description of this United States 'peace-keeping force' proposal as 'controversial' is apt. Indeed, so far Fiji is the only country in the world (apart from the USA and Israel) that has agreed to participate in it.

It is common knowledge that most countries are, if not suspicious of the plan, directly opposed to it. Others have their own political reasons for staying clear of being involved. Even Australia and New Zealand, two neighbouring countries who are in close military alliance with the US, have found good excuses not to participate. All, except the government of Fiji, which is still under the delusion that the whole world appreciates and admires the sacrifice of Fiji military manhood in Lebanon.

Readers will recall that last year, when our cultural relatives and neighbours in the Vanuatu Government requested the Fiji Government to contribute troops to help restore peace in that troubled country, they were fobbed off with the

same excuse that Fiji would only support a United Nations-sponsored peace-keeping force. Now, when the distant USA and Israel requested Fiji troops for 'peace-keeping', without UN support, my government promptly agreed!

I recall that a few years ago Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara introduced the now well-known slogan 'the Pacific Way' (of doing things) which is supposed to denote peace, co-operation, courtesy and helpfulness. When a Pacific neighbour, in its hour of need, called on Fiji to put into practice the philosophy of the Pacific Way, we were found wanting.

Does Fiji's Pacific Way philosophy now apply only to non-Pacific countries with the ability to pay for our generosity? When Sir Julius Chan visited New Zealand in June he was rightly critical of Fiji's unprincipled refusal to assist the Vanuatu Government, in contrast to our willingness to assist the US and Israel in their troubles.

What a shame it is to note that Ratu Mara justified his decision with the argument that our foreign military involvement is helping to solve the problem of youth unemployment in Fiji. With a total of 14 deaths and casualties to Fiji youth in the Middle East so far, it is questionable whether that is a price worth paying to solve domestic problems.

Furthermore, we are not even earning the foreign exchange that the UN was expected to pay to Fiji (because of the lack

Fiji troops man a UN checkpoint in the Middle East. Has the operation been worth the price? — Hendrica Schoute picture



of enthusiasm of some members of the Security Council). And now the US has volunteered to pay the balance in return for getting involved in their internationally unpopular peace-keeping plans.

By any standards, this is the most disastrous and idiotic foreign policy decision to have been made by a Pacific leader.

I. M. NAKANVADRA

Wellington
New Zealand

Tonga's royals and marriage

I refer to the letter from P. Manutu'ufanga 'Unga (PIM Jun p7) concerning the marriage of Prince Ala'i of Tonga. Not only did Mr 'Unga misunderstand my earlier letter, but his letter contradicted itself.

Firstly, whether for right or wrong, the king still feels it necessary for the royal family to marry into the noble families. Therefore, His Majesty could not allow his son to break this tradition, because many other members of the royal family might then wish to do so.

Secondly, while Mr 'Unga places the blame for the marriage solely on Mr Anderson, this is unfair. Prince Ala'i and Miss Anderson began their friendship in Tonga under the eyes of the king. Something should have been done at that time. Then, as the two arrived in Honolulu, Mr Anderson should also have forbidden the marriage.

Thirdly, I never mentioned any law forbidding royal-commoner marriages. I did mention that Tonga's royals must seek the king's consent for every marriage, with noble or commoner alike. (See the Constitution of Tonga, Article 36.)

Princess Siu'ilikutapu's 1970 marriage to a Tongan commoner while studying in New Zealand set the precedent for the king's action in his son's case. The king annulled the princess's marriage. Later she married into the noble family of Kalaniuvalu-Fotofili.

Fourthly, Mr 'Unga hints at Miss Anderson's lack of 'birth status and background'. Here he contradicts himself. For indeed Miss Anderson possesses both 'birth status and background'. She is the child of a high chief and a stepdaughter

of the Hon Ma'afu. These are her qualifications for 'birth status'. Next, she is at ease in the company of Tonga's monarch and of the royal family. Her parents are (or were) great friends of the king and queen of Tonga. These factors I believe give her qualifications as to 'background'.

The main point of my letter is



'... The king should welcome her'

this: I do not think anyone wishes to humiliate the king. (I personally admire the king greatly.) Nor should the royal family discard all its traditions. However, this situation has proven nothing and has divided a close family. The king should welcome this lovely girl into his family.

RANDY DUFF

Indianapolis Ind
USA

Chile: Crocombe replies

Chile's Ambassador to Australia Dr Jorge Valdovinos feels that I am 'under considerable misapprehension' about the situation in Chile, and in particular Easter Island (PIM Jun p9). Easter Island, the ambassador states, 'falls within the regular civil administration of the nation. It has a provincial governor and a mayor who heads the local council. It holds no particular military status, and the Chilean navy ceased to administer it in 1966'. The ambassador's statement is misleading at best.

I have been on Easter Island with the admiral of the Chilean navy who was appointed minister of the department with special responsibility for Easter Island, and with the army general who is head of the University of Chile which has an extension division on Easter Island, and with the serving

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RHA1106

LETTERS

Chilean air force officer who is designated as 'mayor', and have seen a density of Chilean armed soldiers, sailors, airmen and carabinieri greater than anywhere else in the Pacific (including even the French territories), and have stayed in a hotel with armed carabinieri almost always present.

On the other hand, having met various Chileans who have fled General Pinochet's regime and have described the death, torture and other sufferings of various of their colleagues and countrymen, and having read some details of this oppression from a variety of reliable sources throughout the world, I hope the ambassador will forgive me for taking with a grain of salt his interpretation of that dictatorship as a movement of 'national independence and freedom'.

If he means that the authoritarian government on Easter Island is just part of a wider pattern of authoritarian government throughout the country, I have no doubt that that is true. But having been present when a distinguished Pacific Islander from another country wept when he saw the way his fellow Polynesians on Easter Island were 'governed', one can only hope that the present attempts of the Chilean Government to become involved with and to influence policy in other parts of the Pacific Islands will not be successful.

(Professor) R. G. CROCOMBE

University of the South Pacific
Suva
Fiji

Cairns and the MS Minghua

Your travel writers Dr Bill Mira and his wife Judy (PIM Jun p75) suggest the omission of Cairns, Queensland, Australia, from the itinerary of the MS Minghua.

I can understand why, having lived here on and off since 1967 — scarred hillsides, depleted rainforest, highrise buildings. It's some kind of Utopian ghetto.

So-called Australians devote much energy to emulating their American relations in the cult of the \$.

The enclosed cutting from a Cairns newspaper shows what I mean. Does the tourist want the wares advertised therein? Samples: 'Hey guys! Want some fun? Connoisseur Escorts ...' 'For a seductive evening, meet me at ...' 'La Belle Escorts. Sweet and Discreet ...' Get the message (or the 'massage')?

I'm going back to Thursday Island very soon — no traffic lights, peaceful, just the islands, beach and bush.

DAVID RICHARDSON
Cairns Qld
Australia

Bury N-waste on Mt Fuji

Regarding the item '... And Now It's ASEAN's Turn' (PIM Jul p5), who do the Japanese and certain members of ASEAN think they are? We do not want their nuclear waste dumped in our backyards. It is bad enough putting up with Moruroa Atoll and past tests at Bikini in our Pacific region without the Japanese and other countries wanting to add to the problem by dumping waste in the ocean.

It's a wonder that one of the big powers hasn't thought of dumping the nuclear waste on the moon, as, with all our modern technology and space programmes with trips to the moon, it would be one place that would be away from all of us. But no, they're too busy spending on an arms and military build-up to worry about a 'trivial' thing like a few barrels of nuclear waste. Dump it on some island because we have too many missiles and subs to build. That's the attitude I see, and no doubt many others do too.

What's wrong with the Japanese burying the waste on dear old honourable Mount Fuji instead of upsetting Micronesia both ecologically and socially. The old saying goes 'Give them an inch and they'll take a mile'.

Apparently a lot of people were under the illusion that President Mitterrand was going to pack up Moruroa and send it packing: no more testing. Wrong: Mitterrand has given the French Atomic Energy Commission the nod to continue the tests on Moruroa. Even here



The barren summertime peak of Mount Fuji. The white lines are hundreds of climbers making the annual walk to the summit. — Ken Toyama picture for Japan Pictorial.

in Noumea some of the issues remain unclear after the elections, as they do in Papeete too.

But we must all unite and halt any attempts to dump waste in our Pacific. If the Japanese have defied the whaling bans, what's to stop them doing the same on the dumping of nuclear waste?

JACK D. HADEN

Noumea
New Caledonia

Mr Guillebaud got it wrong?

I read with interest the story by Malcolm Salmon on the 'Politics of the Vahines' (PIM Aug p21). His quotations from Jean-Claude Guillebaud's book *Voyage en Océanie* describe events that have become commonplace not only in French Polynesia but in the whole Pacific. The frequent infatuation of foreign government officials with indigenous island women is a pattern that started when foreigners first came into contact with island women and continues today.

However, I feel that Guillebaud is exaggerating when he claims that: 'Charming an official from France is never the only thing at stake in these undertakings. It is also, and above all, a matter of ruling over him, despite the fact that he had come ... to do his job of

ruling over Tahiti.'

Guillebaud dismisses the fact that often the officials themselves initiate these liaisons and in all cases they are willing and happy participants. To accuse the 'Vahines' of using their appeal and charms for political gain is not only chauvinistic, it is absurd. Political men because they are highly visible, and because of the inherent power of their position, have always been appealing to women of all countries and nationalities. It would not be difficult to identify many such examples in Western countries. However, most liaisons occur for other reasons and are not politically motivated.

I am sure the Tahitian women would loudly object if they were aware of these charges, especially because they just hosted the Seminar of South Pacific Women in Tahiti in July, 1981. It was very clear at that seminar that Tahitian women and women from other countries in the Pacific have more on their minds than using their femininity and sexuality as a 'weapon ... with which Polynesia could win some small victories over its conquerors'. We were concerned with women's role in national development, health and training, and the establishment of a Pacific Women's Resource Bureau.

As a Pacific Island woman (Cook Islander) I refute Guillebaud's accusations. To make matters worse, the picture you used in PIM is a picture of Rarotongan women, not Tahitians. They happen to be close friends and I'm sure would object to the use of their picture in this context and with the caption — 'The Vahines: Charming, sociable, friendly, challenging, pleasure-loving — or, in the final analysis, very political?'

Kia Manuia

PAMELA TAKIORA
INGRAM PRYOR

Honolulu Hawaii
USA

Tribute to a W. Samoa 'great'

It is in tribute to the accomplishments of Aiono Keneti Sataraka of Western Samoa that I am writing this letter. There are probably many reg-

LETTERS

ular South Pacific travellers who, although not knowing his name, have seen him or experienced his handiwork. Aiono, as he was known to most, passed away in September of last year. He contributed in several ways to his country's future through his apparent ability to grasp the complex concepts of preservation of his culture and progress in the modern world. I would like to comment on two areas in which he contributed — culture and education — although I know that as a dedicated Christian he also contributed to the body of Christ in Western Samoa.

To PIM readers and regular South Pacific travellers, Aiono's contribution to his country's cultural future would have been most evident. He organised the Western Samoan cultural group that has performed at official Western Samoan functions, and, most recently, the South Pacific Arts Festival in Port Moresby. In this role Aiono spent many hours travelling and researching the authenticity of various customs and dances. At the beginning of last year he told me of the time he had spent consulting with many older *matai* (heads of family lines) regarding old customs, legends and games in order to put together a programme of dances for the South Pacific Arts Festival. He wanted the programme to portray the traditions and culture of his country to outsiders, and to capture some of the old customs for the young people of Western Samoa before they were completely forgotten. After his research, he then choreographed the custom or legend into dance, and, with endless practice, perfected the routines.

Aiono's role is typified by a photograph in the June, 1972 PIM (p45) where entertainers are shown at the opening of Western Samoa's Faleolo Airport. Aiono is shown facing the camera, leading the entertainment group for the enjoyment of the dignitaries and visitors. George Woodcock, in his book *South Sea Journey*, saw Aiono's dedication to his country's culture in action. He writes: 'Their instructor was the most astonishing *maître de ballet* I have ever encountered: a



The 1972 picture of Aiono, a 'man mountain in motion'. — Picture by A.G. Shearer.

middle-aged chief named Iono (read Aiono), a veritable man-mountain in motion, more than six feet tall, with a belly and hips that made his lavalava stand out so that he seemed like an enormous bell of sweating brown flesh, supported on vast columns of legs. He must have weighed more than three hundred pounds, yet as we entered the hall I saw him flex his knees and leap into a ferocious war-posture with the litheness of a European dancer half his age and weight.' Aiono had a deep feeling for his country and its culture and tried to do something to preserve it for future generations.

Aiono's contribution to education in Western Samoa was in his dedication to the youth who would make the future citizens of Western Samoa. He was an educator by profession. At the time of his death he was deputy chief inspector of the Western Samoa Department of Education. His responsibilities included grading teachers for promotion, co-ordination of in-service training activities for the department, as well as being involved in social science and mathematics curriculum development at the primary school level.

Aiono was very much aware of the pull of the modern world on the youth of his country. He wanted to make sure that they

would be able to assess intelligently the options available to them in the future. He was dedicated to the continual development of the education system so that it would reflect the needs of his country. Progress was not a threat to Aiono, it seemed, but a challenge that meant only positive rewards for his country's future.

I had the privilege of working with Aiono as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Western Samoa from 1971 to 1975. His efforts centred around the improvement of the teaching force and the education system. He was always willing to listen to and encourage anyone, but yet his advice was decisive and in line with the needs of his country's education system. In recent years he led several large groups of teachers to Australia for in-service work, as well as hosting consultants to Western Samoa's Department of Education from Australia. His selfless hospitality and dedication to his job have made those of us who worked closely with him respect and appreciate his contribution to our understanding of the Samoan way of life. I am sure that the many others who have known and worked with Aiono will join me in this tribute.

I have recently been told that Aiono's wife Sara has also passed away. She too will be missed because of her contribution as a primary school headmistress and a helpful and efficient hostess.

KEN BAUMGARNER
Macquarie University
North Ryde NSW
Australia

A Papuan stamp oddity, 1912-13

I cannot think of a better source for my personal research project than PIM's readers. I am trying to gather material on an interesting episode concerning the postage stamps of Papua during the 1912-1913 period. There seems to be quite a lack of any such information in the official records — perhaps someone can help me out?

According to the philatelic literature, in early 1912 a supply ship carrying a stock of postage stamps from Port Moresby to Samarai was lost

(shipwrecked? ran aground?). Samarai, short of the penny stamp (which was the letter rate), received permission from Port Moresby to use fiscal stamps (that is, overprinted 'stamp duty') for postage in May, 1912. Apparently a similar situation occurred at Samarai again in January, 1913. The postal authorities supposedly discontinued the use of fiscal stamps for postage in mid-1913.

My problem is that I can find no documentary evidence of such official permission. The fiscal stamps were certainly postally used (intentionally or by accident) in that period, as they are known to collectors. However, without some sort of supporting evidence, their official status is difficult to confirm. I would be most grateful if any readers could help shed some light on what actually did occur, or perhaps suggest sources I might refer to. I would of course reimburse any postage expenses incurred and the results should make an interesting footnote to Pacific history.

RICHARD P. MULLER
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Australia

Revilla Gigedo, Revillagigedo?

My wife subscribes to PIM — I have enjoyed reading it for years.

However, each issue has brought a minor irritant. Revillagigedo was one of the more able Spanish viceroys of colonial Mexico. In a prominent place on your PIM logo-map appear the two words Revilla Gigedo. It doesn't seem sporting that his name should be chopped in two in this way ... even in so distant a place as Syd Ney.

Unless they speak Spanish, most persons have trouble saying 'Revillagigedo'. Now and then one still hears an old joke about this in Mexico City, where many foreigners frequent the Hotel Del Prado at the corner of Juarez and Revillagigedo. A visiting American tried to phone municipal authorities to report a dead horse lying in Revillagigedo.

LETTERS

After a number of goes at identifying the street, the frustrated Yank asked the person on the other end of the line to stand by a moment. Finally, the gasps of mighty panting were heard and a laboured voice gasped: 'There is a dead horse in the lobby of the Hotel Del Prado ...'

In any event, I think PIM ought to label the group of islands SSW off the coast of Mexico's peninsular state of Baja California Sur... with the undivided name that is theirs ... even if it is easier to say in two pieces.

GALAL J. KERNAHAN
Anaheim Calif
USA

PIM Associate Editor Malcolm Salmon has been doing some homework and comments: Reader Kernahan is quite right in urging that it is correct modern usage to write the name of these islands as one word — Revillagigedo. Indeed, this was done on maps in editions of *Pacific Islands Year Book* on which PIM's map is based — until an earlier erudite and helpful correspondent wrote to our office saying that the name should be written as *two* words, and the *PIYB* editors changed the map accordingly.

But, Mr Kernahan is very much barking up the wrong tree when he insists that the reason why the islands' name should be written as one word is that the man after whom the islands were named wrote his name in that way. That worthy Spanish gentleman was Juan Vicente Güemes Pacheco de Padilla, Count of Revilla Gigedo, who was viceroy of New Spain in 1789-94. His father, Juan Francisco de Güemes y Forcasitas, Count of Revilla Gigedo, had held the same office in 1746-55. The islands were named after his son in 1793.

As can be well understood, therefore, the family must have been pretty well known around the place at the time. It is probably this contemporary name which explains the running together of the two words of the title — Revilla and Gigedo — to describe the islands, as well as the Mexico City street. (Any schoolboy in



Revilla Gigedo (or Revillagigedo) actually consists of three islands and a large rock. The group is just over 18 degrees north of the equator and is 550 km from the coast of Mexico. The main island, Socorro (sometimes known as Santo Tomas), includes a volcanic peak. The two other islands are San Benedicto and Santa Rosa (sometimes known as Clarion). Partida Rock is off the coast of Socorro. The group belongs to Mexico.

an English-speaking country whose first name happens to be Winston will tell you how sick and tired he gets of being called Winstonchurchill...)

Our thanks to Mr Kernahan — even if he is right for the wrong reasons. (Incidentally, we'll be changing our map yet again — and so will the editors of *PIYB*.)

Again on Oz in the Pacific

My apologies to Athol L. Cottrell (PIM Aug p10) and all others who may have taken 'a certain amount of umbrage' at my 'vitriolic' letter (PIM Jun p10).

It would presumably be useless to argue the point over the 'lot of help' given by Australia over the years to its Pacific neighbours. The true purpose of this help was recently bluntly described in public by an Australian MP: it is designed 'to keep the Russians out', he said. This could be expressed quite differently in military and strategic terms.

I cannot refrain from saying a few words about Gough Whitlam, described by Mr Cottrell as a 'now unemployed politico'. Mr Whitlam has been visiting Nigeria in a desperate quest for the international limelight. With even greater

desperation he is still seeking to justify his gutless cowardice on the Timor issue.

The historical facts indicate that Mr Whitlam's 'advocacy of slightly revolutionary ideas' cost 300 000 Timorese — and five dinkum Aussies — their lives. These facts appear to have been overlooked by Mr Cottrell and his 'thousands of concerned Australians'.

Apart from the Timor issue, I wonder very seriously where these 'thousands of concerned Australians' have been while Indonesia has been slaughtering more than 200 000 inhabitants of Irian Jaya, right on Australia's doorstep. The slaughter is going on to this day, despite all those 'concerned' Australians.

And where have they been as thousands of West Papuan refugees, including many women and children, have been forced back across the Papua New Guinea/Irian Jaya border with the active participation of former Australian 'Kiaps', now using the glorified title of 'security and intelligence advisers' to the Somare and Chan governments?

It has become a major trend in our societies today to sidestep the truth and attempt to excuse incompetence and cowardice by the use of the word 'communist'. Mr Cottrell does this. Gough Whitlam did it when he has suggested that the Fretilin movement in East Timor was 'communist'.

Despite all this, I am very pleased and proud that Mr Cottrell chooses to address me as 'Mr Paingame'. After two years in Australia I have become used to being addressed as 'Mr Coon', if not as plain 'Kanaka'.

I wish to assure Mr Cottrell that I have not the slightest intention of joining any of Australia's hypocritical political organisations. The last one I would think of joining would be Australia's 'communist organisations' referred to by Mr Cottrell. As a 'Coon' and a 'Kanaka' I presume I wouldn't be welcome in them in any case.

I am proud of what I am, and proud of my brothers and sisters in Irian Jaya, and those in Timor as well, who have been sold and betrayed in cowardice and greed. I am proud too of

those who continue the struggle.

Let us accept the truth. Let's stop talking lukewarm hypocrisy and baloney about 'the many thousands of Australians concerned for their Pacific neighbours'. Historical facts prove the contrary, as indicated in Timor and Irian Jaya.

VITALIZ PAINGAME
Cairns Qld
Australia

Yachtsman turned back from Nauru

To the people of Nauru, I am sorry. I am sorry that after 10 days of hard sailing I was denied the privilege of meeting and coming to know you. Strictly complying with quarantine and entry procedures, I hadn't prepared for the bureaucratic bullying and petty crankiness encountered. I can only conclude I must have arrived on the official's day off, or had committed some similar crime.

I was turned away to sea without a chance to restock food, fuel or water, and I was told that if I protested in any way I would face some vague legal charges. This was astounding, not solely because it is in flagrant breach of international law or because I was assumed to have no legal requirement for entry but because of the lavish hospitality and co-operation which I have found to prevail elsewhere in the Islands.

Other Islanders have been proud of their culture and have been eager to share it with visitors. What has caused such brutal and rude treatment towards visitors to Nauru? Does this lack of hospitality reflect an eroded pride or even a shame in what I came to see? Certainly a customs and immigration official can't reflect the character of an entire nation, but may I caution that he is the vanguard — the first and the last impression.

Should he not be an ambassador of goodwill, or will future callousness to foreign visitors continue to belittle the Republic of Nauru?

ALVAH G. SIMON
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In the following two articles, STUART INDER reports on the important 12th meeting of the South Pacific Forum which he attended in Port-Vila, Vanuatu, in August, and DON STEWART looks at the future of the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Conference as they enter 'the turbulent 1980s'. Stuart Inder is a former publisher and editor of PIM, and Don Stewart until earlier this year was director of administration of the South Pacific Commission.

What the Forum did — and what it didn't do

THE REGION
Two writers
look at how
Pacific ties
are shaping

New Zealand Prime Minister Robert Muldoon put the boot into the South Pacific Forum at its Port-Vila meeting. It was, he said at the beginning of the first day of the two-day formal session, largely a waste of time — too formalised, lacking the spirit of the early days — and he wasn't likely to attend another meeting unless things improved.

As far as he was concerned, they didn't: mostly he found the meetings a bore, and fretted that he had more pressing things to do at home.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser couldn't make it at the last minute, because he *did* have more pressing things to do at home. He sent Deputy PM Doug Anthony, who had been in the middle of his vacation and stayed only a couple of days, but who left behind him Australian Foreign Minister Tony Street.

But Mr Muldoon's forthright expression of views was opportune. It was just 10 years since the forum first met in Wellington, in August 1971, so was it now on the right path? The need for reappraisal was underlined by two proposals on the agenda — one asking whether the forum's technical and administrative arm, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC), and the South Pacific Commission (SPC), should be amalgamated, and another proposing that some kind of new regional organisation be developed to enable the Pacific Islands to speak as one voice in world councils, such as the United Nations.

At no time did the forum members sit down and single-mindedly discuss the forum's future. But by the time the various motions were debated, and Mr Muldoon's views chewed over, it was clear that the Island leaders have no

serious misgivings about it. Those with longest experience agreed that the Port-Vila meeting was slower and more formalised than many past meetings, but no more so than could be expected in view of its enlarged membership — 13 now, plus an observer (the Federated States of Micronesia), compared with the founding membership of seven in 1971.

The decision to hold the well-attended SPEC meeting just before the forum met also added to the 'big conference' atmosphere in Port-Vila and detracted somewhat from the informality that was present, for example, at last year's smaller meeting at Kiribati.

Port-Vila found itself hosting a large-scale international convention, and the surprise probably was that the convention managed to retain as much of the Islands atmosphere as it did. Everybody helped to make it work — those who made the careful selection of eating places for the various private luncheons and dinners, the competent SPEC secretariat staff

with their long working hours, the easy professionalism of the Intercontinental Hotel people, the smooth transport and security arrangements, and the true consensus style of control by conference chairman Father Walter Lini. 'He's not tough. He's a Christian who believes in dialogue,' as somebody explained it.

The fact that Vanuatu's prime minister didn't hurry debate along was probably one of the things that irked Mr Muldoon, but the day is gone when there can be unity around the forum table as to the perfect way of running things. Needs are different.

Mr Muldoon's point that he could spend his time better back home wasn't unreasonable, and the problem to be faced is how best to accommodate busy leaders, no matter where they are from, if the Forum is to continue to be what its members want it to be — a meeting of Pacific Island heads of government discussing common problems.

The formal agenda should

Lini's position on New Caledonia

Vanuatu's Prime Minister Father Walter Lini told a news conference in Port-Vila during the South Pacific Forum session that Vanuatu was not considering giving support to any New Caledonian independence movement in exile.

He said all Vanuatu's efforts were being directed towards resolving the situation for the good of all, but he added:

'If Vanuatu's efforts to help the New Caledonian people come to a full stop, we will help the independence

movement in any way we could. One useful way is for us to show the French that we are important to France for their long-term future, and that they need to listen to us a little bit more about the problems they face in New Caledonia and perhaps, in the long run, they will face in the region.'

A delegation of independence supporters led by Roch Pidjot, leader of the front's largest party, Union Calédonienne, was lobbying in Port-Vila during the forum session.

obviously be culled hard. There were more than 30 items on this one, and by the end of the first day the forum had dealt with only seven matters. Some of the remaining items had to be dealt with at express train speed the next day.

Only key items should reach the forum's agenda — others can be dealt with at the SPEC meeting by the senior public servants. If there are still special points of clarification needed after that, the leaders will find a way of clearing up the ones that interest them during their various opportunities for informal talks.

To sum up, the South Pacific Forum *has* to work, for there is simply no alternative to it, irrespective of what changes might occur to existing organisations, and despite the possible advent of new ones.

Sir Julius Chan made it clear that Papua New Guinea's proposal for some kind of new political alliance was not a proposal for replacing the forum. What he wanted was some kind of power grouping which would be recognised in international forums as specifically Pacific Islands. At present the Islands are generally lumped together with African and Third World blocs, and do not speak with a recognisable voice.

On this matter Sir Julius has been influenced by the views of his Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade Paulias Matane, who until recently was PNG's Ambassador to the UN and from long experience is very conscious of the disadvantages abroad caused by the lack of a clear Pacific voice.

Before the conference began there was a view in the corridors that what PNG aimed for was a

THE REGION

brotherhood of Islanders only, without Australia and New Zealand, which would replace the forum. This misinformation was no doubt fuelled by the fact that PNG produced no formal paper on its proposals, and thus there was plenty of scope for imagination. Reaction was that such a concept wasn't on.

When Sir Julius explained his proposal in the conference room there was no debate on it, but Sir Julius agreed to formulate a more specific proposal for next year's Forum meeting in Tuvalu.

Australia's Doug Anthony probably best summed it up later at a news conference: 'There's merit in it. You could have some sort of grouping, if this is the wish of those nations, without interfering with the present structure. But you do need some sort of structure that will incorporate Australia and New Zealand. We are there, and participating. If they want to have a separate identity for political purposes, that could be set up as an adjunct to the forum.'

The whole idea will go no further unless Sir Julius pushes it.

A SPEC/SPC merger will, if it happens, strengthen the forum. Such a possibility has been seriously studied since 1978, but it has been in the air longer than that. It came close to a blood-letting at the South Pacific Conference in Papeete in 1979, when the then director of SPEC, Mahe Tupouniua, made a fairly emotional plea for an end to the 'siege mentality' of the SPC on the issue, which he said was undermining the health of regional co-operation in the Islands. He stressed then that SPEC had no sinister plans for a take-over — it was simply the forum's executive and did what it was told to do 'without embellishment'.

The Port-Vila forum agreed to convene a special SPEC committee session to undertake a detailed study on the feasibility of a SPEC/SPC merger, with all its implications.

Thus a decision on the future of the SPC is finally approaching. The forum has been in no hurry to grasp the nettle in the past because members aren't united in how to approach it.

Banabans active at Forum

The Banaban people of Rabi Island took advantage of the South Pacific Forum's interest in self-determination for New Caledonia to press its own case for independence for Ocean Island.

David Christopher, secretary to the Rabi Council of Leaders, lobbied delegates and presented most of the forum leaders with a document outlining Rabi's objec-

tives. The Rabi situation was not, however, discussed by the forum.

Rabi's views were supported by a covering letter signed by the chairman of the Rabi Council of Leaders, the Rev Kaitangare Kaburoro. Rabi is part of Fiji, and the Banabans of Rabi are Fiji citizens, but their ancestral home is Ocean Island, or Banaba, which they still possess, although the phosphate has now been exhausted. Banaba is part of Kiribati.

Mr Kaburoro's letter says that the Rabi Islanders are pressing their right to self-government for Banaba, and continues: 'We are distressed

at the selfish, irresponsible and unco-operative attitude of the Kiribati Government in this matter. Perhaps they have been taught this mode of behaviour by Britain, which has a shocking record of exploitation of the Banabans.

'We pray that you will give our cause sympathetic consideration. We feel that our approach to you is timely in view of the Forum's proposed intention of requesting France to grant freedom to its Pacific colonies. We humbly state that we too are deserving of political freedom.'

• See also Political Currents.

What overlapping is there? Would costs indeed be less if the two organisations were rationalised? Would the US, France and Britain continue their funding at the present scale if a rationalisation excluded them from the new body?

And what, anyway, would be the political implications if the South Pacific Commission were to disappear — how would France and the US in particular have a voice in the South Seas, since their territories are ineligible for forum membership?

There are still no simple answers, and the forum is going to have to feel its way. It can expect some feedback at the next South Pacific Conference which officially opens in Port-Vila on October 24. The SPC probably won't like it but the fact remains that the SPC can't survive unless the Forum countries want it to survive, and the final decision will be made by the Forum.

One regional organisation whose aims were not discussed officially in Port-Vila but which got passing attention in the corridors was the Pacific Islands Conference, set up last year at a meeting in Honolulu attended by most Islands leaders, including all the Micronesians. This conference (PIM May 1980 p22) discussed developmental goals and was designed as an on-going body which would enable the Islands,

both north and south, to develop closer ties with international organisations able to help them. The conference was sponsored by the US East West Center, and participants agreed there should be a second general meeting this year, somewhere in the Islands.

This meeting is not now likely before next year, and it seems that the organisation is not to have any permanent shape to the extent it will conflict with the current multiplicity of regional and would-be regional organisations — for which one can only offer heartfelt thanks.

Regionalism also raised its head with a proposal, again from PNG, that a regional peace-keeping force be established that could be used in a similar role to that played by PNG forces last year when they supported the Vanuatu Government against the Santo rebels.

This proposal fared little better than Sir Julius's plan for a regional political voice, although it was certainly debated. Sir Julius told the forum that he wanted to test feelings on the matter. The feeling was that nobody wanted to embrace such a complex, highly political plan, especially in view of possible developments in New Caledonia.

Who would compose such a force, who would pay for it, how would it be commanded, who would decide whom it was to be used against, and when? As

Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara observed, peace-keeping forces are invariably sent to places where there is no peace.

The discussion resulted in a typical South Seas resolution designed to put the idea aside and at the same time save PNG's face. The forum, 'noted the importance of the maintenance of peace and stability (security) in the region and called on member governments to give their attention to this important issue'. Over to Sir Julius again.

The New Caledonia situation occupied the greatest amount of the forum's time (with transport matters second), and received a spectacular amount of press attention. The French Government itself guaranteed this by using its diplomats in a vain effort to make the debate a non-event.

The French Ambassador to Fiji unwisely suggested to Ratu Mara the day before the prime minister left Suva for the forum that France would regard Fiji's support for any forum interference in New Caledonian affairs as an 'unfriendly act'. The warning was tacitly backed by the understanding that as Fiji sells \$52m worth of sugar annually to the EEC, it was vulnerable to political pressure.

Ratu Mara was, as he publicly stated in Vila, 'very, very angry' at this approach, and 'gave the ambassador a lemon'. Which for anybody who has

THE REGION

seen Fiji's Prime Minister on the warpath, was no doubt putting it mildly. That France was prepared to beard such a notably independent leader as Ratu Mara in such terms is eloquent commentary on the high state of anxiety France is in over the defence of its indefensible Pacific policies.

It certainly got no relief from the forum members. They resolved that: 'The governments comprising the South Pacific Forum, reaffirming their belief in the principles of self-determination and independence applying to non-self-governing Pacific Island countries including the French territories, decide to send a delegation led by a forum head of government to Paris to meet with President Mitterrand of the French Republic, to discuss with him the question of the evolution of the French Government's policies with respect to the progress towards decolonisation of the people of the French Pacific territories.'

The resolution left the composition and timing of the delegation to its leader, who is to report to the next Forum. The leader, not unexpectedly, turned out to be Ratu Mara.

He didn't seek the job, and he did in fact weigh up his position against possible difficulties it might cause Fiji at

the hands of France. Typically, he decided that whatever the consequences it had to be done because the alternative solution in New Caledonia would be a lot more violent.

It's unlikely that the delegation will go before next year, by which time a new Mitterrand policy on decolonisation may have defused events. But a lot of forum leaders don't hold out much hope.

What they see is a danger that the New Caledonian *colons* will take the initiative from the hands of the French Government even if it should decide to grant New Caledonia autonomy under eventual Melanesian leadership. This would lead to a bloodbath. It is because of the various terrible alternatives that the forum felt it had to involve itself in New Caledonia's future while there was still time to use its influence.

The initiative for the New Caledonia resolution came from Vanuatu, which in turn had been strongly lobbied by the Kanak Front Indépendantiste. Father Lini made it clear that Vanuatu was trying to do what it could 'at every level' to help New Caledonia achieve autonomy, because it had the closest relations with both New Caledonia's autonomist movement and France, and could

take a stand with less offence.

He told an end-of-conference news gathering: 'I think it was the most peaceful way for the forum to take a united stand on New Caledonia rather than let the situation develop where they will continue to kill Melanesians — members of the Front Indépendantiste — because already we have four who have been killed, and the indication we have is that before the end of the year more will be killed in New Caledonia by the white settlers.'

'That is why we believe that if the forum can take a united stand it will help deter the New Caledonia situation from developing into almost a racial issue, when we believe that it is, and should continue to be, a political issue.'

The original Vanuatu plan had sought, as an additional pressure against France, to get New Caledonia relisted as a

colony at the UN to ensure its affairs would come before the decolonisation committee. Father Lini was not happy that the forum did not accept this plank in his platform, but he realised that the forum was trying to work in a way that was likely to be diplomatically acceptable to France and the forum countries themselves. Similarly, he accepted the forum's change of wording in the resolution so as to make it apply to all of France's Pacific territories, rather than New Caledonia alone.

He said Vanuatu had chosen to concentrate its efforts on the New Caledonian situation because once a peaceful solution could be worked out there, it would be beneficial to the other French Pacific territories. There is no doubt, however, that it is New Caledonia which disturbs Father Lini and the forum.

National leaders at the South Pacific Forum meeting were: (left to right, back row) Minister Buraro Detumado, Nauru; Prime Minister Tupuola Efi, Western Samoa; Prime Minister Walter Lini, Vanuatu; Prime Minister Sir Thomas Davis, Cook Islands; Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Fiji; (centre row) President Tosiwo Nakayama, Federated States of Micronesia; South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation Director Dr Gabriel Gris (his country is Papua New Guinea); President Ieremia Tabai, Kiribati; Deputy Prime Minister Doug Anthony, Australia; Prime Minister Peter Kenilorea, Solomon Islands (he has since been defeated as prime minister — see Political Currents); (front row) Acting Prime Minister Baron Tuita, Tonga; Prime Minister Robert Muldoon, New Zealand; Premier Robert Rex, Niue; Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, Papua New Guinea; Prime Minister Toalipi Lauti, Tuvalu. — Vanuatu government picture.



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Salvage plan for a commission and a conference

Former Director of Administration of the South Pacific Commission DON STEWART outlines measures which he believes could result in the salvation of that ailing body, and its 'twin', the South Pacific Conference.

The South Pacific Conference and the South Pacific Commission are different now from what they were at their beginnings in the post-war colonial Pacific of the late 1940s. Indeed, they are different now from what they were in the 1960s and even the mid-1970s. The conference and the commission have survived but not exactly flourished to date by a remarkable capacity for adapting to times and circumstances. Cynics might call this ducking and diving. To see out the 1980s, both will have to adapt even more radically than in the past.

Ostensibly, the conference exists as a talking place — and a unique one — for representatives of all Pacific countries and territories, whether independent, self-governing, or territorial, at which they can get together once a year with each other and with representatives of 'metropolitan' governments having past or present territorial interests in the region.

The commission, for its part, exists as the servant of the conference to carry out its wishes and directions.

In fact, the South Pacific Conference now exists primarily to keep the commission

going for another year. This is achieved through two conference functions: formal approval of the commission's budget for the coming year, and of nominations for the positions of principal officers (the commission's secretary-general and its two directors).

Yet even these two functions are in the rubber-stamp category since both are predetermined by one of two committees: the Planning and Evaluation Committee (P&E) in the case of the commission's work programme and budget, and the Committee of Representatives of Participating Governments (CRPG) in the case of total funds available to the commission and the appointment of its principal officers.

So, with the two main functions of the conference predetermined by committees, and matters of political significance reserved for discussion in the South Pacific Forum, there is really not much left for the conference to do.

True, themes are discussed — one social and one economic — each year, but action on these has a tendency to fizzle out after a year or two of appearing on the agenda. Then, yet more themes are selected for discussion the next year. Now and then proceedings are enlivened by such topics as opposition to nuclear waste dumping. But in one case where something really useful emanated from discussions — the completed feasibility study on a regional commodity stabilisation scheme — the subject was deemed too complicated for the conference, and was shunted aside for consideration elsewhere.

Until quite recently, the conference was a two-week affair. In 1976 it was decided to pull it back to one week. These days, the conference proper is spread over five working days, from

Monday to Friday. As anyone who was at the last two or three gatherings knows, it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill in the time available for formal sessions. So, a few more parties and sight-seeing trips are organised, and a good time is had by all.

Socialising, it's true, has always been an important aspect of the conference, and will continue to play a part by bringing representatives together in relaxed surroundings to talk over common problems.

But in the 1980s there is a real danger that the conference will degenerate into some kind of old-timers' club, unless it finds something more useful to do with its time.

Pacific leaders, ministers and officials are busy people. Things are no longer what they were in the 1950s and 1960s. In those days, the people concerned did not have the many regional and international meetings to attend and commitments to meet that they have today. The South Pacific Conference is no longer for most of them the big event of the year. It is rather, and increasingly, a sideshow, with the real decisions being made elsewhere — at the South Pacific Forum, the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-Operation (SPEC), the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meetings (CHOGRM), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) — not to mention other forums sponsored by the various United Nations agencies, the University of the South Pacific and the East-West Center.

What can be done? I wish to make two suggestions: the first is to shorten the conference still further to, say, three working days. Unless something like this is done, the conference is not going to attract the big guns,

Atoms, oil and ships in Forum business

After the popular excitement generated by the New Caledonia resolution at the South Pacific Forum (see detailed report on previous page), the remainder of the forum meeting was something of an anti-climax. In the end, this was the work they did:

- The Forum resolved to stand together in opposition to nuclear weapons testing or nuclear waste dumping in the Pacific, and to reject separate approaches from France, Japan or the US on these matters.

- Supported the Solomon Islands decision not to allow the Soviet vessel *R.V. Callisto* to conduct a geophysical and oceanographic survey and research in Solomon's waters as part of the CCOP/SOPAC programme, and welcomed an alternative research programme to be carried out there by Australia, NZ and the US.

- Decided to defer the matter of a direct approach to the OPEC states for a special oil deal for the Islands, so that it could be followed up at the Commonwealth Heads of Gov-

ernment meeting in Melbourne in October. Most people now thought the whole matter a waste of time.

- Welcomed reports indicating that the Pacific Forum Line finally appears to be sailing out of troubled waters, and thanked a number of countries for their financial support.

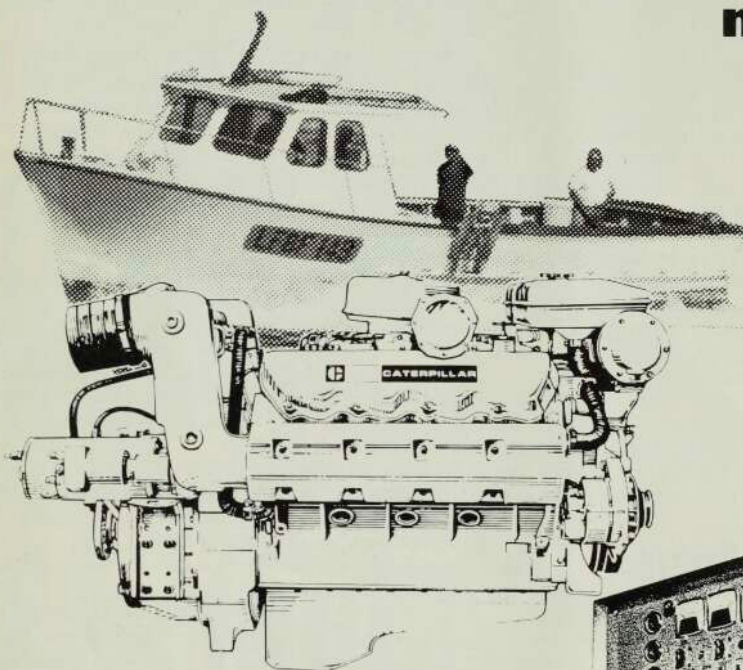
- Noted that Nauru had now been included in the SPARTECA list of smaller Island countries that could benefit from wider duty-free trade access to Australia and New Zealand.

- Approved a whole series of resolutions on fisheries, which endorsed the Forum Fisheries Agency's research and development programme, and set up guidelines aimed at getting it moving effectively.

- Approved a report on the establishment of a Pacific Islands Fund to assist smaller island countries unable to join World Bank or the Asian Development Bank, and decided to try and get this idea moving too (see also Tradewinds). — Stuart Inder.

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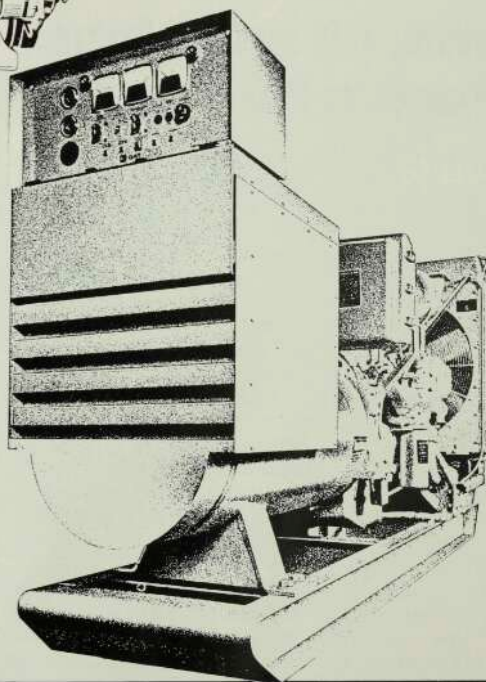
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who cannot afford more than a few days even for the South Pacific Forum, and the present tendency for delegations to be made up more and more of officials will gather strength.

The second suggestion concerns the way in which the conference is conducted.

With the hosting of this year's conference by the Republic of Vanuatu, most independent Island nations and several territories will have had a turn at playing host. The list of countries which have not yet taken the opportunity includes Kiribati, Tuvalu and Niue, and one reason for this may be that they simply can't afford it. The recent tendency has been for each host country to strive to outdo its predecessors. This competitive spirit was born in 1975 when the Republic of

radical — just a return to Islands values.

The 'unwritten rules' should be changed. The smaller countries and territories which have not yet hosted a conference should be allowed to do it in their way. This would mean 'innovations' like the billeting of participants in village homes instead of hotels, the conference venue being an open-sided *fale fonu*, *maneaba* or *domeneab* instead of a plush enclosed hall, and the provision of entertainment and hospitality by villagers (including children) instead of cocktail parties and lunches.

This would give Island villagers an opportunity to meet the people who are supposed to be making decisions for their welfare and advancement. Just as importantly, it would give

called metropolitan powers (a term now out of favour officially, but *some* term has to be used), has an image problem. This is not new. It has had an image problem for years, despite all sorts of attempts to brush it up.

I believe there are three main reasons for the long-standing disaffection with the SPC.

The first, and one over which the SPC strictly speaking has no control, is the location of its headquarters in New Caledonia. The reason for this is rooted almost in antiquity, or at least in 1949, when the then member governments of the commission accepted the offer by the French Government to make available the former headquarters of the US Army in the Pacific at Anse-Vata in Noumea as the permanent headquarters of the SPC.

Over 30 years later, what remains of those governments (the Dutch pulled out in 1962) no longer controls the conference or the commission in terms of political numbers (although they continue to provide most of its finance). They are now outnumbered, even in the behind-the-scenes committees, by Island governments, all of which are opposed — some implacably and stridently — to a French colonial presence in the Pacific.

Obviously this issue should not be linked with the SPC or the work it undertakes in the region, but the unfortunate fact is that it *is* linked, the SPC being tarred with a colonialist brush because of the circumstances of its creation and because of the continued location of its headquarters on French territorial soil.

The simple solution would be to shift the SPC's headquarters elsewhere. Yet it is doubtful if the organisation would survive such a move intact, or even at all. Such a demise might not be opposed by some governments, but it might not be acceptable to others, particularly, of course, to France and her territories, but also to the smaller countries and territories which still look to the SPC for valuable assistance. If and when independence comes to New Caledonia, this issue may fade away. Until then, a deeper

THE SPC COMMUNITY

The South Pacific Conference, often referred to as the United Nations of the Pacific, is the annual 'general assembly' of delegates representing governments which participate in or are linked with the South Pacific Commission. The governments are from Pacific Island countries and from metropolitan countries which have a Pacific presence or Pacific links.

The commission was formed in 1947 following the suggestion of the then Australian External Affairs Minister, Dr H. V. Evatt. At first it consisted solely of the six metropolitan countries which administered territories and trusteeships in the Pacific — Australia, France, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Netherlands has since ceased to be a member, but an increasing number of Island countries are becoming full participating members in the wake of nationhood.

The commission is not a political alliance, but has developed from the common welfare, environmental, community and technical interests of the Island countries.

understanding is required all round.

The second reason for the SPC's long-standing image problem concerns the attitudes of member governments themselves towards their own regional organisation. Perceptions vary markedly.

Among the 'metropolitans', Australia and New Zealand, the most deeply involved financially and the closest physically to the region, tend to regard the SPC as an effective aid-distributor which at the same time provides a means of keeping them in touch with Island aims and aspirations. To a great extent, this applies to the UK also.

The French and the Americans on the other hand concentrate more on the politics of their territories within the organisation, and, particularly in the case of the former, keep a close eye on their activities.

Among the independent Island countries there is, in general, broad acceptance of

'The South Pacific Commission touts itself as the "grassroots" organisation of the region. Should delegates to its South Pacific Conference continue to be accommodated in international hotels, attend luxurious air-conditioned conference venues, and be wined, dined and feted at great expense to discuss "grassroots" issues? The change I propose is not radical — just a return to Islands values.'

Nauru spared no effort to organise a conference where arrangements could only be described as lavish. This became the yardstick for subsequent host countries. The trend culminated in the 'spectacular' of 1979 in Tahiti, and the huge effort made last year by the government of Papua New Guinea. One can sympathise with any trepidation felt by the government of Vanuatu as it set about this year's preparations — especially coming within a couple of months of its hosting the forum. Does Vanuatu, at present hard-strapped economically, need this added extravaganza? Does any country?

I firmly believe it is time to return to a simpler format.

The South Pacific Commission touts itself as the 'grassroots' organisation of the region. Should conference delegates continue to be accommodated in international hotels, attend luxurious air-conditioned conference venues, and be wined, dined and feted at great expense, to discuss 'grassroots' issues?

The change I propose is not

delegates more than one fleeting, flying-visit-type, glance at the grassroots issues to which the conference and the commission purport to address themselves.

* * *

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THE REGION



South Pacific Conference in session — this one in Fiji in 1970. But some Islands governments, particularly among the bigger countries, are questioning the value they get.

the commission's role by the Polynesians, although there are exceptions to this in detail.

However, among the Melanesians, particularly those who have recently attained independence, such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, there arise periodic calls for radical changes to the commission or even its abolition.

The smaller countries and the territories, together with the newly emerging countries of Micronesia, are more inclined to view the SPC as a useful development tool. In fact it is in large measure the support of these countries and territories which allows the SPC to survive from crisis to crisis, since they have a real fear that if it goes under, their voices will no longer be heard, or not heard as strongly, in any new organisation which might take its place and which would certainly be dominated by Island independents.

An influential Islander said recently that these varying attitudes boil down to the fact that Islands governments cannot 'get their act together'. Nowhere is this opinion borne out more clearly than in the closed-door, smoke-filled-room, atmosphere of the SPC's Committee of Representatives of Participating Governments. The main functions of this committee are to determine the SPC's total income and administrative budget, and to nominate its principal officers. These functions are in constant tur-

moil, with budgets that are 'frozen' (meaning no increases) year-by-year, and principal officers being changed as frequently as lava-lavas (in the past four years there have been seven incumbents in the SPC's three top positions, and indications are that there will be more changes in the near future).

A PIM special correspondent in Noumea recently pointed out (July, pp21-22) that the budget freezing might be an attempt 'to kill the SPC'. If so, the correspondent added, 'they should do it now, quickly and painlessly'. I agree. Nothing will more certainly cause slow but sure strangulation than what is happening now to an organisation whose administrative services, in particular, are already seriously overloaded. The SPC should either be given the resources to carry out its tasks effectively or it should be closed down flat and not be left to wither away, or be picked off by its rivals. On this point the participating governments must get their act together.

It is not enough for the SPC just to survive; it must flourish. And if it is to flourish in the 1980s, Island member governments will have to allow it the funds it needs. After all, the metropolitan governments provide about 95% of the finance so it is more a matter of principle (ie, whether the SPC is to have funds, not whether they themselves will have to pay it) than of finance which faces Island governments.

As recently as last year, member governments showed their concern for the survival of the SPC. A committee comprising members appointed jointly by the South Pacific Forum and

the South Pacific Conference presented a report which recommended that immediate steps be taken to amalgamate SPEC and the SPC in such a manner as to create a new regional organisation. Certain methods were outlined to achieve this end, but the finer points were to be worked out later by still more committees. The main thing was to stamper the forum and the conference, and particularly the former, into a political decision which would have spelled the end of the SPC and probably of SPEC as well. Some wit once said that an elephant is a mouse built to committee specifications, and the new organisation which was proposed to replace the SPC and SPEC would have been a fascinating example of this, with ministerial and other committees meeting all over the place, and directors of various divisions being stationed here and there, all seriously promulgated in the name of 'rationalising regional resources' (read: saving money).

Fortunately the region's politicians and their advisers, meeting as the South Pacific Forum, recognised the implications and wisely decided to do nothing but let the matter drop, expressing the view that as more Island countries become members of the forum, this problem (the existence of two regional organisations) would take care of itself.

A major reason why member governments still drag their feet over the SPC has to do with what I believe to be the third — and possibly the most significant — reason for the SPC's image problem: the SPC secretariat's apparently unlimited capacity for in-fighting and factionalism. Serious divisions exist within the secretariat's ranks and these are exploited, often skilfully, by individuals and cliques manoeuvring and jockeying to maintain their entrenched little empires. Only strong, clear-thinking, determined and consistent leadership will arrest this situation.

If and when the secretariat develops the capacity to live with itself, perhaps its member governments will be more willing to live with it.

This could be the biggest challenge facing the organisation — the possibility that it may destroy itself, or at least hasten its own demise — through its internal bickering, thus saving its detractors the trouble.

Let us hope this does not happen, and wish the conference and the commission well as they head into the turbulent 1980s.



Pacific flags fly over the SPC headquarters in Noumea

With a bang and a whisper

Marie-Thérèse & Bengt Danielsson

POSTMARK PAPEETE

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If the mass media had not told us, nobody would have believed that the suave gentleman in the dark, double-breasted suit who stepped out of a French Special Air Force DC-8 at Papeete airport on July 31 was a representative of the new socialist government swept to power on a radical programme of far-reaching social and economic reforms. But in fact he was the new French Minister for Defence Charles Hernu, come out to inspect the nuclear base at Moruroa.

Except for the fact that he sported a thin beard, he and the numerous Gaullist ministers who had preceded him were as alike as two peas in a pod. The local reception committee, too, looked very familiar for the very good reason that it consisted of the same old guard of politicians and businessmen who have always prospered under the existing colonial and capitalist system. Incidentally, most of them had less than two months before ardently supported Mitterrand's right-wing opponents, Chirac and Giscard, in the presidential elections. But here they were again on the tarmac, seemingly very little embarrassed by their 180-degree turn-around. As for the dancers, musicians and beauty queens, supposedly symbolising the friendly *aroha* spirit of the islands, they smiled as happily as they always do when they are paid well for their services.

Not unexpectedly, the new defence minister also spoke like his Gaullist predecessors, although in a somewhat more rambling and befuddled manner. Thus, at a special press conference, he lost no time in announcing that the nuclear tests were to continue. At Moruroa. Indefinitely. When a reporter asked whether there was any truth in the persistent rumour that the Kerguelen islands in the Indian Ocean were being

considered as a more suitable testing ground than the much battered atoll, Hernu literally exploded, declaring that the rumour was so silly that it was not worth answering the question. Everybody is perfectly happy with Moruroa, he added. 'Even the Polynesian people?' asked an incredulous reporter. Hernu took a deep breath and dropped an even bigger bomb, for he said — and these were his exact words:

'The people of Polynesia have already expressed their approval in what amounts virtually to a popular referendum, for since I took over as defence minister, I have received thousands of letters from French Polynesia, all in favour of continued nuclear testing at Moruroa.'

This was, of course, impossible to believe. Polynesians never write to their ministers, and the few letters they do send to the local newspapers are as a rule strongly critical of the nuclear tests. One of the authors of this article, Marie-Thérèse, publicly challenged Hernu to produce these pro-nuclear letters, or at least to provide some more information about this unique 'mail order referendum'. Were the letter-writers really all Polynesians? Or were they perchance mostly French expatriates, making a lot of money out of the bomb? Or were they simply reactionary Frenchmen back home who equate French honour and glory with the bomb? The only answer Hernu cared to furnish was extremely evasive. He claimed that letters received by his ministry were 'confidential documents'.

It should perhaps be recalled that the number of voters in French Polynesia is more than 18 000. So even in the unlikely event that a few thousand Polynesians, in an unprecedented burst of patriotic fervour, did write to the minister for defence, this can hardly be considered a scientifically and democratically valid method of assessing public opinion.

The radioactive pollution of the Pacific islands and islanders resulting from the dozen or so tests made every year since 1966 (with one exception, 1969), was, of course, too burning a subject not to be touched upon. Hernu revealed that several local political and civic leaders had expressed concern about the terrible accidents which occurred at Moruroa in 1979 (PIM May 1980 p28) and which resulted in 1) the death or serious injury of half a dozen technicians, 2) the release of vast amounts of plutonium, whose deadly poisonous effect will be felt for the next 24 000 years, and 3) the prying loose of such an enormous chunk of the outer wall of the atoll that it caused a tidal wave capable of destroying buildings on islands hundreds of kilometres from Moruroa.

As soon as the 30 members of the Territorial Assembly of French Polynesia learnt from unofficial sources what had happened, they unanimously adopted a resolution, on August 18, 1979, asking for 1) the setting up of a local commission of inquiry to look into this and other accidents, and 2) the immediate despatch of a group of impartial French and foreign civilian scientists to study the radioactive pollution of man and environment in French Polynesia. The government of Giscard d'Estaing never took any action to comply with these requests.

This was definitely a matter, said Hernu, before flying off to



Charles Hernu (left), French Minister for Defence, meets French ex-servicemen in Tahiti during his visit to the South Pacific. — Picture by *La Dépêche de Tahiti*.

Moruroa, on which the new government of France was going to act in a completely different, open and frank manner. To use his own words: 'The press must be informed about security problems. If there is an accident, it is better to let the truth be known than to let all sorts of rumours spread. Nothing must be hidden that affects the health of the population.' He even added: 'When New Zealand and Australia ask us for information about these problems, we shall supply it.' For those who wish to take the minister up on this humane and generous offer, the address is: Ministère de la Défense, 14, rue Saint-Dominique, Paris 75007.

Less than a week after minister Hernu had flown home in the grand style of an Arab oil sheik, the commanding CEP admiral in French Polynesia faithfully carried out his new instructions. We were certainly not the only ones who were jolted when we read in our morning paper the following pioneering efforts in the field of military-civilian public relations: 'Due to strong westerly winds experienced at Moruroa, some of the nuclear waste left by the atmospheric explosions made before 1975, may have crossed the lagoon to the eastern side of the atoll. In order to avoid all risks, access to the beach in the inhabited area has temporarily been forbidden, while the necessary checks are being made.'

Of course, the communiqué raised more questions than it answered. In the first place, the existence of nuclear waste in any form at Moruroa has always been vehemently denied by the organisers of the tests, at present headed by the admiral who issued the communiqué. If now nuclear waste has suddenly been discovered, we would like to hear what the proofs are that it actually dates from the pre-1975 period. And how did the waste cross the lagoon, since it cannot float? It seems most likely that what is labelled pre-1975 waste has been confused with the plutonium waste from the 1979 accident which, according to the minutes of the debate that took place in the territorial assembly at the time, was actually mixed with all sorts of debris and could therefore very well have floated across the lagoon from the western portion of the reef where it was dumped. When questions like this were asked in the past, they were consistently ignored. So it is certainly a great relief to know that with the new regime frank answers will be quickly forthcoming.

An equally important subject upon which Hernu touched only very lightly during his stay in the islands, were the 'studies and experiments' carried out with a view to a French neutron bomb. These have been going on over the past three years, presumably quite often at Moruroa. All he was willing to say was that the research was to be continued. But admittedly, after the American decision, on Hiroshima Day, to mass-produce this weapon, it was certainly the wrong time to evoke the whole ugly subject.

Will the firm determination of the new French president to keep Moruroa as a nuclear testing ground make a sham of the promises made before, during and after his election campaign, to apply to the last French overseas territories the noble principle of *auto-détermination*? The man supposed to know the answer to this question is, of course, the minister for these territories, Henri Emmanuelli, who arrived only a week after Hernu's departure, as an ordinary passenger on a regular flight from Fiji. He, too, had the polished look of all his Gaullist predecessors and was therefore quickly clasped to the bosom of the same old guard reception committee, by now even more warmly pro-socialist. His ministry, after all, has the ultimate say in all money matters affecting French Polynesia. The only new face to appear was that of an expatriate Frenchman, surrounded by a few local friends, who had all suddenly discovered that they had always been socialists at heart. To Emmanuelli's credit it must be said that he quite rudely told them that he did not need any generals without troops.

It soon became evident that the minister's very sensible



'H? As in Hernu?' 'And as in horror, holocaust, hecatomb and Hiroshima.' — Cartoon comment from *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

attitude was: I shall wait and see. Or rather, I shall see the sights first and then wait for the outcome of the territorial elections to be held early next year which in all likelihood will sweep out the old guard. Consequently, Emmanuelli undertook a gruelling but perfectly futile trip that in six days took him around Tahiti and then to the Leeward and the Tuamotu islands, with countless stops at various schools, dispensaries, town halls, museums, solar installations, factories, slums, markets and hotels, solely in order to listen to speeches, complaints and requests, and to watch dances, eat meals and see canoe races. The only noticeable innovation was the total absence of the popular 'flower girls' who, during ministerial visits in the past, used to embellish most official receptions, and who, to tell the sad truth, often tempted elderly and portly civil servants and politicians to behave in a most undignified fashion.

Throughout his ordeal, Emmanuelli kept smiling in the most engaging manner and rarely talked for more than five minutes at a time, in a pleasantly uninteresting manner. Not even when, on the last day of his stay, he made his only full-length political speech, in the packed Territorial Assembly (behind a socialist-red bouquet of roses, thoughtfully provided by the House) did he have much to say. His greatest achievement was, in fact, that he almost scared some of his hosts out of their wits by casually suggesting that it was time to introduce income tax, instead of going on forever begging the mother country for money. But what it all boiled down to in the end was a renewed promise to apply the noble principle of *auto-détermination* in a much toned down form: a special committee of local politicians and French officials will, over the next four or five months, study at a leisurely pace the need for a revision of the present constitution governing French Polynesia.

Still today nobody is quite sure how Mitterrand's victory will affect our lives. But an indication that the changes may be few and slow appeared perhaps during Emmanuelli's visit, even if it was not much noticed. We refer to the quite extraordinary fact that the leaders of the only genuine popular, socialist party in the islands, *la mana te nuna'a*, shunned the minister like the plague, and in turn were totally ignored by him. — Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson.

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Mr Emmanuelli outlines the new priorities

His visit had been eagerly awaited. He came to listen and to see for himself. In five days in August the French Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories Henri Emmanuelli crisscrossed the country from north to south, visited three islands, and delivered a 45-minute address before the Territorial Assembly. New Caledonians heard the ministerial verdict: abolition of social inequalities (read: more land for Melanesians), and establishment of a system of income tax which will be more rigorous and bring in more revenue than the taxes levied at present, which the minister considered far too light.

Mr Emmanuelli appeared to find the economic and social situation far more important than the political aspect. This view contrasts sharply with the demands of the pro-independence groups who called for Kanak socialist independence in every interview or speech given by their leaders.

At Maré or Lifou, Hienghène or Koné, Mr Emmanuelli heard the same demands from Melanesian leaders, but he also heard speeches from other Melanesians in which they declared they did not want independence. At Lifou, for example, the high chiefs and the mayor gave Mr Emmanuelli a warm welcome. The same happened at the Isle of Pines, where not a single pro-independence figure showed up. At Maré, six of the seven high chiefs (Mr Naisseline being the exception) welcomed the minister, although Territorial Councilor Yevene Yevene made a particularly forceful statement: 'Take back the French flag that is blotting out my

sun.' The mayor of Maré left carrying the key to the town hall, after hauling down the French flag.

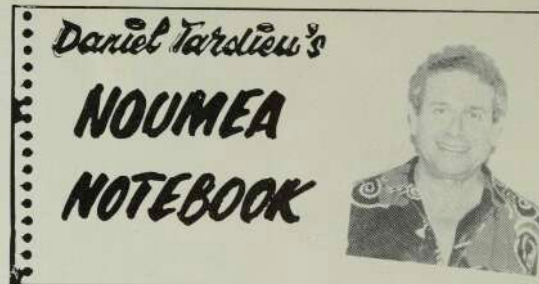
Mr Emmanuelli did not fail to note that up to now political problems have been taking precedence over the economic and social situation, on which the French Government is looking for the most rapid remedial action from the local government in New Caledonia. Addressing Mr Dick Ukeiwe, the incumbent vice-president of the Council of Government as '*Monsieur le Président*', the minister stated: 'It would not be normal for the decentralisation measures which will give greater powers to the executives of the metropolitan departments not to be applied to Overseas Territories which already enjoy a statute of autonomy.'

It seems that the noises emanating from the South Pacific Forum, which was meeting in Port-Vila during the minister's visit, aroused not the slightest echo in Noumea. They seemed so untimely. The local press saw them as interference in New Caledonia's internal affairs.

Unfavourable opinions formed about New Caledonia by South Pacific



Henri Emmanuelli



donia by South Pacific countries are often flawed by a poor understanding of the Caledonian political chess-board. They very often forget that this country is free to make its own choice as to its political status. Quite contrary to opinions which often astound residents of New Caledonia, the majority of Melanesians who have rallied to leaders who preach independence, represent only 65% of the Melanesian population, still less in certain islands like the Isle of Pines. The rest of the New Caledonian population is made up of descendants of Europeans, some of whom are fifth-generation residents in the territory. There are also Asians who were born in New Caledonia, and Polynesians whose children were born here. Over the last three years 4130 persons have quit the territory because of poor economic conditions. This gives the lie to claims such as that made by the Pacific Council of Churches (PIM Jul p6) according to which new emigrants are continuing to arrive in the territory. It is a long time since anyone has given credence to claims that military personnel vote in polls held in New Caledonia: it is constitutionally impossible. Even if they had their wish, those who believe that persons with fewer than 10 years residence in the territory should not be allowed the vote would most likely find that this would not change the voting trend regularly observed in recent elections: two-thirds of the voters reject the adventure of independence.

Mr Emmanuelli spent two

days on Wallis and Futuna where he was delighted with the warmth of the welcome he received from the population.

It is likely that from now into next year there will be discussions with the local political groupings aimed at an expansion of the present autonomy, leading to a restriction of the powers of the High Commissioner. In some Centrist political circles there is a desire for autonomous status on the Cook Islands model.

Mr Emmanuelli made it clear that the financial contributions of the French State will be maintained, but redirected into the social and economic sectors. France's present expenditure in all fields in New Caledonia is the equivalent of \$A150 million. Military spending accounts for only 5% of this, and this includes mercy flights by helicopters of the gendarmerie or army. Thirty per cent of the army is made up of local recruits doing their national service. Others choose to go to France where they are trained in various trades.

The local press didn't seem to have appreciated the attitudes of the South Pacific Forum, which to some New Caledonians actually appeared quite shocking. Minister Emmanuelli met the press during his visit. Questioned on the position taken up by Australia's Deputy Prime Minister Anthony at the Port-Vila meeting in support of independence for New Caledonia, Mr Emmanuelli said 'such statements are binding only on Mr Anthony himself'.

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Study of US attitudes to the Islands

May policies always follow precepts like these

The abundance and quality of objective analysis of US foreign relations that can be found in the United States is always surprising in view of the history of significant errors in that area made by successive US administrations.

Vietnam and Iran are two examples where there was a wealth of objective and accurate information available to the US Government about the real state of affairs, yet administrations persisted in pursuing actions which ended in disaster.

John Dorrance's 92-page booklet*, which is No 80-6 in the National Security Affairs Monograph Series published by the Research Directorate of the National Defense University, Washington DC, is an illustration of the sort of clear-sighted observations which ought to be an invaluable aid to the makers of US policy on the Pacific Islands. But whether they will refer to it when next there is an important decision to be made is another matter.

John Dorrance has had extensive experience in the South Seas as a US Foreign Service officer — probably more than most in an area where US Government personnel are inclined to be moved on before they have time to absorb the real smell of the islands. I knew him as a tall, thin and rather serious diplomat, who in conversation was given to analysing every new twist of local politics in a rather academic fashion, and seeking your opinion on it. But obviously his methods were to good effect, because this monograph could have been

written only by somebody who has done more than study the literature. It is so self-assured that it clearly also depends on astute personal observation, and participation in a thousand conversations.

With economical use of words, Dorrance manages to present a fair summary of the whole Pacific Islands political environment, both from an Islands point of view and that of the Rim countries, and to discuss policies and problems of the US, Australia and New Zealand. It adds up to an invaluable little handbook.

As examples, firstly, Dorrance on decolonisation:

Until recently decolonisation pressures directed at US Pacific territories by South Pacific states were confined to generalised statements of principle, with Fiji and Papua New Guinea offering voices of moderation in the UN, he says. By contrast, the French were regarded as something like 'political pariahs' within the Pacific. Now, however, South Pacific leaders' attacks on French colonialism have tended to embrace 'US colonialism', and some South Pacific leaders probably view the US as 'an unreconstructed colonial power different from France only in its level of hypocritical rhetoric', and this perception importantly colours US bilateral relations with some Island states. Most leaders who accept that there is little sentiment for independence or looser relationships with the US in Guam or American Samoa also believe that US policies discourage such sentiment, and that the US would never permit these territories to opt for independence. He says it is important for the US to break the linkage and identification with France's position in the Pacific.

Dorrance takes a look at US attitudes to its territories being



involved in regional affairs with other states. In this connection, he says US policy has been ambivalent.

The US has favoured non-political co-operation between US territories and the rest of the Pacific on technical matters, and at the same time 'opposed or barely tolerated' territorial initiatives smacking of government-to-government relationships. He adds: 'Until the recent past we have been reluctant to accept changes in the South Pacific Commission charter which permit dependent territories to maintain a fully independent and equal representation and thus conceivably adopt positions in contravention to US policy. Yet the territories, especially American Samoa, are determined to play a more active international role in pursuit of what they perceive as their special territorial interests. The Trust Territory, and to a lesser extent Guam, have developed wide-ranging informal and even quasi-official political and economic links with Japan in both the public and private sectors, while American Samoa cultivates similar links with its Island state neighbours.'

Dorrance has a clear grasp of the main features of Island society. He says conservative traditional values, a consensus approach to decision-making, a strong sense of communal social obligation and cultural restraints on conflict and confrontation encourage political moderation and pragmatism, and



John C. Dorrance: analyst

resistance to radical change and ideologies. These tendencies are reinforced by the strong church orientation of Island societies. Political parties are non-existent in most areas, and where they do exist, 'they tend to be shifting coalitions based on personal alliances to political leaders and have little ideological content. Exceptions include parties in the French territories which focus on the issue of their future political status, and in Fiji where party alliances are essentially racial.'

Discussing the involvement of China in Islands affairs, Dorrance says the People's Republic has actively cultivated governments and leaders for the past several years, with modest assistance programmes and visits of Islands leaders to Peking, and visits of high-level officials to the area. He says PRC objectives appear to be, in order of priority, 'pre-emption of a Soviet presence and influence, cultivation of support from the emerging South Pacific bloc within the Third World context, and replacement of Taiwanese influence. PRC diplomats have been careful to maintain a low profile, avoid internal political proselytization, and offer quiet encouragement not only to Australia's and New Zealand's lead roles in the area, but also to increased US presence — again

**Oceania and the United States: An analysis of US interests and policies in the South Pacific.* By John C. Dorrance. Published by the National Defense University Research Directorate, Washington, DC.

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as part of its anti-Soviet strategy. Its economic interests are minimal, other than procurement of about 40% of its copper import requirements from PNG'.

Dorrance is not greatly concerned about the likelihood of real Soviet expansion into the Pacific, although he says expansion is inevitable and 'will undoubtedly be successful to some degree'. The likely emergence in the region in the 1980s of less conservative political leadership will establish a more receptive climate, he thinks.

He comments: 'The perception in 1976 of the possibility of a major Soviet presence in the area caused considerable concern in Wellington and Canberra, and was the catalyst in expansion of their aid programmes and diplomatic presence in the region, and prompted the Australian and New Zealand governments to press the US to expand its own presence in and assistance to the area.'

Dorrance sees Australia's and New Zealand's primary

sees the programme as one requiring patience, gradualism, consultation, and modest expansion of the official presence.

He says: 'Some leaders are not quite sure how to cope with our presence and are uncertain about our motivations. Though our respective interests and objectives need not be in conflict, it will take time and patience to overcome unease, uncertainty and some suspicion ... Our credibility is to some degree in question. We must not allow the rhetoric of good intentions to outstrip our ability to perform and apply resources to the region. We must avoid generating the frustrations and ill-will that inevitably will accompany inflated and unfilled expectations. The South Pacific is not the place, given suspicion of and resistance to sudden change, for policy spectacles ... More so than in any other region, personal relationships with and between political leaders affect governmental attitudes and decisions. Our ambassadors to island states should be selected with particular at-

'Some Pacific leaders are not quite sure how to cope with our presence ... We must not allow the rhetoric of good intentions to outstrip our ability to perform ...'

concerns in the South Pacific in these terms: (a) the possibility that a radical and adventurist government in Jakarta could revive Sukarno-era territorial and political ambitions directed at PNG; (b) centripetal forces could lead to political instability in PNG and threaten Australian economic and political interests in that country; (c) French intransigence accompanied by violence in New Caledonia could prompt the emergence of "Australia's Cuba" in that territory; and (d) shortfalls in necessary external assistance flows to the area could assure instability, island state acceptance of Soviet blandishments, and consequent establishment of a Soviet presence in the region. For all of these reasons Australia and New Zealand press the US to play a more active role in the South Pacific.'

The problem still arises as to the best way the US can be accepted as a South Pacific regional partner, and Dorrance

tention to their ability to relate to proud but usually extremely informal leaders. Patience, informality, straight-forwardness, a sense of humour, and mastery of soft-sell techniques are essential ambassadorial traits.' — *Stuart Inder*.

The US Embassy in Canberra advises: Copies of the above booklet may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 20402. When ordering, its full title should be quoted, plus its date which is June 1980, and its Stock Number which is S/N 008-020-00822-2. Its price is \$US4.70. Payment must be included with the order and one quarter of the cost of the publication should be added to the remittance, to cover surface mailing to Australia. Payment up to the value of 20 Australian dollars may be made by International Money Order obtainable from any Australian Post Office.

For Australia, a few home truths from Papeete

Christine Bourne is a formidable French lady who wields a lot of editorial clout in the offices of the Papeete daily, *La Dépêche de Tahiti*.

In that paper's issue of August 8 she seized the occasion of the meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Port-Vila which was then in the offing to let the world know what she thought of Australian policies in the South Pacific.

Entitled 'Australia's Lessons', her short article amounts to a classic exposition of how Australia is seen by virtually every member of the French Establishment in the Pacific — and by not a few in Paris as well. As such, it is well worth an airing. Mme Bourne wrote:

'At a moment when starving Poland is crying out for food in a 20th-century Europe which since the last war has lost all taste for famine, when the mullahs' Iran has found a new vent for its fanaticism and calls endlessly for "blood", when around the world the old certitudes are crumbling, crisis spreading, values collapsing, and when Polynesia, this tiny island of peace and the good life, is preparing to celebrate the "historic" occasion of the opening of its new Paofai Protestant temple, close by, in Vanuatu, Australia is preparing a great get-together of the "jealous ones" of the South Pacific.'

'The day after Defence Minister Charles Hernu's press conference (in Papeete), Tony Street, Australian minister for foreign affairs, saw fit to criticise the French minister's straightforward and clear pronouncements. They must have sounded almost like a challenge.'

'Australia — and this is abundantly clear — is finding it harder and harder to abide the French "wart" which clings on through thick and thin in this Anglo-Presbyterian part of the

world where governments are politically independent but dependent economically upon Australia. Nevertheless, the anachronistic character of its policies remains.

'Australia, in fact, has set itself the task of destabilising the French Pacific, but still cheerfully sells uranium to France (uranium required for nuclear power generation). It is not at all mean about granting landing facilities at Darwin to American B52 bombers armed with nuclear weapons, and it doesn't ask the American navy too many questions when it grants port facilities to its battle fleet, including nuclear-powered ships. Australia, with its horror of tactical and strategic nuclear armories, still takes part in manoeuvres in the Indian Ocean with an American task force made up of vessels equipped with nuclear weapons systems. And why does it grumble about French tests when it doesn't bat an eyelid at very much bigger American ones?

'Despite all this, one must unhappily note that the government of this magnificent country feeds the fires of fanaticism in the countries around the French territories, embroiling them in ideological discourse in which it sets itself up as the great exponent of Truth and Virtue. Australia, with brazen hypocrisy, is making use of simpletons in its bid to conquer the Pacific. For the truth is that, once they became independent, the French territories would have no option but to turn to Australia for their trade.'

'It is quite understandable that a few extremists, who poll a minority of votes at every election, should want to get together in Port-Vila to propound their ideology. What is more surprising is that Australia and New Zealand should be part of their act ... All the more so since Australia has formidable problems of its own

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with the true inhabitants of the Australian land, the Aborigines, who have been despoiled and herded into reserves by these Anglo-Saxons come from afar. France is not out to offer Australia any lessons in humanity, even if Australia keeps its moralising for those who think they're free but whose feet in fact are in irons.'

Banabans appeal to Forum

Banaba's Council of Leaders used the meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Port-Vila in August to circularise Islands leaders with a statement of their case for what they call a Compact of Free Association with Kiribati. The statement said:

The Banaban people are appealing to the South Pacific Forum to support moves for an arrangement under which Banaba would accept a Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Kiribati as a self-governing country.

The plan for the compact has been rejected by Kiribati. It is insisting on keeping complete political control of Banaba and its resources, and in return is offering the Banabans only restricted local government rights

... And from Papua New Guinea, a more light-hearted look at the French presence in the Pacific. — Cartoon by Bob Browne in the PNG Post-Courier.

in the island that is their ancestral home.

Influential members of Britain's House of Commons are supporting the Banaban cause, as they did when the islanders sued Britain for a bigger share of Banaba's phosphate revenues.

The Council of Leaders at Rabi, in Fiji, where most Banabans now live, is preparing a vigorous international campaign for acceptance of the compact proposal as the time draws near for a promised independent review of Banaba's political status ...

The Rev Kaitangere Kaburoro, chairman of the Council of Leaders, said the Forum was an influential grouping of island states with experience of colonial exploitation. We are now a colony of Kiribati. Britain handed our island over to Kiribati in a final act of betrayal, he said.

Mr Kaburoro said the Banabans welcomed the news that the Forum might send a delegation to France to press for independence for French Pacific colonies. 'We earnestly

hope that it will take up our case as well. We have as much right to self-government as Tahiti and New Caledonia.'

At the 1978 London constitutional conference at which Britain and Kiribati agreed, despite strong Banaban protests, to make Banaba (also known as Ocean Island) an integral part of the new republic, Kiribati undertook to inquire into Banaba's status three years after its own independence from Britain. Mr Kaburoro said that his people are dismayed by Kiribati's refusal to respond sympathetically to their overwhelming desire for self-government.

Since a meeting between the council and the Kiribati Government held in Suva in May 1979 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Fiji Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, no progress has been made. 'As history clearly shows, we were never part of Kiribati until Britain lumped us together for the sake of colonial administrative convenience,' he said.

'Despite our right to be entirely independent, we have dropped this claim and we are ready to enter an agreement giving Kiribati responsibility for our defence and a share of whatever revenue can be obtained from the remnants of Banaba's phosphate deposits.'

Kiribati had rejected this proposal out of hand and had replied with an offer that would relegate the Council of Leaders' role in Banaba to the level of a small town council.

'Kiribati's plan is entirely unacceptable and we are now preparing to press our viewpoint internationally with assistance, we hope, from such agencies as the South Pacific Forum,' Mr Kaburoro said.

The Compact of Free Association envisages Banaba as a self-governing country with responsibility for its own foreign affairs, and, with the support of Kiribati, the right to apply for membership of regional and international organisations. The Cook Islands and Niue have similar arrangements with New Zealand, Mr Kaburoro said.

Banaba would have full control of its natural resources, including marine resources, in its 200-mile economic zone. In

recognition of Kiribati's defence responsibilities Banaba would consult with it in conducting foreign affairs, and Kiribati would have the right to veto any form of military access to the island by any other country.

Banaba would have complete responsibility for running financial, economic, trade, banking, postal, civil aviation, radio broadcasting and aid matters, but would surrender its right to apply to Kiribati for financial grants.

Kiribati citizens would have residential rights in Banaba and both countries would exchange official resident representatives. Banaba would adopt the laws and currency of Kiribati. Disputes between the two governments would be settled by arbitration as a final resort.

The Banabans propose that the compact would be guaranteed by Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, but Kiribati has rejected this.

The compact would have a life of 10 years and would then be open to review and renewal by mutual consent.

Call for more autonomy

Landowners and village leaders from the inland west of the Papua New Guinea mainland are threatening to disrupt the establishment there of the Ok Tedi gold and copper mine unless they are granted their own provincial government. The threat is coming from the central and northern reaches of the Fly River in an area which at present is inside the boundaries of the Western Provincial Government. The Western Province has the biggest land area of any province in PNG and the groups calling for their own provincial government say the area is far too large to give them the degree of local autonomy which they require. They also claim that the development of the mine is creating a need for provincial autonomy in the immediate and surrounding areas.

The Kiunga and Lake Murray Development Committee, which is one of the factions in the move, earlier forced a three-day stoppage at the mine site in support of the

demand. Some groups are threatening to form what they call a 'bow and arrow army' to halt work at the mine site if provincial government is not granted.

In another move for provincial status the Motu Koitabu people from the Port Moresby area barricaded roads on the outskirts of the city and claimed that national politics there were submerging their own voice as a community group. Riot police and a bulldozer had to be used to move one of the barricades. Later the people set up what they claimed was a de facto provincial government. The central government refused to recognise the action taken by the people, but undertook to examine their claims for greater autonomy.

New government in Solomon Islands

A political lobbying campaign which built up while the prime minister was out of the country, and which was fuelled by discontent based on personal rather than basic political issues, led to a change in government in Solomon Islands late in August. Mr Peter Kenilorea, the man who had led his country since independence in 1978, was defeated as prime minister by a long-standing rival, Mr Solomon Mamaloni.

Mr Kenilorea faced the challenge when he came home from the meeting in Vanuatu of Pacific Forum leaders. He entered the lobbying campaign with strong indications that he would be able to retain his leadership, but was defeated in parliament by 20 votes to 17.

The defeat was made possible when the Independent Group switched its allegiance from Mr Kenilorea to Mr Mamaloni. The Mamaloni government now relies on the support of the Independent Group to maintain its majority.

The change was made constitutionally under the Solomon Islands system in which parliament itself can change a government or a national leader without the need for a general

election. Despite an early and widely-circulated report that the new prime minister was open to an aid alliance with Russia — something which the Pacific Island countries have consistently opposed — there is no reason to suggest that external policies, relationships and attitudes will be significantly affected by the change in government.

The leader of the National Democratic Party, Mr Bart Ulufa'alu, was a contender for the prime ministership but he withdrew from the ballot in parliament. Mr Mamaloni subsequently allocated him the finance portfolio.

Mr Mamaloni was chief minister during the self-government transition period which led to independence, a position which tacitly meant he would become prime minister. But shortly before independence he pulled out of the running under circumstances which have never been fully revealed, and more recently he has been a constant political opponent of the government. He is parliamentary leader of the Peoples Alliance Party and he has formed his new government from the Alliance, from the Independent

Group and from the National Democratic Party.

The opposition consists of Mr Kenilorea's United Party, which he still leads in parliament.

In terms of political policy there is little to choose between any of the factions, and the change is seen as the result of personal lobbying coupled with predictable post-independence discontent rather than as any real indictment of national management. In this respect the circumstances are similar to those which toppled the Somare government in Papua New Guinea last year. As in PNG, too, the lack of any significant differences in party doctrines means that sweeping policy changes are unlikely. Where changes do occur, they are more likely to be in methods or in emphasis. The government has already indicated, for instance, that it will devolve greater authority to the provinces.

One of the immediate changes brought in by the Mamaloni government was to increase the ministry from 12 to 15. This was a predictable development from the personal campaign which Mr Mamaloni mounted to attract support. Ironically the Kenilorea government successfully introduced legislation a few months ago to increase the size of the ministry, but plans to put the increase into effect had been only tentative.

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Solomon Mamaloni (far left) and Peter Kenilorea. Mamaloni, who was chief minister just before independence, has now become prime minister after defeating Kenilorea by 20 votes to 17 in parliament.



In addition to the enlarged central cabinet the government will create five provincial ministries for direct liaison between national and provincial government. This will be the first step in strengthening the authority of the provinces. Mr Mamaloni announced soon after his election that he would review the country's attitude to defence matters, and would consider training soldiers in PNG under a similar scheme to that in which PNG trains soldiers from Vanuatu.

He said that Solomon Islands would also review its programme of receiving aid, possibly seeking to diversify the sources of aid.

Mr Mamaloni was criticised in the region for allegedly saying that he would turn to Russia for aid, but he claimed later his attitude had been misrepresented and that he had merely wanted to make the point that aid was of pressing urgency.

The PNG parliament went so far as to debate a motion of diplomatic protest based on its belief that Mr Mamaloni was seeking Russian alliances, but the motion was not put to the vote. Members accepted an explanation from their Foreign Minister, Mr Noel Levi, who had contacted the Solomons government.

Subsequently Mr Mamaloni issued a statement in which he said that any agreements or relationships entered into by his government were not expected to be of a type which would isolate Solomon Islands from its regional neighbours. This was seen by other governments in the region as a direct indication that he was not seriously considering any avenues of aid from Russia.

The new government is now formulating its detailed policies which will be presented to parliament in November. The priority in legislation is expected to concern plans for strengthening provincial administration.





Sea Wind suspect arrested

'Twenty-four months after he escaped from a federal penitentiary near Seattle, Buck Duane Walker was captured this morning in Arizona and arrested on a charge of murder in connection with the disappearance of a San Diego couple at Palmyra Island in 1974.' (PIM Sep p23).

So write reporters Jim McCoy and Stirling Morita in *The Honolulu Star-Bulletin* of August 12.

Walker, 44, was picked up at a motel near Yuma, Arizona, by police. He also was being held in Yuma County Gaol on a charge of escape from McNeil Island federal penitentiary in Washington state in July 1979, according to Larry Hattersley, an inspector with the US Marshal's Office in Honolulu. Walker was serving time for the theft of the San Diego couple's yacht.

Walker and his former girlfriend, Stephanie Stearns, were indicted in February on the murder charge. The indictment came after FBI officials recovered a skull and other remains in January that were identified as being those of Eleanor Lavern 'Muff' Graham.

Mrs Graham and her husband, Malcolm, disappeared seven years ago while on a voyage in the South Pacific in their yacht *Sea Wind*...

Walker's arrest came just hours before a ruling by Federal Judge Walker M Heen, denying a defence request to move Stearns' murder trial from Honolulu to a Mainland court.

In making his decision, Heen said he was 'not convinced' there was a reasonable likelihood that Stearns could not receive a fair trial in this district.

Judge Heen said there is no question that the publicity surrounding the case has been



'massive' and, he said, now that Walker has been arrested the publicity will 'probably get more pervasive'.

But, the judge said, the defence did not show that adequate pre-trial questioning of potential jurors could not eliminate those who had prejudged the case.

Vanuatu tackles Tower of Babel

Vanuatu is beginning to grapple with the tangled linguistic situation left over from the days of the Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides.

An August conference in Port-Vila on organisation of languages ended up making the following recommendations:

- The teaching language in primary school classes 1 to 4 should be the language spoken by the children, whether it is a local dialect or Bislama. Bislama should not be taught to the children as a special subject.

- The teaching language for classes 5 and 6 should be Bislama, and English or French should be taught as special subjects.

- If there is to be a final examination for primary school

Four public relations officers from Pacific Island countries recently held an exhibition of their national crafts at the Australian International Training Institute in Sydney. It was a special project as part of a three-month training course at the institute. Top: Mrs Cacau Cockburn, Fiji, shows a Melanesian traditional carving. Above: The four organisers of the exhibition (from left) Mrs Alangit Balane, Papua New Guinea; Romano Nongebatu, Solomon Islands; Mrs Kopu Brown, Cook Islands; Mrs Cockburn. — John Tanner pictures for AIS.

pupils, it should be set in Bislama, and skills in English or French should be assessed by tests set in those languages.

- At high school, the teaching languages should be English and French, and pupils would continue the study of local dialects and Bislama as specific subjects.

- In technical schools, the teaching language for classes 7 and 8 should be Bislama, and English or French should be taught as special subjects.

- If the Education Ministry decided to extend the duration of primary school education because of the introduction of supplementary languages, the conference would support such a change.

The conference said that in order to improve teachers' skills in local languages, the government should encourage the study of linguistics, and introduce a linguistics studies programme into teacher training courses.

The use of Bislama in public speaking was the subject of lengthy discussion. Both Radio Vanuatu and the Representative Assembly came in for criticism. The conference stated: 'Vanuatu is a republic and the deputies represent the people, who have a right to demand that they can understand what is being said in their name. The Bislama spoken on Radio Vanuatu is quite often incomprehensible because of the large number of English words employed.'

The final point on the agenda more particularly concerned the study of languages and research into them. The conference took the view that the government should encourage the study of Vanuatu's local languages. This should include the presentation of these languages in written form to permit the recording of oral traditions and custom stories. Grammars and dictionaries of these languages should be prepared and published. Priority should be given to languages that are dying out because of a decline in the numbers of people who speak them.

The conference also recommended the preparation of a single-language Bislama dictionary, and the training of Bislama translators for parliament, the radio and the press.

Film tells PNG WWII story

A documentary film aiming to show what happened to the people of Papua New Guinea when part of World War II was fought on their land is nearing completion in Canberra, Australia.

The documentary '*Angels of War*' is a project of Dr Hank Nelson, a fellow in the Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History in the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific Studies; Andrew Pike, a research fellow in the same department; and Professor Gavan Daws, head of the department.

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Also helping with the project are Stewart Young, a documentary film editor, and John Waiko, from the Northern Province of Papua New Guinea and a PhD scholar in the department.

In the film people talk of their experiences as soldiers, labourers, refugees and observers. Interview and location material was shot in colour in Port Moresby, Buna, Popondetta, Angoram, Wewak and Rabaul. Footage shot by official wartime cameramen and still photographs have been cut into the colour sequences.

Santo's two July 30s

July 30 1980 and July 30 1981 were days of sharp contrast on the Vanuatu island of Santo.

On that day last year, Santo had not yet emerged from the throes of the secessionist revolt on the island. There was no celebration of the independence which had come to Vanuatu on that day.

This year Santo's main town

of Luganville was crowded with thousands of people from around the island, and from Tutuba, Malo and Aore and other neighbouring islands who had come to celebrate the first independence anniversary. Festivities lasted for seven days.

Fine weather and a colourful parade of floats prepared by Scouts, Brownies, sports clubs and the Vanuatu Mobile Force moved through the streets. The Chinese community put on a fireworks display. Sports events for men, women and children formed part of the celebrations.

Much effort was put into preparing the festivities by a 37-member committee headed by Northern District Commissioner Job Dalesa, and Kalmer Vocor, MP for the town of Luganville.

Choirs, stringbands, tugs-of-war, coconut grating and sack racing were all enjoyed by those who took part.

A public *kakai* was prepared by the committee, and food was sold from stalls organised by the various communities.

Soccer enthusiasts witnessed

the final of the Independence Cup between Concorde and Port Olry which ended in a 2-2 draw. A replay was planned for the following weekend.

Custom dancers came from the communities of Banks, Santo, Tafea, Fiji, and Kiribati. Taiwanese put on a karate exhibition.

Radio Vanuatu was on hand for a live coverage of the celebrations.

In the capital, Port-Vila, celebrations lasted for four days.

Prime Minister Father Walter Lini addressed a crowd of about 3000 people at Independence Park, saying: 'Much has been achieved during our first year, not as much as we would have liked, but let us take courage and inspiration from what has been possible through the efforts of government and people working together.'

'Let us look to the future, encouraged by our successes of the past and inspired by the vision of the society that, through working together, the people of Vanuatu shall achieve.'

'God bless all the people of Vanuatu, and long live our republic!'

As a governmental gesture of national reconciliation, a number of people serving gaol sentences connected with last year's rebellion on Santo were either released or had their prison terms reduced.

Recalling grand old 'Whizzbang'

Alan Gill, religious affairs correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald*, wrote a memorable tribute to the Archdeacon Emeritus of Polynesia, the Venerable Charles Whonsbon-Aston, who died in July (PIM Aug p73). Extracts from Gill's obituary, published in the *SMH* on July 8, follow:

No one ever called the archdeacon by his real name, which, in view of its length, was just as well.

It was 'Whonzie', 'Wish-bone', or, more usually, 'Whizzbang', a nickname that found its way into ecclesiastical



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correspondence and even the official funeral panegyric.

It was said to have been coined by a Fijian, who could not pronounce 'Whonsbon'.

The name fitted the personality of Whizzbang, who blended mischief, old-world courtesy, eccentricity and deep personal faith in a way often found in Anglicans of the catholic tradition...

Whizzbang served curacies at two Sydney churches before becoming a missionary, in Papua, in 1931. The transition was interesting.

At one of his first services there were 750 communicants. Three hundred people were confirmed, 251 were baptised, and a legless man hobbled 14 kilometres on coconut husks.

On transfer to Fiji, one of his first appointments was to the island of Levuka, which was at the time plagued with centipedes and cockroaches.

Toads were imported to cure the tiresome pests, but the cure turned out to be worse than the ailment. After toads had caused a night of particular havoc in

his church, he nailed a notice to the door which read:

If the Lord had known,
that the odious toad,
Would make such a mess
of His Holy abode,

Would He have made 'em?

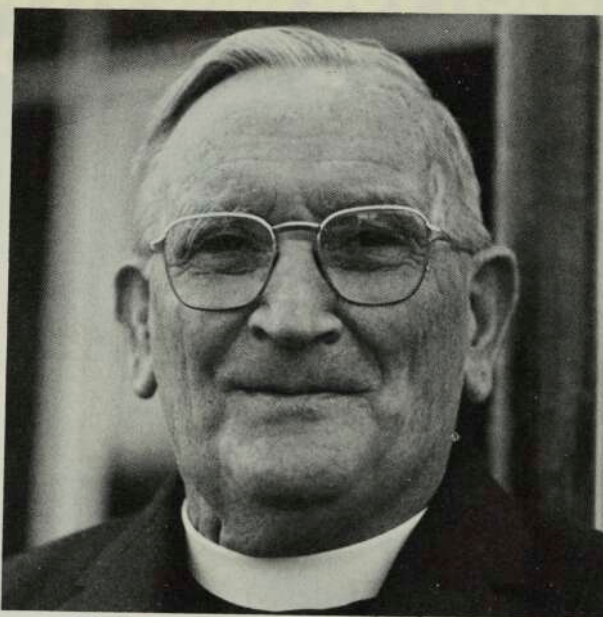
I met Whizzbang for the first time nine years ago. We had dinner at his house in Suva, being waited upon by an extraordinary manservant called Solo.

The hours raced by as my host, who was in good form, recalled the faded glories of the Empire. There were tales about eccentric planters, colonial public servants, bishops and the mishaps of visiting royalty.

In speaking and writing, Whizzbang gave the appearance of being hopelessly muddled.

He was a compulsive storyteller, and, when making a speech would totally lose his train of thought, as each new anecdote came to mind.

In the 1950s, during a fundraising visit to New Zealand, he addressed a businessmen's luncheon, guests at which in-



Charles Whonsbon-Aston: 'Whizzbang' in the files

cluded several members of the New Zealand Government.

Before the talk began, a reporter from the national broadcasting service had set up his microphone.

Whizzbang told those present that Polynesia was the biggest Anglican diocese in the world. He explained its scattered nature as '11¼ million square miles of mostly wind and water.'



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and, forgetting about the reporter's microphone, added in a loud whisper ... 'rather like a politician'.

The remark earned him instant notoriety, eclipsed a few years later when a Sydney newspaper ran a story linking him with the famous 'ghost' ship, the *Joyita*.

The *Joyita*, a former US Coast Guard vessel once owned by the actress Mary Pickford, was converted for cruising among the Fijian and Samoan islands. It disappeared in mysterious circumstances during a copra buying expedition, and was later found burnt out and part-submerged, about 200 kilometres north of Vanua Levu.

The crew and passengers, among them an Australian businessman thought to be carrying a large sum in cash, had vanished without trace and no clue to the mystery was ever found.

Eventually the ill-fated ship was bought by Lord Maugham (alias Robin Maugham, nephew of Somerset Maugham), who asked Whizzbang if he would hold a service of exorcism on board.

Whizzbang, who was worried that a second sinking might bring doubt upon the efficacy of his ministrations, agreed, subject to numerous conditions, one of which was that the ship was fully repaired and competently crewed beforehand.

However, before either party had formally pledged its side of the bargain, *The Sun-Herald* newspaper (in collaboration with Lord Maugham) 'spilt' the story in a manner which angered the priest's superiors and even reached the ears of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The service of exorcism was delayed while the matter was investigated by church authorities. In the meantime, the ship disintegrated.

On the religious front, Whizzbang was well-informed on a little-known missionary pact, the Comity of Mission, under which the entire Pacific Islands region was carved up among the various competing denominations and societies as legitimate 'spheres of influence'.

This curious gentlemen's agreement survives to this day, and is the subject of strife because of gatecrashing by newcomers — Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons and others — who refuse to keep it.

Many of Whizzbang's better stories concerned the London Missionary Society, which pioneered missionary work in Polynesia, Melanesia, even our own Torres Strait Islands, and whose leaders, many of whom ended their days in cooking pots, were Sunday-school heroes to earlier generations of Australians.

The LMS had strait-laced attitudes towards sex and nudity, casting island women into 'Mother Hubbard' garments, in which they were enveloped from head to toe.

Whizzbang had a theory that the LMS originated, not in the respectable way outlined in tracts and volumes now gathering dust on library shelves, but as the brainchild of a merchant called Hardecastle, who saw commercial possibilities in exchange for copra, which was shipped home to England and sold for a fine profit...

In December, 1978, when Whizzbang was 80, a function

was held in Sydney to mark the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

The Anglican Bishop in Polynesia, Bishop Jabez Bryce, was among those present.

The bishop, the first indigenous Polynesian to hold this office, had been a member of Whizzbang's scout troop. He said he was received into the church, and owed his own vocation to the ministry, because of the faith and example of Whizzbang.

He said his friend embodied the commandment given in the service of ordination: 'Be thou a faithful dispenser of His holy word.'

Another Anglican clergyman, converted in similar fashion, alluded to Whizzbang's OBE — 'in his case Old Beloved Effervescent'.

That sea snake look...

Sydney, Australia, businesswoman Joan Barrie's main stock-in-trade is ballet shoes, tights, tutus and the like.

But she has suddenly found a flourishing market with scuba divers who practise their sport in a variety of Pacific Island and other locations.

A skintight, wrist-to-ankle swimming costume is what the scuba people are buying.

Key to their interest is the irregular stripes in various colours which are handscreen-printed on the lycra material. Says Ms Barrie: 'They are buying them because the stripes make them look like sea snakes, and frighten off dangerous fish.'

'Scares hell out of the sharks — but the trouble is I can't get rid of the sea snakes!'

Noumea meeting on arts festival

The South Pacific Commission in August played host in Noumea to participants in the South Pacific Arts Festival Council meeting. A year after the Third South Pacific Festival of Arts held in Port Moresby in July 1980, delegates from 12 countries evaluated its achievements.

The council attempted to find ways of better harmonising the activities of the different cultural organisations in the region. UNESCO, in addition to contributing to the cost of the meeting, was represented by its Assistant Director-General for Culture and Communication, Mr Makagiansar, who was present as an observer. The Arts Festival Council considered the expediency of adopting a constitution to provide clear guidelines on such matters as membership and functions.

Guam's swinging July

Guam really turned it on in July: a round of festivities of one kind or another was sponsored by the Guam Visitors Bureau and the Commissioners Council of Guam under the general heading 'The Spirit of America Reigns Throughout July'.

The official three-weeks affair began on July 4 with the parade of marching units. During the month, the Paseo carnival ground was steaming with activities ranging from rides for the children and youth, food, carnival games, games of chances, nightly entertainment, village talent competition, sports activities, a fishing derby, raffles and the biggest parade of floats, with over 60 entries.

A new attraction for this year's celebrations allowed the hidden village talents a chance to come out and entertain the public. In the Village Competition, 17 villages vied for the 1st prize of \$US500. Merizo won first place, 2nd Inarajan, 3rd Yona, 4th Agat, 5th Dededo, 6th Ordot/Chalan Pago, 7th Mangilao, 8th Tamuning, 9th Yigo and 10th Barrigada. Float entry winners went to Talofofo, grand prize



TROPICALITIES

\$1 000, Merizo, 1st place \$500, Guam Girl Scouts, Youth 1st place \$300, and Latte Heights Ladies' Association, 1st place organisation, trophy.

Home truths for Marshalls

Harold Picton-Smith, the former Fiji solicitor-general who spent several months earlier this year as legislative counsellor to the Nitijela (Parliament) of the Marshall Islands (PIM Aug p37) had a few choice words to say about government in the MI as he took his leave to return to Fiji.

As reported 'for the public interest' in the *Marshall Islands Journal*, he wrote:

I am setting out various points which have occurred to me and which could be considered in the interest of good government or the public benefit.

1. Overseas travel: In view of the economic situation it appears to me that too many officers are proceeding to meetings overseas. There can be no doubt that these meetings etc, are valuable and necessary but efforts could be taken to reduce the size of delegations. What would be advisable is to regard the sending of one officer fully briefed as the maximum except in rare cases. There are two main reasons for this suggestion, namely to save money and also to ensure that there is always someone available in each office to carry on the day-to-day functions.

2. Police: The Majuro police station is an absolute disgrace and an insult to the flag which flies before it. The state of the building cannot but have its effect upon the members of the force. The bearing of members needs to be smartened up. On Constitution day the parade was led by the police who shambled rather than marched, failing to keep in step and to keep their dressing. It strikes me that the force could do with some formal training and I would recommend that members should be given this by instructors from another Pacific country which has the necessary experience, Fiji for instance.

3 Enforcement of the law;

Many laws exist but are not enforced. As a result of this most members of the public are technically guilty of offences. An example of this is the provision that no vehicle may be used unless it has a licence plate which is supposed to be issued by the police on registration of the vehicle. There are several other examples of where the law is only observed in the breach.

4. Government vehicles: Considerable abuse of the privilege of operating Government cars takes place. Despite the regulations on the subject Government cars are being used for shopping or for picnics. There seems to be little or no attempt to enforce the law resulting in a big loss to the economy ...

WWII diary comes home

The National Library of Australia has made one of its most interesting recent acquisitions with the purchase of the unpublished diary of the famous Australian World War II correspondent, author George Johnston.

Johnston, who was born in Melbourne in 1912 and died in 1970, kept the diary when he was based in Port Moresby in 1942, the vital year of the Japanese invasion of Papua New Guinea.

He refers to air raids, the evacuation of women and children in decrepit, overcrowded aircraft, orders that the ill-manned Port Moresby garrison was to hold back the Japanese for 36 hours, and the panic that led to a reversion to cannibalism in the islands.

The diary records the discovery of dismembered and partially eaten bodies of Australian soldiers beside the Kokoda Trail, the rape of village women by the Japanese and the looting of dead bodies by both Australians and Japanese.

Among other aspects, it provides a rare, though brief, description of Port Moresby in the middle of the war as a city of blazing lights, with crowded streets, traffic as far as the eye could see and a bustling, ship-filled harbour.

Johnston condemns General MacArthur on several occasions in the diary for belit-



tling the efforts of Australian troops. He accuses MacArthur of altering war correspondents' reports to boost his own public image. American war reporting on the South Pacific is also criticised for its bias against the Australians, and at one stage Johnston declares that the wartime censorship had reached Gestapo proportions.

The diary was bought from a Sydney dealer who obtained it in the United States. It is not known at present how the diary came to be in America or who sold it to the agents' representative there, but the library regards its acquisition highly.

The Principal Australian Reference Librarian, John Thompson, said: 'It is a dramatic diary — immensely readable, exciting and very important as a record, particularly for revealing information that Johnston said in one of his books was hidden at the time under the veil of "security".'

Islands gifts on display

Among gifts to the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of their July wedding which have been on display at an exhibition in London are a number from Pacific Island countries.

John Thompson, principal Australian Reference Librarian at the National Library of Australia, examines the newly-acquired George H. Johnston war diary. — Loui Seselja picture.

They include an eiderdown (made by the Queen), a pair of saddles, and a rush suitcase from Tonga; two cowrie shells in a glass case, a pearl brooch, cuff-links and commemorative coins from Fiji; a pig's tusk from Vanuatu; a wood carving from Solomon Islands; a pair of gold commemorative coins from Western Samoa; and two fans, two necklaces and a hand-bag from Tuvalu.

More than 1000 gifts were displayed at the exhibition, which was to stay open until October 4.

National park for Albert Henry

One of the most beautiful spots on the lagoon shoreline in Aitutaki, Cook Islands, is to be made a public national park bearing the name of the late premier of the Cooks, Albert Tapa Royle Henry.

The land is being offered by the family of Mr Henry and the Ngati Kamire family of Aitutaki.

Mr Henry was one of the traditional leaders of Aitutaki.



Hideto Kono, Hawaii's director of planning and economic development, is especially interested in how Hawaii can further contribute to America's relationships with Asian and Pacific nations.

Born in Hilo, Hawaii, to Japanese immigrant parents, he served with the US army military intelligence on Saipan and Iwo Jima during World War II, and later graduated from the University of Hawaii. He worked with the Hawaiian territorial legislature and later the state legislature. In 1961 he helped establish the East-West Center.

From 1965 to 1971 Kono lived in Japan as a founder and director of the Dole-Itochu Food Company, a US/Japanese private corporation. As a member of Hawaiian Governor **George Ariyoshi's** cabinet, he is the governor's top adviser on Asia and Pacific relations.

Hawaii has a 'sector sense' about how to deal with Asian and Pacific peoples, Kono says. 'It understands that Asia is different — that it has an old civilisation and a less direct manner of dealing in business and personal relations than the United States.'

Because it understands the languages and customs of Asia and the Pacific, he adds, 'Hawaii not only can deal more effectively with the region, but it also can help contribute the knowledge and understanding of these nations to the US community'...

A governor's committee on foreign languages and international relations will be appointed to promote the teaching of Asian and Pacific languages in Hawaiian public schools. Through this, Kono says, 'our third-generation Asian and Pacific Americans can learn the languages of their roots and thus serve as bridges for Hawaii and the United States with their grandparents' homelands'...

Perhaps the greatest benefit

to Pacific and Asian nations of their special relationship with Hawaii will come in the field of energy, Kono says. Without its own fossil fuels and too far from the mainland United States to link into its electric grid, Hawaii set out several years ago with the aim of developing enough alternative forms of energy to make itself America's first energy self-sufficient state.

With federal, state and private funds, it has developed numerous demonstration projects to generate solar, wind and geothermal energy, each of which will have a place in Hawaii's energy future, Kono says.

Hawaii has become the first place in the world to demonstrate the feasibility under natural conditions of tapping the large energy source created by the temperature differences between the top and lower layers of ocean water. Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) holds great promise not only for Hawaii, but also for her Pacific Island neighbours and for many Asian nations. — *Lois Herrmann, USICA Staff Correspondent.*

President **Haruo I. Remelik** of the Republic of Palau sent Acting Deputy High Commissioner **Daniel High** the officially declared and certified translation of the Compact of Free Association into Palauan, Tobian and Sonsorolese vernaculars.

Although the inhabitants of the southwest islands of Palau do speak the same language and conversationally understand



Ian Campbell of Suva. His appointment was announced recently as Suva port manager for Union Maritime Services.

each other, when their language is reduced into writing, the Sonsorolese written version is totally incomprehensible by Tobians and vice versa, explained **Vic Uherbelau**, special presidential representative to the Palau commission on political status negotiation.

The government of the Marshall Islands has also completed the translation of the Compact of Free Association, but it is still yet to be officially declared and certified.

Dr Alan Ward, a reader in history and former chairman of the Research Centre for South-west Pacific Studies at La Trobe University, Melbourne, has taken up a two-year appointment as director of the Rural Lands Department in Vanuatu.

Dr Ward is directing a staff of six local lands officers. His position is funded jointly by Vanuatu and the Australian aid programme. In an interview with the publication *La Trobe University Record* before he left for Vila, Dr Ward said the task of his department would be to identify the groups of custom owners entitled to negotiate over land, assess the applications of former freeholders for a right to negotiate, and advise on the negotiations that take place for leases or joint venture arrangements between the custom owners and expatriate settlers or investors.

His department also would help to develop corporate and managerial structures among custom workers and dispute-settling machinery under the Courts Regulation, and the recording or registration of individual and group interests in land among custom owners for their own commercial enterprises.

Dr Ward has spent many years studying the adaptation of customary Pacific land tenure to the needs and aspirations of modern nationhood. As a lecturer at La Trobe, he broadened his research to Papua New Guinea and served there for nearly two years in the Lands Department. Recently he has studied land reform proposals in New Caledonia.

Janet McCoy, a long-time campaign press aide of US Presi-



Guy Wolstenholme, England, pictured at the **Fijian Executive Golf Course, Yanuca Island,** after his win in this year's **Fiji Pro-Am** golf tournament. His round was a record. The hard luck story of the tournament was when **Richard Ellis, New Zealand,** lost his ball — it stuck in the top of a coconut palm. He was given a special lost ball trophy in the form of an engraved coconut.

dent Reagan, is the reported choice to be the new High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. The unofficial decision was made public in early August at a Republican gathering in Honolulu by White House political adviser, **Lyn Nofziger.**

Janet McCoy, who lives on the sparsely populated forested Oregon coast, has never been to the territories but 'it is part of the world I'm extremely interested in', she said. She would not comment on how she views the job, saying 'I can't get into that yet because I haven't got the job.'

Papua New Guinea's Commissioner of Police **Phillip Bouraga** has been appointed chairman of the National St John Council of Papua New Guinea.

Mr **Bouraga** replaces Brigadier-General **Ted Diro** who stepped down recently after being a member of the council for six years, including 1975 to 1981 as its chairman.

The National St John Council of PNG is the controlling body for the activities of the Order of St John in PNG which





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PEOPLE

includes the St John Ambulance and the St John Association for the Blind.

After 43 years in Papua New Guinea, the Rev **Bert Brown** and his wife have returned to England.

Elsie Mataio writes in *The Times of Papua New Guinea*: 'Whether as musician, linguist, designer or minister, Bert Brown will be long remembered by the people of Papua New Guinea.'

Mr Brown, a representative of the London Missionary Society, first arrived in PNG in 1938. He settled in Moru, Kerema, and worked as a teacher, doctor and missionary there. He and his wife learned the Toaripi language and spoke it fluently. Over the years Mr Brown translated both Old and New Testaments into the Toaripi tongue.

Mr Brown is also remembered for his musical skills, and for designing many PNG postage stamps.

He was awarded the OBE in 1977 for services to the country.

Domba Galang, assistant drama instructor with the Papua New Guinea National Theatre Company, has been visiting Australia for special drama studies under an Australian cultural award scheme. Miss Galang, who comes from Lae, visited theatre companies and drama institutions in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide. She is shown here at the La Boite Brisbane Repertory Theatre discussing a drama project with **Malcolm Blaycock** (left), artistic director; and **Rob Robertson**, theatre administrator. — Bob Peisley picture for AIS.



Vanuatu's President **Ati George Sokomanu** was delighted with just about everything associated with the wedding of Prince **Charles** and Lady **Diana Spencer** which he attended in July with Mrs **Sokomanu**.

But one thing really stunned him: it cost him more than Stg100 for Mrs Sokomanu's accessories, according to a report in the Port-Vila weekly *Voice of Vanuatu*. Mrs Sokomanu's beige dress was made in Vanuatu by two friends.

When the first lady looked at herself in the mirror she exclaimed: 'I look just like my grandmother ...'

The president was quick to point out that this was not because she looked old, but because her grandmother always wore a hat when she went to church.

Colonel **Gago Mamae** was appointed in August to succeed Brigadier General **Ted Diro** as commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force. Brigadier-General Diro recently resigned from the post (PIM Aug p31).

Colonel Mamae was promoted to Brigadier-General and took up duties on September 11.

The new commander is 36, and has been in the force since 1965. His appointment will cause him to end his full-time studies of economics at the University of PNG. But, he says, he will continue part-time studies for the more than five years it will now take him to complete his degree.



Ati George Sokomanu, President of Vanuatu — back home after the royal wedding, and a return to official duties. Here he speaks at the opening of the South Pacific Forum meeting hosted by his country.

The University of Papua New Guinea has conferred an honorary doctorate of laws on Professor **Oskar Spate**, of the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra.

Professor Spate, foundation professor of geography in the ANU's Research School of Pacific Studies in 1951 and director of the school from 1967 to 1972, has had a close interest in PNG and the Pacific region for more than 30 years.

He has written extensively on the region, as well as being one of three members of the Com-

mission on Higher Education in Papua New Guinea (1963-65); a member of the 1969 Commission on Education in Fiji; and a member of the Councils of the University of the South Pacific in Fiji and the University of PNG during his academic career.

Presenting the degree, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea **Renagi Lohia**, said Professor Spate, as foundation professor of geography at the ANU's Research School of Pacific Studies, has played an important role in encouraging a number of scholars whose work in PNG has had important academic and practical consequences for PNG.

He also had played a decisive role in the Currie Commission's thinking on the university issue and in the subsequent establishment of the University of PNG and the PNG University of Technology. (AIS).

Sela Molisa, director of Vanuatu's Co-operative Federation, has resigned. Mr Molisa came to international prominence when he occupied a hot seat as a leading supporter of and spokesman for the Vanuatu Government on the island of Santo during the May-August 1980 secessionist attempt.

Mr Molisa joined the Co-operative Federation in 1977 and became assistant director. He took over the post of director in 1979.

In a statement announcing his resignation, Mr Molisa said he believed the co-operative movement in Vanuatu was making rapid progress, and had a bright future.

Geoffrey A Henry was elected in August as the new leader of the Cook Islands Party. The election took place at the end of the CIP conference. His opponent in the leadership ballot was **Tupui Henry**, eldest son of the late **Albert Henry**.

Geoffrey Henry, a nephew of Albert Henry, has been leader of the opposition in the Cook Islands Parliament since 1978.

He said after his election that the CIP would continue to judge him by the 'old man's (his uncle's) performance'.

PEOPLE



Geoffrey A. Henry, newly-confirmed leader of the Cook Islands Party and since 1978 leader of the opposition. His target: To do as much as 'the old man' did. — A. Cogan picture.

'Because of this I have to work harder than ever before, as there is no person alive today who can do as much as the old man did,' Mr Henry said.

He added that his major plan for the CIP is to strengthen it in preparation for the next elections, but he wasn't going to 'tell everybody' how he would be going about strengthening the party.

A young Samoan who is helping to give Samoa a better image in the United States is 22-year-old **Ropati Savelio** of Ululoloa, Western Samoa.

Mr Savelio, who is doing a paramedic course at Harbor View Medical Center, Los Angeles, has recently received an Award of Merit from the institution for outstanding service to patients and staff.

Doctors at the centre said they were deeply impressed with Mr Savelio's calm manner in handling heart attack cases, cases of gunshot wounds, and other emergencies.

After completing his training, Ropati Savelio plans to return to Western Samoa where

he hopes his knowledge will be useful to the police and the hospitals.

The newly appointed Mexican Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, **Juan Manuel Ramirez Gomez**, has presented his cre-

Weights and measures inspectors from eight countries have been taking part in a training course in Australia arranged by the Australian National Standards Commission. Three Solomon Islanders who are among the trainees are shown in Sydney with Bruce Digby (second from left), the course leader. They are (from left) Patson Basia, Davinia Meseptu and Arnold Pania. — Robert Maccoll picture for AIS.



dentials to Governor-General Sir **Tore Lokoloko**. He relayed a message from President of Mexico, **Lopez Portillo**, proposing a search for peace to the very limits drawn by the principles of non-intervention and free will of nations, and suggesting that all misunderstandings should be solved peacefully.

In accepting Mr Gomez's credentials, Sir Tore said PNG was deeply committed to a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific, and supported other countries in the region calling for such a declaration. Sir Tore also expressed the hope that PNG would be able to accredit an ambassador to Mexico in the near future.

Sister **Agnes Helgenberger** was appointed head of Ponape High School, effective August 13. She replaces **Noriwo Ubedei**, who resigned to take up the position of student services coordinator for the College of Micronesia.

A graduate of St Mary College in Kansas, USA, with a BA in history, Sister Helgenberger attended Our Lady of Mercy on Ponape for eight years, and Mount Carmel High School on Saipan for four years.

As president and founder of the Ponape Women's Association, she has been instrumental in the organisation of various women's interest programmes in Ponape.

Sister Helgenberger said that her immediate plan is to develop harmonious working relationships and attitudes among the Ponape Island Central

School teachers in order to effectively assist the students to achieve their goals and objectives. When asked whether her decisions could be affected by her being in the Mercederian Order, Sister Helgenberger said that it would depend on the responsibilities of her office and that she expects and would welcome advice and support from anyone.

Raymond C. Anderson, Canadian high commissioner to Vanuatu, in August officially opened a new \$A50 000 fisheries and Marine School in Port-Vila which was paid for by the Canadian Government. The school is situated at the former French Wharf.

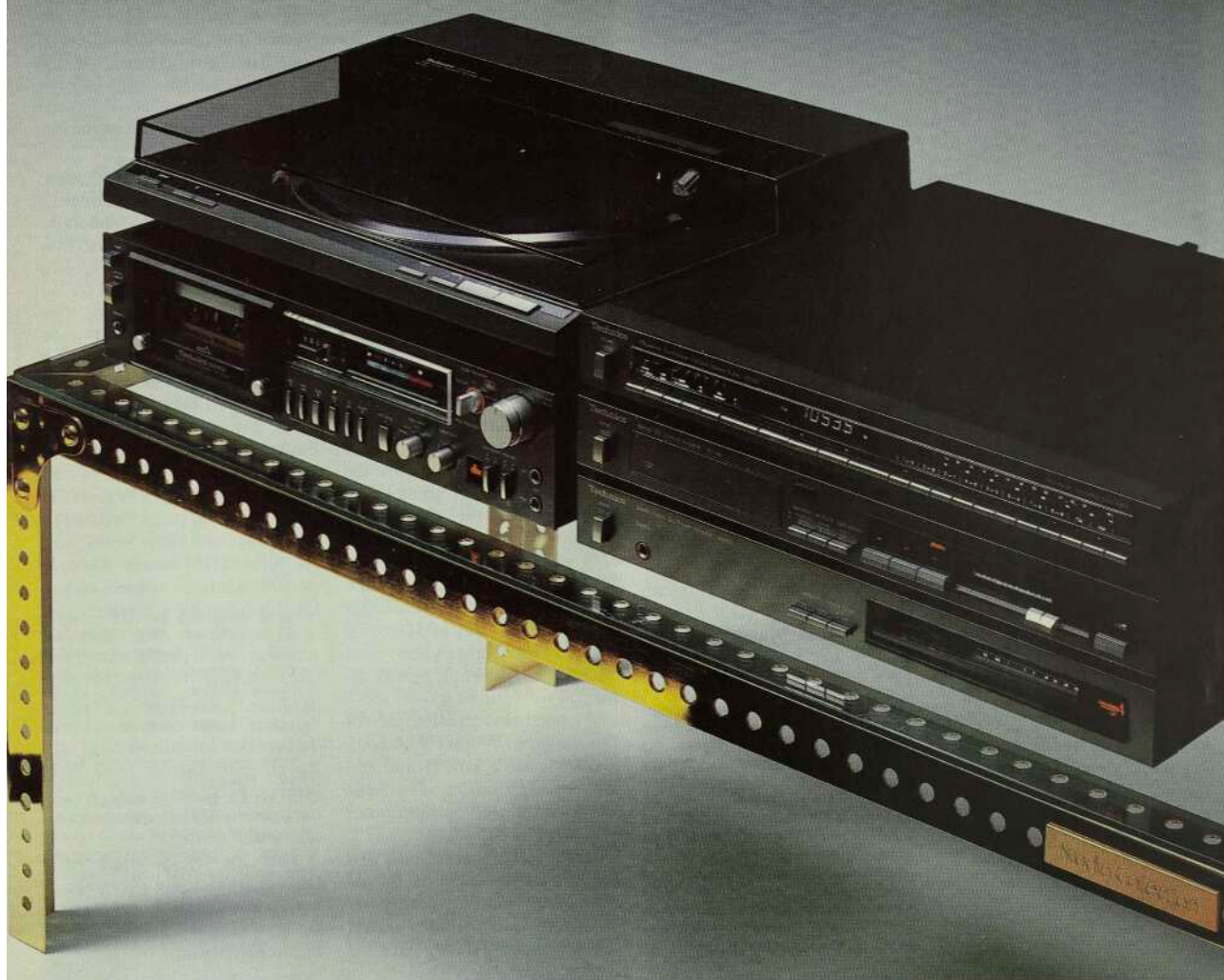
Speaking at the ceremony, Vanuatu's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, **Sethy Regenvanu** said the republic had a land area of 14 250 square kilometres. When the country's 200-miles exclusive economic zone came into force, its total area would become 24 500 nautical square miles. Of this area, 80% is water.

'We depend on water as much as we depend on land for our food, and this will continue to be so in the future,' he said.

The minister pointed out that before the introduction of air travel, Ni-Vanuatu were seafarers, and seafaring would continue to be their main means of travel.

The new school would help the government to maintain a high standard of seafaring skills, through proper training, the minister said.

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John Thurston — 'Our father Jone Cosetini'

BOOKS



Viceroy of the Pacific: The Majesty of Colour — A Life of Sir John Bates Thurston. By Deryck Scarr. Published by the Australian National University. ANU Pacific Research Monograph No 4. Series Editor E. K. Fisk. xvii and 334 pp. \$A9. ISSN 0155 9060, ISBN 0 909150 88 5.

This, the long awaited second volume of Dr Scarr's biography of Sir John Bates Thurston, has been delayed by publishing problems — as the author explains apologetically — for five years. The first volume, *I the Very Bayonet* (reviewed PIM May 1974 p91), dealt with the early life of this erstwhile shipwrecked seaman, planter, botanist, consular clerk, and champion of Fijian rights, and with his role in Fijian affairs up to Cession in 1874. The present volume covers the years from Cession until his death in 1897.

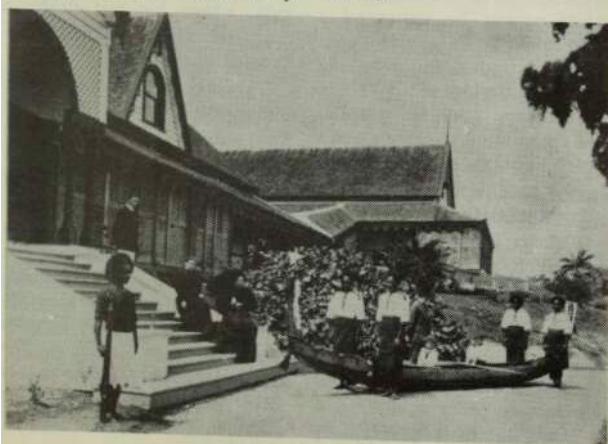
Thurston's successful efforts to unite the Fijian people under King Cakobau, and to persuade them to cede their country to a very reluctant British Queen and Government, had been conducted in the face of considerable opposition from the European community of planters and commercial interests which had wished Fiji to be annexed by, or incorporated in, either the Australian State of Victoria or New Zealand. These alternatives had been foreseen by Thurston who feared they

would lead inevitably to exploitation of the Fijians by Europeans, and, worse, to war, as was at that time the situation with the Maoris in New Zealand.

Notwithstanding that he was himself the owner of a plantation in Taveuni, Thurston's identification with Fijian interests continued to bring him into acrimonious conflict with belligerent and vociferous planters, not least because his policy of taxation by produce rather than by cash poll tax kept the Fijian in his *qali* and thus deprived the planters of labour: a policy which, incidentally, was later to lead to the importation of indentured Indian labour.

Fortunately, the first governor appointed after Cession — Sir Arthur Gordon — shared Thurston's belief that Fijian society had a validity of its own — 'The Majesty of Colour' — and supported his efforts. As Cakobau's colonial secretary, and over many years, Thurston had encouraged the Fijians to rule themselves through a system of government from local to central authority by district, provincial, and chiefly annual councils. At the same time, he eventually won

Government House, Fiji, in 1896 when Sir John Thurston was Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. A Solomon Islands canoe is being displayed at the front steps. — Picture from Deryck Scarr's *Viceroy of the Pacific*.



reluctant recognition by the expatriate community that the common law applied equally to all.

Thurston was to serve as Gordon's auditor-general, an apparent demotion which delighted Thurston's local enemies and particularly the missionaries, as well as the train of disciples Gordon had brought with him, who realised that Thurston's superior local knowledge was a threat to their career ambitions. And so indeed it proved, for Thurston was reappointed colonial secretary, and was to serve in this capacity, and as administrator, and lieutenant-governor to three governors — Gordon, Des Voeux, and Mitchell. He was then knighted and appointed to the substantive rank which included the office of High Commissioner and Consul-General of the Western Pacific. This latter, added to his Fijian responsibilities, involved him in international politics and, as an obituarist was to note, he became the 'Grand Panjandrum of the South Seas'.

His territorial activities covered a very wide field: from investigation of the recruitment of island labour to the inter-denominational strife between religious bodies — anathema to Thurston, who arranged the deportation of the Rev Shirley Baker from Tonga for activities which not only threatened the integrity of that kingdom, but which, Thurston feared, might even involve Germany and the USA in international complications there.

Requested by the British Government to investigate the Bismarckian German activities in the Pacific — of which both Downing Street and Thurston were highly suspicious — he travelled widely within his jurisdiction: Samoa, the Cook Islands, Solomons, Tonga, and the Gilberts. In Samoa he was especially concerned at the German influence, and he wrote contemptuously of 'that very eccentric and fifth-rate novelist, R.L.S.', whose meddling in

Samoan politics Thurston regarded as near to sedition.

In Fiji, Thurston had identified himself more and more with the Fijians. 'Fiji is indeed my land', he had claimed when the chiefs installed him formally as governor, and his acceptance of this role was confirmed when the Roko Tui Bua claimed that the Fijians were 'guided by our father, Jone Cosetini'. It was appropriate that Ratu Tavita should have used this term since Thurston's life-long role in Fijian affairs was, of course, the apotheosis of what is now disparagingly called 'paternal colonialism', for as a father he had protected them against exploitation, fought for them, defended them, praised and chided them, and even punished them. But above all he had united them and given them a national consciousness and identity.

By guiding them through the dangers threatening a people emerging from a primitive culture amidst the rampant commercialism of late 19th-century European expansion in the Pacific, his paternalism was, no doubt, for that day and age, the best thing that could have happened to the Fijian people. The history of Fiji would have been very different, and the people poorer, but for John Bates Thurston.

Tragically, the last year of Thurston's governorship — and his life — was marred by an eventually fatal neuromuscular disorder which, cruelly, left a clear and active intelligence in a progressively paralysed body. He died, aged 61, at sea en route to Melbourne, and was buried there. Notwithstanding his expressed wish to be buried in Fiji, and the earnest requests for this from the Fijian chiefs, neither the British nor the Fijian Government was willing to find the funds necessary to return the body for the cer-

BOOKS

emonial *burua* which, nevertheless, Ratu Josefa Lalabalavu held for him at Somosomo without the corpse.

All interested in Fiji and its history are indebted to Dr Scarr for the completion of his definitive biography of Thurston. This is no history of Fiji, but it is an indispensable reference for future historians wishing to assess Thurston's legacy to the country he served so devotedly for 30 years. It is a valuable addition not only to the literature of Fiji, but also to the general literature of Pacific politics in the late 19th century.

Reproduced in facsimile typescript with some pertinent photographs and a bibliography, one can only regret that the publishers were not able to present this volume printed and bound in uniformity with the first volume of which it is the worthy sequel. —

Leonard Goodman.



Governor Albert Hahl, key figure in the history of PNG

Governor Albert Hahl: The limits of kindness

Governor in German New Guinea By Albert Hahl. Edited and translated by Peter G. Sack and Dymphna Clark. Published by the Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1980. xxii and 164 pp. \$A19.95. ISBN 0 7081 1820 8.

For a book which first appeared in Nazi Germany in 1937 *Governor in New Guinea* is remarkably free of the propaganda and strident patriotism which characterised German colonial literature of the time.

Albert Hahl tells a straightforward, readable story of his experiences as magistrate in east New Britain 1896-1899, vice-governor in German Ponape 1899-1901, and governor of German New Guinea during the prewar years when it was transformed, at least along the coastal fringes, from an uncontrolled frontier of traders into a flourishing plantation colony.

Hahl appointed New Guinea's first *luluais*; he led the punitive expedition which attempted to arrest Ranga, the Buka policeman who murdered

Governor Kurt von Hagen; he nearly drowned when his boat capsized off Kiti in the Carolines and he was forced to swim for the nearest sandbank; he followed the Waria River many kilometres inland along the Papuan border, crossed Bougainville on foot and ascended the Sepik; his knowledge of the Kuanua language and of the customs of the Tolai was so good that he is remembered affectionately in the Gazelle Peninsula even today.

His was an adventurous life, and he was in New Guinea at a unique time to observe the impact of colonial rule upon traditional Melanesian societies. But as he was neither a writer nor a philosopher his pen says little of the adventure and almost nothing of the wider issues at stake in the occupation of New Guinea by a colonising power. Unlike Arthur Gordon in Fiji, Wilhelm Solf in German Samoa or Hubert Murray in Papua, Hahl had no philosophy of colonisation beyond a belief that New Guinea had to be developed economically for the benefit of the Germans, with the villagers being encouraged

to survive as plantation labourers. His book is prosaic evidence of that fact.

Peter Sack, the Canberra academic who edited this excellent translation, sees Hahl as 'a kind man, who tried to do his best and whose work was perhaps greater than he himself'. It is not a wrong judgement but it is a misleading one.

Certainly Hahl was generous in personal dealings whether with Europeans or New Guineans. On one occasion, after arguing that execution alone atoned for the murder of a white person, he sentenced a man called To Taia to death for killing a trader. But when he saw the sufferings of To Taia in the Kokopo gaol he relented and commuted the sentence to a year's hard labour. Five months in the gaol, said Hahl, was 'a punishment as severe as death'.

Colonial governors must nevertheless be assessed on more than their attributes of character, for even in a colony as small as German New Guinea foreign rule amounted to much more than personal encounters.

If we are to judge Hahl by

this book, written in self-justification 20 years after he left New Guinea, he naturally emerges in a good light. No mention here, for example, of the routine floggings which he authorised, or of the degree to which the Germans depended upon exploiting traditional rivalries to advance their interests.

When we look at what Hahl actually did as governor we find him better at some things than others: good at extending control over coastal villages, collecting head-tax, conscripting people into forced labour and opening up the country to labour recruiters; less effective in protecting villagers from diseases, employers and trigger-happy police.

And to examine Hahl's intentions for the future of New Guinea is to find a man who believed that the New Guineans, to use his own words, were of 'inferior quality', and that the only hope for the economic development of the country was permanent mass immigration by Asians. Tell that to Papua New Guineans today and see what they think!

No doubt Hahl was a kind man who tried to do his best. The real point, though, is how much use such kindness was in the German colonial empire, where the Reichstag controlled the annual New Guinea budget and the plantation companies had the ear of influential men in Berlin; how it should be weighed in the balance against his policies on land, labour and control; and how much difference it made to colonial rule outside the special circumstances of the Gazelle Peninsula, where his just dealings with the Tolai have rightly created a legend.

This said, the book remains a vital addition to the library of any serious collector of New Guineana. Well indexed, elegantly translated, illustrated with photographs of the German era and provided with a thoughtful introduction, it maintains the high standards which Sack and Clark established in their English versions of *German New Guinea — The Annual Reports* (reviewed in PIM Sep p53). — Stewart Firth.

Lively telling of Tonga's Church / State story

Church and State in Tonga. By Stone Latukefu. Paperback reprint published by Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1980. xvii and 302 pp. \$A14.95. ISBN 0 7081 0402 9.

This paperback reprint is required reading for students of Pacific history who missed the 1974 hardback edition first time round. Latukefu's prose is lucid and simple, refreshingly free of the turgid density found in so many PhD theses which are later published in book form.

The writer introduces his main theme — The Wesleyan Methodist Missionaries and Political Development, 1822-75 — by providing a backdrop portrait of the socio-cultural patterns (unique in Polynesia) existing in Tonga from the mid-10th century to the end of the 18th.

It was a strongly pyramidal society, with the semi-divine Tu'i Tonga at its peak, and descending degrees of privilege and power vested in paramount regional chiefs, local chiefs and the *matapule* (chiefly attendants and spokesmen). The commoners at the grassroots were effectively serfs — their goods, produce and services always on call, and their lives apt to be forfeit for any misdemeanour, or for purposes of sacrifice.

It was also a theocratic society, with a multiplicity of gods whose word was interpreted by priests in permanent cahoots with the chiefly classes. A heavenly after-life was exclusively reserved for the upper crust, who were such by birth alone — a comforting insurance which encouraged a ruthless exploitation of power at every chiefly level.

From the 15th century, the structure was modified by the creation of two separate overall dynasties: the Tu'i Tonga retaining the spiritual leadership role, and the Tu'i Ma'atakalaua (later replaced by the Tu'i Kanokupolu) taking over the

duties of temporal leadership.

However, the paramount chiefs in the three major island groups, and the lesser chiefs in their respective districts, retained much power and were always hungry for more. Well before the Wesleyan missionaries arrived and introduced a new complication — Christians versus adherents of the old pagan religion — Tonga was already embroiled in fierce dissension and frequent bloody strife, as the various chiefs sought to expand their power bases by exploiting blood feuds between the clans (*ha'a*) and by strategic marriages, expedient alliances, and sheer force of arms.

Because of the complexity of the events crowding his chosen period, Latukefu has chosen to handle his material by isolating the main strands: the chiefly power struggles, the development of Wesleyan Methodism and resulting Christian-pagan factionalism, the fierce infighting between Wesleyans and Catholics from the time the latter arrived on Wesleyan-claimed territory, George I's spectacular rise to absolute power, and his later efforts to establish a constitutional monarchy acceptable to the outside world.

By handling each of these interlocking strands in turn, he enables the reader to grasp the essentials of each aspect without becoming totally confused. This approach, however, does involve periodic journeys back and forth in time, as each theme is taken up and disposed of.

The author, himself an ordained Wesleyan minister, gives us a remarkably objective, warts-and-all picture of the Wesleyan performance during this crucial period in Tongan history. While paying tribute to their earnestness and dedication, he makes no attempt to whitewash their failings — narrowness often amounting to bigotry, lack of tact, inability to recognise the complexities of

THE CODES

Church and State in Tonga reproduces the fascinating law codes which were negotiated in 1839, 1850 and 1862 between Wesleyan missionaries and the King. Here are extracts from the 1850 code:

• Canoes may be waved to, and should the canoe not come to the beckon, the person in it shall be fined a pig.

• Any persons catching the larger fish shall not do as they please with them but, on obtaining one, shall take it to the Chief; the second he takes shall be his.

the existing social and cultural structures, lack of adequate education and training (especially among the early comers), political judgments coloured by what was or was not good for the Wesleyan cause, and petty jealousies and inter-necine squabbling.

He also stresses, in a variety of contexts, that 'conversions' at all levels were often due more to material-benefit motivations than spiritual conviction. On the one hand, the chiefs (Taufa'ahau/George I included) coveted European goodies, technology, and secular instruction, which were far-from-incidental bonuses for those who chose conversion. On the other, the commoner-serfs welcomed the promised eligibility for an after-life hitherto reserved for the highborn, the curbing of the absolute powers of the chiefs, and the concept of payment for services rendered.

It was also self-seeking which accounted for the aggressive determination of many chiefs to adhere to the old religion and customs, thereby retaining the power and privileges which, by right of birth and inheritance, went with them.

The same commendable objectivity is not so apparent in the picture presented of Taufa'ahau of Haapai, who

eventually became George I, founder of the present royal dynasty. The story of his meteoric rise, through a potent mixture of personal magnetism, ruthless warfare, shrewd political manipulation, and strong Wesleyan support, is sometimes slightly and occasionally markedly at odds with other sources. The portrait of George-on-the-way-up has, one feels, been carefully retouched for posterity.

The final chapters deal with George, the firmly established monarch. They provide some interesting insights into the development of the 1850 and 1862 Codes of Law, and the Constitution of 1875, and a strong case is made for the view that the degree of Wesleyan influence in these innovations was less decisive than is usually claimed.

Certainly, the ambitious and devious Shirley Baker, who was chairman of the Tongan mission in 1875, was responsible for the actual writing of the Constitution, but George I emerges as the positive force in the shaping of its content and in no way a mere Trilby to Baker's Svengali.

Whether George I's conversion was a matter of political expedience or genuine political conviction — or first one and then the other — must inevitably remain open to personal interpretation in view of the subjective and often conflicting nature of the available evidence.

Beyond question, however, is that he managed, within his own long lifetime, to transform a loose group of warring pagan clans into a single Christian nation, and to win international, hands-off recognition for it, at a time when big-power takeovers were rife in the Pacific region.

The book contains a rather sketchy glossary of Tongan terms, some appendices, a voluminous bibliography, and a helpful index. — Penny Hodgkinson.

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Forum's 'in-principle' support for fund to help smaller countries

An extensive evaluation report commissioned by the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation (SPEC) says that a regional development bank is not needed in the Pacific Islands 'at this time', but there is need for a Pacific Islands Fund to help smaller islands without access to larger financial institutions.

The report proposes that such a fund be established with the help of the Special Fund of the Organisation of Petrol-Exporting Countries (OPEC), and with financial help probably available from Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, some European Economic Community countries, possibly one or more Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, and from Japan.

The report was prepared for the SPC and SPEC by Rodney Cole, of the Development Studies Centre of the Australian National University, and Graeme Thompson, chief economist of the New Zealand Planning Council, after visiting most of the Pacific states between May and early July this year.

The South Pacific Forum session in Port-Vila in August accepted it in principle and has asked for detailed reactions from the various governments for a final decision at next year's forum meeting in Tuvalu.

The report says that because of their small size and distance from large markets or population centres, the Pacific Islands have special difficulties for development and a need for substantial external assistance.

They have been receiving substantial assistance which will continue and possibly increase, but significant gaps exist, especially in the needs of the smaller and more vulnerable island states.

A fund controlled by the islands themselves would meet capital requirements without involving the smaller islands in the costs associated with

World Bank or Asian Development Bank membership. Such a fund would also tap new sources of finance and thus avoid duplication or conflict with existing bilateral and multilateral aid arrangements.

The Pacific Islands Fund would offer the following services:

- Special loans: For new production, energy development, and short-term balance of payments or budgetary support.

- Technical services: Support for the Pacific Regional Advisory Service if established, specialist advice not elsewhere available, and a development information service.

- Price stabilisation: A depository and account for the regional copra stabilisation/support scheme now being examined, and any other commodity price support arrangement.

- Disaster relief: To administer relief funds should the Forum expand the provisions of the existing fund now managed by SPEC.

- Support for remote islands: Operating assistance in transport and communications to maintain vital social and economic links with small island countries, and island services within larger countries.

- Guarantee facility: To support borrowing by regional organisations and the smaller national development institutions.

- Research: To support applied research into particular regional issues.

The report proposes that the Pacific Islands Fund be constituted as a set of accounts (special loans, technical services, etc.) to make its purposes plain. Each account would be separately administered. About \$A10 million would be required to get the fund going.

Fund membership would be free, and through charter, and be open to all developing island countries and territories of the region.

It would be controlled by a

board comprising a director appointed by each charter member, and the secretary-general of the SPC and director of SPEC as ex-officio members. The board would meet annually.

Implementation of fund policies would be done by an executive comprising the board chairman, three other board members, and nominees of the SPC and SPEC. The executive might meet three or four times annually, and there would be an administrator appointed, with accountant and secretary, for the administrative work.

Banana exports urged in Fiji

Fiji is having a new look at the potential of one of the oldest, but often one of the most disappointing, agricultural ventures in tropical countries — commercial banana growing. In common with a number of Pacific countries Fiji once had a significant banana export industry, but disease and transport problems overcame it and banana growing became a localised subsistence industry.

A motion calling for a full-scale investigation into the commercial potential of banana growing has been passed through the Upper House in the Fiji parliament, largely through the lobbying of the Great Council of Chiefs.

Senator Ratu Tevita Vakalalabure, a nominee of the Great Council, told parliament that modern methods of handling and disease control should make a banana export industry possible. He said earlier moves to examine the potential had met with a 'miserable response' from the government on the grounds that the industry could not be made viable.

He believed that too much weight was being placed on a belief that the industry should exist on Viti Levu — an area known to have banana disease. Other islands had a suitable climate and soil and were free of disease. They could become the centres of a new industry, and modern controls could keep them free of disease, he said.

He accused the Department of Agriculture of being biased in its attitude towards banana growing as an export industry, and claimed that New Zealand



presented a wide-open market for regular shipments of bananas.

Senator Ratu Meli Loka, another nominee of the Great Council, said that commercial banana growing offered prospects for employment and land usage in areas which badly needed the stimulus of agricultural development.

The recommendation will be passed on to the Department of Agriculture for further investigation.

Esso explores PNG minerals

Esso PNG, the Papua New Guinea operation of the US-based multi-national Exxon Corporation, plans to spend up to \$25 million on mineral exploration in PNG over the next five years. Negotiating its leases for the work the company said it was impressed by the stability of the PNG government and by the better business climate in PNG compared to neighbouring South-east Asia. These considerations had helped form the company's decision to negotiate exploration rights, a spokesman said.

Esso's initial programme will be a series of field and aerial surveys at a cost of about \$2 million, covering the major northern island of New Ireland. The aerial work will consist of a magnetic deflection survey in which deflection of magnetic lines of force will be mapped to show potential mineral deposits. The results of the mapping will then be followed by more detailed surveys on the ground.

When the New Ireland surveys are completed the exploration teams will switch their attention to parts of New Britain — another major island in the north — and to the central highlands of the PNG mainland.

Esso will take over the results of preliminary tests carried out

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TRADEWINDS

by a number of operators in 1970 and 1974. In the next two years alone Esso geologists expect to take about 8000 samples of rock and sand. Six geologists are already based on New Ireland, and test drilling rigs will begin work next year.

Australian trade fair in Tahiti

In one of the biggest trade fairs mounted by Australia in the Pacific Islands, 25 Australian firms will display their products in Tahiti in October. The three-day display in the Territorial Assembly building in Papeete from October 13 to 15 will be presented soon after resumption of services to Tahiti by the Australian airline, Qantas. Three flights a week each way between Sydney and Los Angeles with calls at Tahiti will improve air freight connections with Tahiti as well as provide access to the territory for tourists.

The Australian trade commissioner service reported that the aim of the display was to enlarge Australia's market for manufactured products of a type suited to the needs of French Polynesia.

Products will include solar water heaters, windmill electricity generators, light farming equipment, building materials, hardware, light industrial goods, household ware, sports equipment, radio communications equipment and marine accessories. Most of the exhibitors will be seeking agents in Tahiti, as 20 of them will be exploring the market for the first time.

Air Vanuatu is up and away

The Pacific's newest airline, Air Vanuatu, began operations in September with a weekly service linking Australia with Vanuatu. The service flies out of Sydney on Saturday nights and returns to Sydney from Port-Vila on Sunday mornings.

The airline is owned by the Vanuatu government (60%) and by Ansett Airlines of Australia (40%). Ansetts are the managing partners and use a DC9 jet from their Australian fleet to fly

the Vanuatu service. When greater utilisation becomes possible with the expansion of services an aircraft in Air Vanuatu livery will be assigned to the operation. Immediate expansion is unlikely, and relies on upgrading the runway at Bauerfield, the airport serving Port-Vila.

When the runway work is complete a Boeing 727-200 will be used, and Melbourne as well as Sydney will become terminals at the Australian end.

Air Vanuatu is already negotiating with New Zealand for rights to fly into Auckland. It is also entering into an arrangement with the Fiji airline Air Pacific to market a proportion of Air Pacific seats into Brisbane, the third major international airport on the Australian east coast.

Steep rises in Vanuatu costs

Vanuatu has reported steep increases in its cost of living index for the 12 months to the end of June. Figures released recently by the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics show that high income consumers had a 28% increase in the cost of living and low income consumers a 22% increase. The major increases were 42.7% for rent and rates, 37.4% for food and 31% for drinks and tobacco. The rising trend was reported to be continuing, with transport and communications costs showing major increases.

The Vanuatu currency, the vatu, has been going through a period of wide fluctuation. Under an agreement made at independence the vatu is tied to the French franc, and the franc has been undergoing a series of changes during and since the French elections. The vatu has now appreciated in relation to the Australian dollar, which is the main currency used in Vanuatu's international trade. In May V100 was equivalent to \$0.75, but by August it had risen to \$1.10. The agreement tying the vatu to the franc expires at the end of this year but the government has not yet indicated a policy for future valuations. — Ian McIntyre in Port-Vila.

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Dr STEPHEN R. WEINSTEIN and his nursing sister wife Elisabeth ran the medical service on remote Manihiki atoll in the northern Cooks for several months last year. Here he turns in an engaging account of everyday life on Manihiki, where traditional ways survive much more strongly than in southern islands such as Rarotonga.

Adjusting to the pace of life on Manihiki — and loving it

The northern group of the Cook Islands consists of Penrhyn, Rakahanga, Manihiki and Pukapuka, all coral atolls lying about 10°S latitude and joined to the outside world by the irregular visits of the inter-island ships, *Mataora* and *Manuvai* of the Silk & Boyd Line every six to eight weeks, a round trip which takes about two weeks. Only Penrhyn has an airstrip, but it is not served by commercial flights.

My wife Elisabeth and I were stationed in Manihiki for four months in early 1980, she as staff nurse and myself as medical officer, both employed by the Cook Islands Health Department. Elisabeth was not my wife when we arrived, but had become so by the time we left.

Partly because of their isolation, the northern islands preserve the old way of life to a greater extent than Rarotonga and her neighbours in the south.

We were in Rarotonga for about a month before embarking, which was barely long enough to pick up a rudimentary knowledge of Cook Islands Maori, an eastern Polynesian language related to New Zealand Maori, and to Tahitian.

We were also able to gather basic information on the northern atolls from several people from there now living in Rarotonga.

We were to sail on the *Mataora*, a former North Sea freighter. It is hardly a comfortable ship by tourist standards, but serves its purpose of conveying passengers and goods between the islands of the Cook group with occasional trips to Samoa and Fiji.

The loading of supplies took several days, and, when complete, the cargo hatch was covered and a tarpaulin spread over the deck to protect the 'deck passengers' from sun and rain. 'Cabin passengers', such as ourselves, often preferred to sleep on the deck also, instead of in the small stuffy cabins reeking of diesel oil.

It took four days to reach Penrhyn where we had our first glimpse of an atoll as a thin rim of coconut palms suddenly appearing over the horizon. The next thing we knew, we had entered the lagoon through a passage in the reef and tied up at the wharf. There were a few yachts also moored in the lagoon, Penrhyn being the only

island in the northern group with anchorage within the lagoon, the other islands seldom seeing any yachts.

Prayers were said and a small service, conducted by the islands' pastor, who is also the father of the *Mataora's* skipper, Captain Ben Paranapa, was held on board before anyone disembarked. As we had arrived on a Sunday, no cargo was unloaded until next day.

On Penrhyn, we spent much time in the company of the fisheries officer, Chris Friberg, who had formerly been a skipper on both the inter-island ships and had studied to be a martial arts expert in Korea and Hong Kong.

Two days later, the ship continued to Rakahanga, where passengers and cargo were ferried ashore in rowboats. Rakahanga boasts of one car and an interesting collection of hand-lettered road signs.

Manihiki has long been known for the fine quality of its craft work, particularly for mats woven by the women. The mat shown in this picture was presented to a New Zealand government delegation which visited the island.



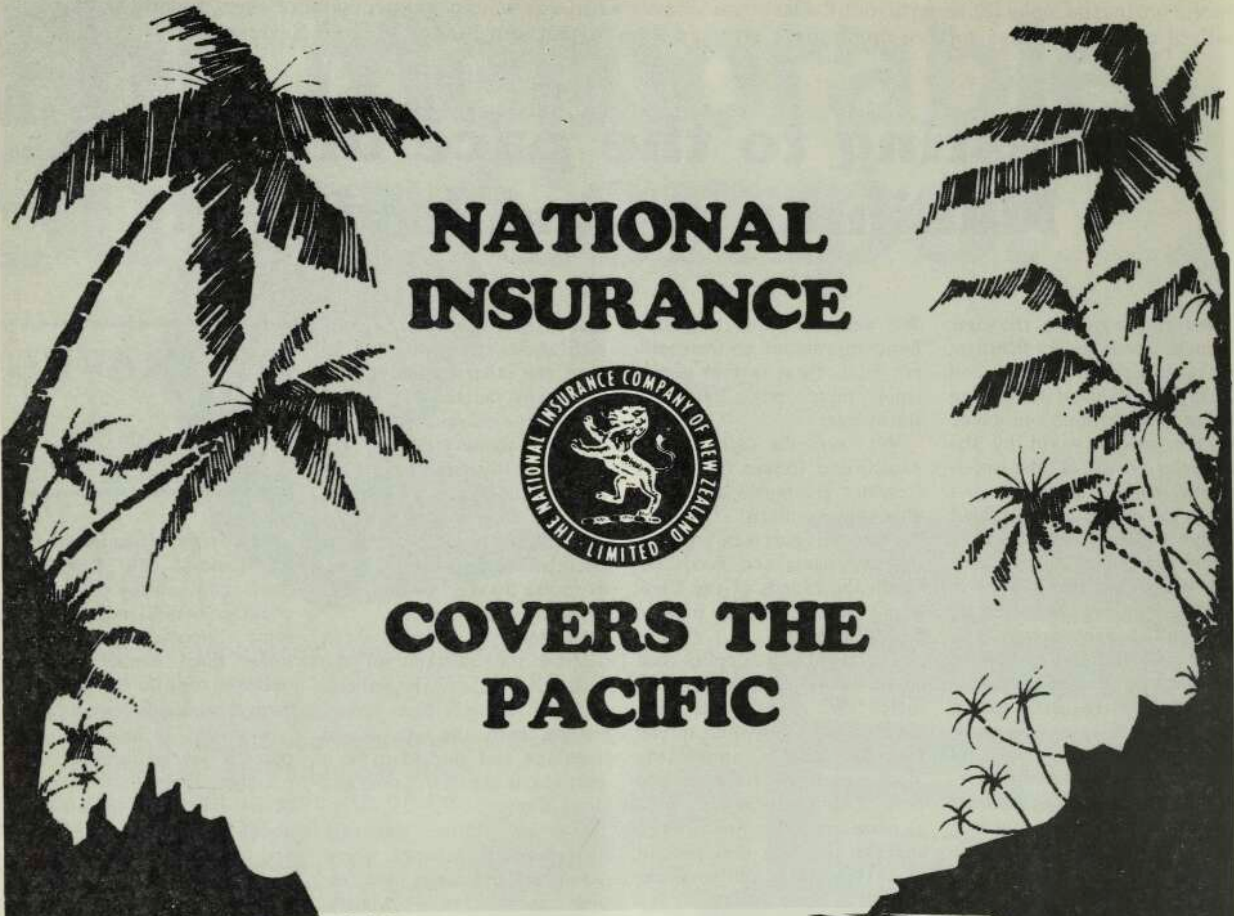
The journey from Rakahanga to Manihiki only took three hours, and halfway between we could see both islands, a point of some importance in earlier times when canoes travelled between the two atolls without navigational aids.

Manihiki is an atoll composed of several coral islets and a lagoon about four or six km across. The main settlement of about 200 people is at Tahunu, and across the lagoon is the other village of Tukao. The population is entirely Polynesian, except for four Europeans — Father Philip, the Catholic priest, and Peter Cummings, a former commander in the Royal Australian Navy, who, together with his two sons, operates a farm for cultured pearls in the lagoon. The other islets are uninhabited, but covered with coconut trees. One islet, Porea, has a little brackish water, and is particularly beautiful.

The houses in the villages are of varying design, some older ones thatched with coconut fronds, the newer ones built of brick or fibreboard. The post office is the centre of administration, combining its services with the housing of a police office, radio shack, and the only legal liquor outlet — which is very reasonable! And, compared with Rakahanga, Manihiki has no car but two trucks and a few motorbikes.

The chief administrative officer (CAO) represents the central government and often has a superhuman job to do to keep everyone satisfied. The





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TRAVEL



CAO on Manihiki is Mr Honu Ben, a native Manihikian, who saw home for the first time in 20 years when he returned from Rarotonga to take the position. We became close friends and he was subsequently best man at our wedding.

The CAO makes daily calls to Rarotonga by radio to handle a variety of affairs ranging from copra and pearl shell prices to the trials of offenders. The radio in the post office uses morse code, and during our stay a new radio-telephone service was begun, which enabled people to speak to their relatives in Rarotonga and New Zealand. In recent years, there has been a large migration, mainly of young people, from Manihiki to these places, reducing the population from around 1000 20 years ago to the present 350.

We soon got down to work, which consisted of seeing patients with minor complaints in the three-bed hospital next to our house. Twice a week, a child health clinic was held, during which mothers brought in their babies for weighing. A few times each week we crossed the lagoon by boat to see patients in the small clinic in the village of Tukao. Often, after finishing work, we would walk around the village, drinking coconuts and talking to the people while we waited for the boat to take us

Drum dances, colourful performances by the men and women of Tukao village on Manihiki.

back to Tahunu. Most complaints were minor — colds, gastro-enteritis and various cuts and sores. Two babies were born during our stay, one at home and one in the hospital. Because of the island's isolation, a minor flu epidemic would break out at intervals of six to eight weeks, coinciding with the ship's visit, arriving with germs and viruses from the other islands. This was usually our busiest time. We also paid an occasional visit to the school to examine the children and sometimes were called to the home of a patient too sick (or merely disinclined) to visit the hospital. On the whole our workload was light, regular hours being from eight until noon on weekdays, with the rest of the time spent fishing, cooking and socialising, which seemed to be the mainstay of atoll life.

In May 1980 we carried out a diabetes survey for the South Pacific Commission and the Southern Memorial Hospital in Melbourne, and had an almost 90% turnout. It was an advantage knowing nearly all the people personally when asking for their co-operation and preparing the survey. The CAO's wife Sister Purutu Ben, also a nurse in Manihiki, was of great

help to Elisabeth and me in this diabetes work, the results of which are to be published in *The New Zealand Medical Journal*.

Traditional Maori medicine still plays an important role in treating illnesses, and we observed several traditional practices: for example, for treating thrush of the mouth, the scraped inside bark of an iron-wood tree is applied to the lips; for headaches, seven frangipani flowers are rolled in a banana leaf at low tide and cut in half. Much Maori medicine relies on massage, leaves and coconut oil. We also knew the island's bone setter, the ancient skill of setting broken bones being passed from father to son. He is Ioane Kaitara, who is also considered one of the islands' best fishermen.

Much of the atoll life revolves around fishing, either in the lagoon, or the sea. Atoll dwellers have an endless store of skills and fishing lore. Several different techniques are used for different species of fish. One method is to use a lantern (formerly a burning coconut husk) in a boat at night to attract flying fish which are caught with hand nets as they are drawn towards the light. Also at night fish can easily be speared by torchlight in the lagoon, as they are sleepy and slow to react. One species of fish, the kuperu, is caught by swimmers underwater, using a miniature hook and line with coconut for bait. Various fish can be attracted by different

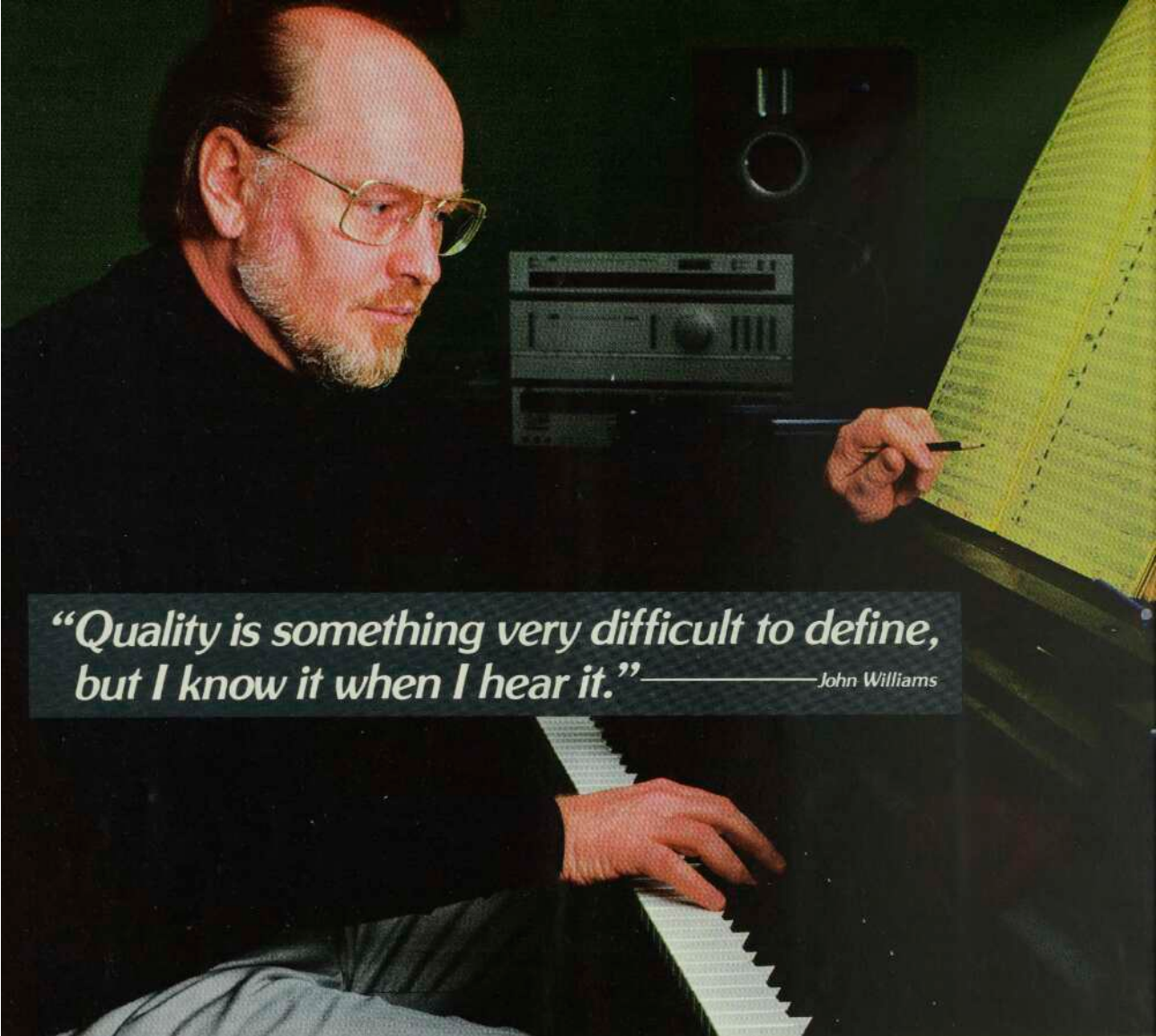
sounds, such as crayfish which seem to respond to the rubbery sound of biting one's snorkel! The easiest way to catch fish is probably in one of the fish traps, which are walls of coral rock enclosing pools in which fish become trapped at low tide. During our stay, a 90 kg turtle was caught by Tekaki Williams, another renowned fisherman and pearl diver. There are seasonal fish and small sharks in the lagoon which one chases away by hitting the surface of the water with cupped hands. Larger sharks outside the reef are treated with far more respect, however, and fishing trips to the sea are preceded by a short prayer in the boat, just as are voyages to other islands.

Because of the poor soil on the atolls, the sea is the main source of food. Giant clams are collected and made into a delicious stew with coconut milk. Taro, the Polynesian staple food, as well as most fruits, cannot grow in coral soil and the only fruits we had were bananas, pawpaws and bread-fruit. Elisabeth quickly became a skilled cook with the 'raw materials' available and we miss many of the island recipes and foods.

We also brought stocks of sugar, flour and rice from Rarotonga, which, together with daily fishing expeditions,

A sleeping shelter on one of the uninhabited islets. Manihiki people use it when they visit the islet to cut copra. — S. Weinstein picture.





"Quality is something very difficult to define, but I know it when I hear it." — John Williams

"Quality is something very difficult to define", says noted composer John Williams, "but I know it when I hear it". Millions of moviegoers around the world would agree. For twenty years, Williams' Academy Award-winning scores have perfectly complemented a host of memorable films. With his masterful compositions, he has heightened the tension in *Jaws*, underscored the heroics in *Star Wars* and *Superman*, and given meaning to the phrase, "music of the spheres", in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

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TRAVEL

considerable gifts of food from the local people, and an occasional visit to one of the small shops for luxuries such as cocoa or cheese twisties, lasted us pretty well. We ate about one tin of beef a week as well, usually on a Sunday when fishing and all other work was prohibited. Though I speared a few small fish nearly every day, it was Elisabeth who scored our largest fish, hooking a 5.5 kg tuna. She also hooked a shark, which we did not eat, although we kept the teeth and jaws.

A great delicacy, which nowadays only lives on the more remote Pacific Islands, is the coconut crab which looks like a lobster, climbs trees and opens the nuts with its heavy claws. Although it lives on land, it returns to the water to lay eggs. It is usually active at night, when it is mostly caught. The meat is delicious, eaten the traditional way, dipped into the rich oily fat in the crab's tail.

Although officially illegal, homebrew is sometimes made by fermenting coconut juice, unlike the southern group where orange or pineapple juice is fermented. Homebrew drinking is accompanied by certain rituals, the usual way of drinking being from a single communal cup passed from hand to hand and drained at a single gulp. We heard the following remark on one occasion: 'Beer is for women, homebrew is for men, and whisky is for Papaa (Europeans)'.

Religion plays a greater role in Manihiki than in urbanised Rarotonga, most people belonging to the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC), an offshoot from the London Missionary Society whose members brought the gospel to the Cook Islands in the 1860s at about the same time as the blackbirders were kidnapping workers for the Queensland sugar plantations from some of the Northern Cooks.

The head of the CICC in Manihiki is the Rev Timote, and the Catholic Mission is headed by Father Philip, who also has Manihiki's largest library of books, which he kindly let us use. There is also a small congregation of Seventh-day Adventists and a single adherent of the Hare Krishna sect,



who acquired this persuasion while working in New Zealand.

The proper dress for church is broad-brimmed straw hats for the ladies and shirts and long trousers for men. Special white dresses and suits are kept by some people for special holidays such as Easter, when coconut juice takes the place of wine during the service. The Rev Timote invited me to give the sermon one Sunday, which I did, with him interpreting my words into Maori.

There were two funerals during our stay, and on these occasions the whole population gathers together as one family at the home of the deceased, and speeches and hymn-singing alternate throughout the night while coffee and ship's biscuits are served. The burial itself is usually held the following day to forestall decomposition in the hot climate, and is followed by a wake which continues for another two days with various speakers elaborating on the virtues of the deceased. At the end of the wake, a huge feast is held. Gravestones can be very elaborate and in some cases are protected by little corrugated-iron roofs or sheds.

The two main export industries of Manihiki are copra and pearlshell. The coconut groves on the various islets, all with their specific owners, are worked on a rotating basis, with one islet at a time open for coconut gathering. This is designed as a conservation measure, to let the unworked groves regenerate. The island council directs which islets are 'open'. On weekends, we would go with the Ben family across the lagoon to their coconut land

The Cook Islands Christian Church at Tahunu is a focal point of community activities.
— S. Weinstein picture.

and help with the gathering. We camped out in a little hut and enjoyed beautiful sunsets over the lagoon and a bright starlit sky at night with the sound of surf pounding the reef behind us.

The conservation of the pearling industry is also under the control of the island council. Pearl diving is restricted to certain times of the year, and only oysters with a span of not less than 18 cm can be taken. Six families have licences, which were granted in Queen Victoria's time, to use diving equipment consisting of ancient hand-cranked compressors and copper diving helmets. The rest gather pearlshell by free-diving. The unofficial depth record is held by Ioane Kaitara, with a depth of 20 fathoms and a duration of five minutes. For the 1980 pearling season, two divers came up from Rarotonga with modern motor-drive compressors that they had been licensed by the government to use. An interesting jurisdictional dispute arose when the island council refused to let them use the machines. The matter was deferred, however, when the opening of the lagoon was postponed because of the flu epidemic which had followed the last ship's visit.

The oysters are of the large black-lipped variety, taken mainly for the shell. Only occasionally is a natural pearl found. On the pearl farm, cultured pearls are made by implanting moulds, after which the oysters are left for a year in

wire-mesh boxes in the lagoon.

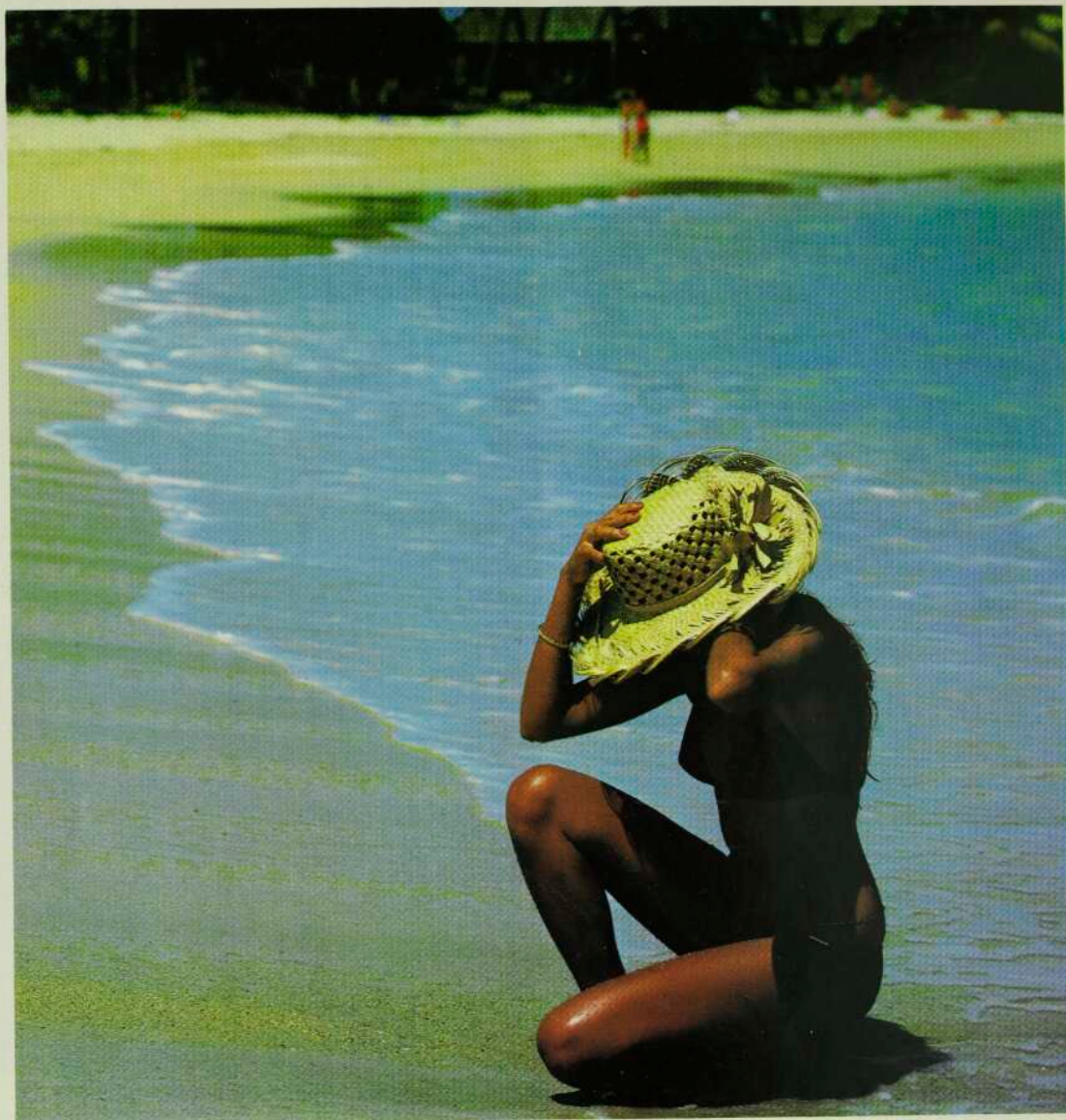
'Boat day' is always an eagerly awaited event, with people gathering at the landing waiting for mail, news of relatives, 'fresh foods' and other goods.

One of the highlights of the year was the visit to the northern group of islands by Cook Islands Premier Dr Thomas Davis, and the New Zealand representative, Mr Lindsey Watt. Several weeks prior to the visit, there were nightly rehearsals of drum-dances in the public square behind the post office, and costumes were made. A general clean-up was also carried out in both villages.

The official party's progress by air to Penrhyn and on to Rakahanga by the *Manuvai* was eagerly followed over the radio until finally the ship was visible on the north-eastern horizon. Towards sunset the guests finally stepped ashore from the rowboat on to the decorated landing, and were welcomed by schoolchildren and a reception line of Who's Who in Manihiki. Speeches of welcome and dancing at the landing followed and later that night a feast was held in Tahunu with more dancing and speeches. After spending the night at the CAO's official residence the premier's party, in a convoy of boats, crossed the lagoon to Tukao in the morning where another feast was prepared. After the dancing and speechmaking, gifts of woven mats and hats were presented to the guests.

Although the visit to Manihiki only lasted 24 hours, it was the first by a Cook Island premier in over 10 years and was greatly appreciated, even though there wasn't time for him to discuss everything of interest, and to meet everyone.

The village clean-up took the form of a *tutaka*, an institutionalised village inspection which is seldom carried out in the southern Cooks any more. A number of officials, including the CAO, doctor, chairman of the island council and sometimes the priest, with others, walk through every home in the village, technically looking at the state of sanitation. But the event is more an opportunity for every household to display its status symbols and handicrafts.



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TRAVEL

Most of the homes we walked through were in a state of near-perfect cleanliness and order, with hand-made bedspreads, hats, photos of family members, and an occasional cassette player prominently displayed. Also inspected were gardens, household animals, the cookhouse — which is often a separate building — and toilets, which in Manihiki are built over the lagoon and reached by catwalks on stilts. This has not been known to cause any health problems as the fish quickly consume all waste. The *tutaka* is started and finished with prayers and speeches, concluding with a small feast for the party who did all the walking.

There are a few stately old houses built at the turn of the century by European traders and furnished in 1890's style with what then would have represented enormous wealth on an atoll visited once a year by a small copra schooner.

Among the most popular trade items in those days were iron bedsteads, pedal-operated Singer sewing machines and seachests, which are still found in many homes. The traders left many descendants on the island, one such being George Ellis, whose grandfather left England at the age of 16, had many adventures on ships and islands all over the Pacific, and finally married and settled down in Manihiki. There he taught the people to build wooden long-boats of planks, many of which are still lying about rotting, and one which is still in use. It was the one still in use that was used for a voyage to Rakahanga in May, 1980. The occasion for this voyage was the sudden death of the Catholic priest in Rakahanga, which required Father Philip to go there for the funeral. Two 25-hp outboard motors were hooked on and the boat was skippered by Teokotai Williams, another trader descendant, navigating with an old brass ship's compass in a green box. Permission for the voyage had to be obtained from Rarotonga by radio. After completing their mission, the voyagers returned safely, bringing a few bags of flour and some medicines from Rakahanga. Such voyages were more common in the old days, until the



Manihiki fisherman: Aluminium dinghy, coconut palm oars. — S. Weinstein picture.

government prohibited them, because of so many boats being lost. Some made it to other islands weeks later, but many perished. It was known to the island boatmen that if one failed to reach Rakahanga in a day, the normal sailing time, there was a possibility of reaching Samoa in a week by following the winds and currents. Some survivors of such drift voyages still live in Manihiki. On one such trip, seven men set out from Manihiki, and after getting lost at sea, suffering thirst, hunger and storms, four of them reached the (then) New Hebrides alive a couple of months later.

Elisabeth and I were married on March 21, 1980. I paid \$6 at the post office and an official notice was displayed. Typewritten invitations were sent out to about 100 people, but of course the whole island was welcome to attend. Various families donated a total of eight pigs, many chickens, fish, and all types of other foodstuffs. Ioane speared 10 large crayfish.

The night before the wedding was extremely busy, with baking and cooking going on until well past midnight. The pigs were slaughtered and cleaned down at the landing prior to putting them in the underground earth oven overnight. Sitting with Honu on the verandah of the mission house the next day I waited for Elisabeth. The ceremony was given in Maori by the Rev Timote, the first wedding he had performed for Europeans. Outside the church the Boys Brigade formed a guard of honour, their

during our stay was the research vessel *Machias* of Honolulu, on charter to the Cook Islands Government, exploring the seabed for manganese nodules, phosphate and precious corals, all of which they found.

The week before our departure was filled with visits to say farewell to old friends, culminating in a dinner where members of the island council sang traditional songs, more gifts were presented, and a few tears were shed. We also said goodbye to a black kitten, Tom Tom, who had attached himself to us.

The return voyage lasted 10 days, and we enjoyed the company of fellow-passenger Judge Jock McCawley, whose several decades in the islands provided a rich store of yarns. We stopped at Rakahanga to load copra and disembarked into the landing boats by torchlight, after the ship's electricity failed. We spent a few more days in Penrhyn, and saw the old aircraft wrecks from when the island was an American air base in World War II. We also crossed the lagoon to visit Penrhyn's second village, Tetautua.

Every island in the Cooks has one or more members of the Marsters family living on it. This family originated when a British captain, Marsters, settled on Palmerston atoll with his Polynesian wives (three altogether at different times) in the 19th century. The hundred or so people on Palmerston today are all his descendants, bear the same surname and speak their own dialect of English as spoken 100 years ago.

For potential visitors to the northern Cooks, I should mention that the first boatload of tourists was scheduled to arrive on board the slightly more comfortable *Manuvai* shortly after our departure. The plan was that they would be billeted in private homes as there are no hotels, and the people were eagerly looking forward to this arrangement. Their experiences were described by James C. Simmons in PIM May, 1981. From my own time there, despite the discomforts, I would highly recommend the trip.

brass belt-buckles polished with lime for the occasion. Three volleys from a shotgun were fired and the procession walked back to the residence where the reception was held. After speeches, singing and dancing by the VIPs, the guests filed past and gave their gifts — straw hats, lengths of trade store cloth, two bottles of whisky, and banknotes in envelopes. The money was recycled to the church and also helped pay for the store-bought foods. In the evening, drinks and ukelele music were followed by a dance on the post office verandah. An official announcement of the event was made on the Cook Islands radio in Rarotonga.

Among the most memorable people we met was Mehau George, whose death on May 19, 1981, was reported in September's PIM. At 87 he was the oldest man in Manihiki, a skilled woodcarver and craftsman. He was also the islands' only World War I veteran, Second Maori Battalion, and could still sing all the verses of 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. There was also Charlie Poiri, who claims descent from King Kamehameha I of Hawaii, through one of his ancestors who served on a whaling boat in the last century. Charlie still keeps contact with relatives in Hawaii.

The only visitor to Manihiki apart from the inter-island ship

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From the ISLANDS PRESS

Part of a letter to the editor, signed A. C. H., appearing in the Arawa Bulletin on Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea

Man, as a highly intelligent animal, gets frustrated very quickly when he doesn't drink enough, and this frustration leads to the problems now being experienced in town. If takeaways and public bars were to have longer trading hours people would drink at leisure and not two bottles of beer a minute due to the present limited time. We haven't tried longer trading hours yet in this town, so why don't the authorities give it a go. It just might be the solution to our problems.

The Fiji Times, Suva

A 26-year-old Tongan, Tonga Fafita, has set a new record for coconut tree climbing. In the final of the coconut tree climbing competition at Sukuna Park in Suva it took Fafita only 5.53 seconds to climb up a 30-ft tree, and sponsors of the competition hope to get his performance in the Guinness Book of Records. Fafita said fitness was one of the main aspects in climbing coconut trees, together with strong arms and legs — and a lot of practice.

The Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

Eastern Highlanders who want to air their grievances have been asked to leave their bows and arrows behind when they come to Goroka to complain. The request has come from the president of the Goroka Local Government Council, Cr Marisalopa Hubae. He said groups in warpaint and carrying weapons often came to town chanting war songs on their way to lodge complaints with officials. These are threatening signs and could easily spark trouble,' Cr Hubae said.

From a letter to the editor, signed K. Bolimilavau, in the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

I am sick and tired of hearing about tribal fights in the Highlands. News about them seems to be broadcast every second or third day of the week. To me, these tribal fights are no more than inborn savagery. . . . One deterrent to the tribal fights is to let them fight and fight to the last warrior. This simply means legalising tribal fights and killings so they do not become a problem needing solution.

From an editorial in the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

A plan to broadcast question time from parliament is welcome, if only for the reason that it will give people who are ignorant of the parliamentary system an insight into at least how part of the system operates. . . . And if it manages to smarten up conduct among members and raise the level of debate, so much the better.

The Fiji Times, Suva

Mr Justice Kermode has had a long and horrible career, and we hope he will be around to continue it with distinction for a long time yet. . . .

And from the next issue of the same paper

They are red in the face. On Saturday we wanted to pay tribute to Mr Justice Kermode who has had a long and honourable career. . . . But somehow gremlins got into the act and mutilated a well-chosen word into something offensive. We offer our sincere regret and apology to His Lordship.

From a parliamentary report in the Cook Islands News, Rarotonga

The Judicative Amendment Bill was duly passed, and an explanation by the Minister for Justice, Mr Iaveta Short, was verbally applauded by the opposition member for Pukapuka, Mr Inatio Akaruru. However Mr Akaruru insisted that money was being wasted in printing the bill. He suggested that the money could have been used instead to finance morning and afternoon tea for members of parliament.

Uni Tavar, the magazine of the University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, reporting a demonstration by women students

The demonstration was against the arrest of two female students. The two have been charged with using abusive language. The women demonstrators said that if police are called when boys harass girls, the police don't seem keen to help. But when the boys call in police to arrest girls, the police seem more enthusiastic.

From an editorial in The Fiji Times, Suva, supporting a plan (subsequently adopted) for the central leadership of the Alliance Party to have more voice in choosing who the party endorses for parliament

The House of Representatives has a roll of 52 elected members, a handy number, but not so handy that Fiji can afford to carry some who are not pulling their full weight. As observers will vouch, the number of MPs who, in reality, have little or nothing to show behind the facade raised by the sound of their own voices is one which is cause for concern. It is not half of them, or a third, but arguably it could be as high as 25% . . . They have their seats because of political party systems with weaknesses that mean that the chaff is not removed from the seed. For this reason the Alliance Party should accept as an experiment proposed changes in their candidate selection system that should reduce the number of unworthies who creep into parliament by puff, blarney and even a little skulduggery. . . .

Part of a letter signed Detonga Deiya published in the Nauru Post, Nauru, criticising the attitude of voters in the Aiwo electorate

The people of Aiwo have become influenced by ambitions, wealth and family honour so that a group or family seeks domination through the ballot box without considering whether a particular candidate is an excellent choice or not. The pattern of election in Aiwo district no longer seeks a perfect or near-perfect representative to parliament, but seeks a family representative. The people no longer consider such things as whether their representative is a pain in the neck or not. Many electors have turned to selling their votes on the open market, voting for the one who satisfies their price — perhaps the offer of a luxury job. All in all the people of Aiwo no longer wish to choose an ordinary honest decent working man.

From the Fiji Ministry of Information's publication Fiji, published in Suva, quoting government backbencher Mr P.K. Bhindi in parliament

Mr Speaker, sir: Criticism is easily levelled at members of parliament who seek rises in their own salaries. But who else is going to give us a raise — or a cut — in our remuneration other than ourselves?

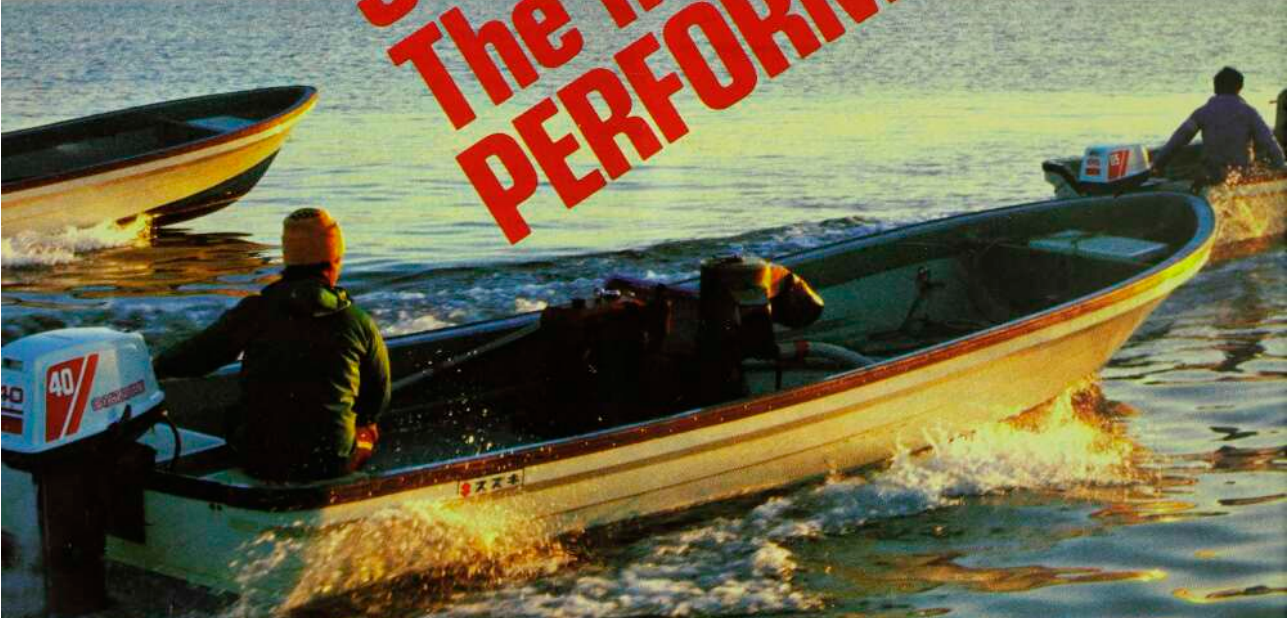
The Nauru Post, reporting a flight from Melbourne to Nauru in an Air Nauru aircraft

The local padre, returning from a goodwill mission, cautiously uncovered his lunch tray and noticed an Ansett serviette, a TAA the friendly way plastic bag with utensils inside, the utensils themselves stamped Alitalia, some JAL sugar and an Air Nauru towellette. He remarked 'This is truly an international airline'.

The Fiji Times, Suva, reporting on claims that the foundations of the National Bank Building in Lautoka were sinking

The building on Naviti Street in the city centre was not 'sinking dangerously', as had been reported last week, the structural engineer, Mr Mike Ali, said. What had happened was that the building had differential settlement, and this was being investigated.

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THE MIDDLE HARBOUR YACHT CLUB reports from Sydney:

About 30 yachts are expected to take part in the 1982 KB Sydney-Suva race of 1730 nautical miles between Australia and Fiji. It is the longest ocean race across the southwest Pacific and will begin in Sydney harbour on May 22. The Governor-General of Australia, Sir Zelman Cowen, has been invited to start the fleet. Arrangements for the 1982 event were launched in Suva at a ceremony attended by representatives of the organising clubs, the Middle Harbour Yacht Club and the Royal Suva Yacht Club.

Pre-entry interest has been shown by Lou Abrahams' *Challenge* from Victoria. *Challenge* finished second in this year's race, and then sailed on to Hawaii to represent Australia in the winning Clipper Cup team.

Doug Jewry from Mooloolaba in Queensland is another owner showing interest. His 18-metre *Siska II* has taken line honours in the Brisbane to Gladstone race off the Australian northeast coast and in the inaugural Brisbane to Noumea ocean race. *Metung*, owned in Victoria by Bill Woodward, is likely to be competing in the Sydney-Suva for the fourth time. Also competing again will be *Widgeon*, skippered by John Bish. Tasmanian yachtsman Hedley Calvert, expects to enter his cruiser-racer *Huon Lass*.

The 1982 Sydney-Suva race has again been timed to be a passage race for yachts on their way to Hawaii for the Clipper Cup series in August in which Australia will again be strongly represented. Last year the first two placegetters in the race, Marshall Phillips' *Sweet*

Caroline and Lou Abrahams' *Challenge*, sailed on to Hawaii and won the Clipper Cup with Syd Fischer's *Ragamuffin*.

JOAN D. PEASE reports from Pago Pago, American Samoa:

• **PATANELA.** This 19.2-metre gaff schooner caused great excitement in the cruising community when it arrived in Pago Pago towing the remains of a ketch salvaged on Suvarrow atoll. Owner Norm and Pat Hunt from Fremantle, Western Australia, spent a month refloating and repairing *Pacific Mariner* which was swept up on a reef with two other yachts in a storm the first week in June. One boat was pulled off immediately, but the hull of *Julia Grande* remains there. The Hunts are negotiating with the owner of the ketch for clear title.

Patanela, which is the Tasmania aboriginal word for 'spirit of the storm', is returning to Australia after a circumnavigation which began from Fremantle on July 31, 1975. The Hunts have visited 42 countries and have avoided the easy routes in favour of adventure.

Crossing the Indian Ocean, they stopped at Cocos Keeling, Diego Garcia, the Seychelles, Mauritius and Reunion. Although they called at anchorages in South Africa for seven months, they decided to enter Europe through the Suez Canal which provided unwanted excitement for the Hunts and their two children who were then aboard. One evening as they were near the canal entrance people on shore fired rifles at them. Although no one was hit, the incident was unnerving. 'We reported this to authorities, but nothing was done,' Norm said.

In the Mediterranean they visited Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Balearic Islands and Gibraltar and

On their way to Whangarei, New Zealand, are the *Pampero* crew: Rob Palmer; and Alice, Ben and Dean Dalla Costa, who visited Pago Pago in August. — Joan D. Pease picture.



then sailed to England where the children were enrolled in school for a year. Norm and Pat then elected to sail the northern route across the Atlantic and called at Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Shetland Islands, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Entering the United States in Maine, they continued down the east coast to Delaware Bay, entered the intracostal waterways and cruised as far south as Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Although the Hunts called at anchorages in the Caribbean, they did not transit the Panama Canal but made many stops in South America — Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, French Guiana, Brazil and Argentina. They went through the Magellan Strait, the route taken by Joshua Slocum, and the Chilean canals. 'Although I'll admit Switzerland and Austria are the most beautiful countries in the world, the Chilean canals would come next,' Norm said. 'It was somewhat like Norway — pure natural beauty and no people for 600 miles.'

Patanela called at Robinson Crusoe, Easter Island and Pitcairn and entered French Polynesia at Mangareva in the Tuamotus. In the Societies the schooner anchored at Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea, Borabora, Maupiti and Mopelia before going on to Suvarrow.

During their six years of cruising the Hunts have had many encounters with port officials — not all

smooth. 'The most difficult was in Yugoslavia where I was locked up because we had anchored overnight during a storm and had no visa. I had to go before a judge with an interpreter and was fined \$25,' Norm said. In Brazil they found that Australians cannot enter without securing a visa beforehand, but were finally granted one. 'The rudest officials were the French in Tahiti,' Pat said. 'They screamed at us because we didn't have a visa yet we were told in the Tuamotus we didn't need one,' she added. 'Our most fantastic and interesting welcome was in America,' Norm said.

The schooner, with *Pacific Mariner* in tow and the Hunts' Mini Moke on deck, will call at Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia before returning to Australia.

• **ADAGIO.** The 10-metre fibreglass sloop *Adagio* which anchored in Pago Pago last November will leave American Samoa soon to sail to Tonga for the hurricane season. Owners Will and Judy Hardy of Columbus Mississippi in USA bought their vessel in Coco Beach, Florida after boat shopping for several months. 'When



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YACHTS

we decided to go cruising we got our money together, put our belongings in two cars and drove along the gulf coast to Miami. Every time we saw a mast, we stopped to inquire,' Will said. Judy added, 'If I had a nickel for every boat we saw, I'd be rich.'

Through persistence they finally found a vessel they could afford which met their needs. As luck would have it the owner had lowered the price by several thousand dollars the day before Will and Judy looked at the sloop. 'In three minutes we knew it was the one we wanted,' Will said. 'We were lucky because after lowering the price the owner took out a newspaper ad which attracted many people, but we made a deposit right away.'

After their purchase the couple worked for a year in Miami to save money for the cruise and set sail in March 1979 calling at the

from USA, and their cat Clyde left Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in April 1980 for an intended circumnavigation. They have owned the yawl for 13 years and have sailed to South America and the Caribbean, so when they left Florida they headed directly to Panama to cross the canal and sail to French Polynesia.

They made an unscheduled stop in the Galapagos which was not the high point it usually is for yachties. Fred had an infected tooth which a dentist extracted. Immigration officials at Wreck Bay would not give the couple the customary three-day visa but still charged them the \$60 processing fee. At the dentist's insistence, they were allowed to stay at anchor for six hours and then continued toward the Marquesas islands. They called at Hiva Oa, Fatu Hiva, Ua Pou and Nuka Hiva.

They lost the rudder from *Loner* in Hiva Oa, and Fred who is a shipwright built a new one with timber he was able to buy on the island. 'I keep my tools aboard, so I built it in the cockpit,' he said. The couple called at anchorages in Tahiti, Moorea, Borabora, Mopelia and Aitutaki before arriving in Pago Pago.

• **TRITON.** The Rawson 30 sloop *Triton* from San Diego in USA called at Pago Pago in August. Owners Bill and Shirley Taylor left their home port in April and made the crossing to Nuka Hiva, in the Marquesas, in 26 days. 'We knocked two days off my previous record. I singlehanded in another boat two years ago and took 28 days to the Marquesas,' Bill said. From Nuka Hiva the Taylors sailed to Tahiti where they spent several weeks and went to Moorea and Borabora. The 9.4-metre sloop then sailed to Pago Pago and is now continuing on to Fiji. How long will they cruise? 'It's open-ended,' said Shirley. 'We're retired and have income property, so we are in no rush.'



Judy and Will Hardy. They plan to shelter *Adagio* in Tonga for the hurricane season. — Joan D. Pease picture.

Bahamas, Haiti and Jamaica before transiting the Panama Canal. They anchored in the Perlas Islands and the Galapagos before arriving in the Marquesas. 'Other than the Bahamas, these are the best cruising grounds we've been in,' Will said. 'The Marquesans were friendly, there was plenty of fruit and beautiful fishing.'

In the Tuamotus, *Adagio* called at Apataki and Takaroa and then sailed to Tahiti. In the Society Islands the sloop stopped at anchorages in Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa and Borabora. Before arriving in Pago Pago, Will and Judy stopped at Suvarrow, and no other boats called during their two weeks on the atoll.

• **LONER.** *Loner* is a 10.9-metre timber yawl, 42 years old, yet owners Fred and Diane Speary keep the vessel in such fine condition the age doesn't show. The Spearys,

**PAUL RYSAVY reports
from Rarotonga, Cook
Islands:**

• **ALCESTE.** Named after the woman in Greek mythology whom Hercules rescued from hell, this 25-year-old 10-metre Buchanan sloop sailed in to Rarotonga in late July. Skipper-owner Dr Ronald Andrews said he was particularly pleased to be visiting Rarotonga again. Ten years ago he made a brief call at Rarotonga when he was doing a circumnavigation in a yacht called *Merlin*. He is accompanied on his present cruise by Jill Bannerman and her 14-year-old son Matthew. The sloop left Plymouth

YACHTS



Fred and Diane Speary from USA on board their yacht *Loner* in Pago Pago. Cat Clyde is unsure whether the photographer is friend or enemy. — Joan D. Pease picture.

in UK 10 months ago and has since visited the Canary Islands, the Caribbean, Panama, the Galapagos, the Marquesas, the Tuamotus and Rarotonga. Dr Andrews has no modern navigation equipment on board and has used sail power alone. In Rarotonga he hopes to repair the small petrol auxiliary engine which broke down about the time he left Panama. His future plans are to call at Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand.

• **PHOENIX II.** This 12.5-metre ketch, registered in Holland, called at Rarotonga briefly on its way to Australia. The yacht, which is sailed solo by Sam Ulyn, left Holland in July 1980 and has since visited England, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Morocco, the Canaries, the West Coast of Africa, Barbados, Grenada, Panama, Ecuador, the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, Tahiti and Rarotonga. Sam is never too long in one place, because he is anxious to see his brother in Western Australia. His brother migrated to Australia 29 years ago and Sam has not seen him since, so this is a long awaited reunion. On the way to Australia, *Phoenix II* will make brief stops at Tonga, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

• **SYLVIA.** Owner-skipper Bob Welles, his wife Sylvia and their sons Scott and Bill sailed their 17-metre Ross-designed ketch *Sylvia* into Rarotonga late in July. Bob was slightly annoyed when he poked to me because he had arrived in the harbour at nine o'clock at night and had been told by the police to put out to sea until morning to await immigration and quarantine procedures. He said that on one-and-a-half times round the world he had never before been told to leave an anchorage at night. He said that Avatiu harbour does not have an easy entrance, and an element of risk was involved in his enforced departure at night. 'But I will find Rarotonga beautiful, although there have been many

changes since 1968,' he said. He said that the number of yachts cruising Cook Island waters had greatly increased since his earlier visit.

• **MANGATEA.** Registered in Seattle in USA, the 14-metre cutter *Mangatea* was one of many cruising yachts which berthed in Avatiu harbour, Rarotonga, in August. The three-year-old modified Atkin designed vessel is owned and skippered by Len Skoog with Carla Heln as sole crew. Len, who is a machinist and boatbuilder, built *Mangatea* himself and began his Pacific cruise in September last year from Seattle. Stops so far have included Mexico, the Marquesas, the Tuamotus, the Societies and Rarotonga. *Mangatea* is making for Tonga and the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. The return cruise plan is indefinite, although Len is thinking of making Seattle 'some time in 1983'.

• **FALCON.** The 14-metre ketch *Falcon*, owned and skippered by Don Anderson, is following a traditional route across the Pacific. Don, who is from San Francisco in USA, bought the seven-year-old yacht in September 1980 and left San Diego in December of that year for Puerto Vallarta in Mexico. From Mexico he sailed to the Marquesas, the Tuamotus and the Societies where the present crew of Sue Miller and Werner Burgi came aboard for the leg to Rarotonga. Don is headed for New Zealand (where he will spend the next hurricane season) via Tonga and Fiji.

• **SAYONARA ALPHA.** 'Le Rolls-Royce de la mer' is how a Tahitian newspaper has described this 32.5-metre yacht which dwarfed all the other yachts in

Avatiu harbour when it reached the Cook Islands. The luxury yacht is registered in Gibraltar but its base is St Croix in the Virgin Islands from where it is chartered out by its British owners. *Sayonara* is skippered by Yugoslav Mehle Michel who has been sailing her, with a crew of only three, for the last six years.

Mehle said that the yacht has so many modern navigational devices and automatic sailing systems that she can be sailed solo. It might be easier to list what conveniences *Sayonara* does not have — the list would be very short indeed. She does not have a swimming pool, but she does have air-conditioning, a fully equipped bar, two compressors for filling scuba cylinders, around ship telephone, wall to wall carpeting, a quadrasonic stereo system, a video system with a library of more than 300 films, a speedboat for waterskiing, deepsea fishing requirements, and a galley that would satisfy a cordon-bleu chef. There is much more. *Sayonara*, after impressing everyone in Rarotonga, left for Suvarrow, a favourite spot of Mehle's, and will then return to St Croix.

JANE DeRIDDER reports from Kerikeri, New Zealand:

• **DONELLA.** The 13.5-metre cutter *Donella* of Hamburg registry is the original Lauren Giles teak *Donella*, another 14 or so of which were built later. Christian and Hannelore Eckhoff of Capetown are the second owners of *Donella*, having bought her in 1975. 'She was way ahead of her time when she was launched in '58 with her short main and big foresail triangle, centre cockpit and walk-through passage-way,' says Eckhoff. Eckhoff had a fertiliser and transport firm north of Capetown employing more than 100 people. He says he got tired of working 16 hours a day and fed up with customers and employees. So he sold everything, flew to England and bought *Donella*.

The Eckhoffs sailed home via the Canaries, Cape Verde and Brazil, reaching Capetown in time for the 1976 Capetown-Rio Race. They have always voyaged as a family, originally with all three of their daughters. With them in New Zealand is Anja, aged 16, now at school in the sixth form at Bay of Islands College. A second daughter is married and living in Brazil, a third in Sweden. Christian Eckhoff tells the horrifying story of the time that *Donella*, heading for Nova Scotia, encountered the classic wind-against-current confused seas in the Gulf Stream between Bermuda and Newport, Rhode

Island. His daughter's fiancé was swept overnight at night. They managed to pick up the young man after he'd been in the water only 20 minutes. Eckhoff mentions that many a time he has told the tale to fellow yachtsmen who have then checked out their own man-over-board gear only to discover that it was not in working order.

• **CAIRA.** Inge and Werner Friedrich adapted the name for their fibreglass 12-metre Van de Stadt cruising vessel from a French expression which they say translates colloquially into 'she'll be right'. Werner Friedrich bought *Caira* in Majorca in 1976 and brought her home through rivers in Europe to Wesel on the Rhine in Germany where he and Inge owned and operated a business selling boat



Inge and Werner Friedrich, cruising the Pacific in *Caira*. — Jane DeRidder picture.

safety equipment. They intend to spend the next few years cruising the Pacific 'as long as possible, dependent on money and health'. After a hurricane season in New Zealand the Friedrichs sailed to New Caledonia. Their immediate plans are for visits to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

• **BARONES** (it's pronounced baroness). Al Mayes, a paper mill engineer from Los Angeles in USA and his Dutch-born wife Rita Groot — she's a psychologist-writer who goes by her maiden name — sailed from New Zealand to Noumea in their 10.6-metre Holiday class yawl *Barones*. The yawl, a Van der Stadt design, was built in Aalsmeer in the Netherlands in 1959 and the Mayes have owned her for 10 years. Before leaving New Zealand they hauled the mahogany-planked yawl at Deemings slipway just across from Opua wharf. Al says, 'They still know how to do work on wooden boats. We learned a lot.' Though the Mayes

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Rita Groot and Al Mayes alongside the 10 m yawl *Barones*. — Jane DeRidder picture.

have now been cruising for three years and have spent two summers in New Zealand, they say that it seems as if they've only just got started. Meanwhile they intend to hang on to their New Zealand charts, just in case.

• **WANDERLURE.** This schooner built by John Aldin in 1923, and belonging to Art Hammond of Green Valley in Arizona, USA, continues to wander through the islands of the South Pacific. Mamie Putt, a New Zealander, is sharing *Wanderlure's*

adventures with Art. Art, a one-time electrical contractor, has been cruising in *Wanderlure* for 20 years. Before coming to the South Pacific, *Wanderlure* cruised Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Art paused for some time in Panama where he worked for the Panama Canal Company and where he refitted and redecked the schooner. Art enjoys poking around out of the way places, the seldom visited Kermadecs for instance, and has cruised more off-beat islands than most other long-time cruisers. They recently recuperated from a rough passage to Noumea. Plans are to continue on to Vanuatu. That will be a fourth visit in as many years.

• **POLARIS** is an unusual-looking ketch with its two fibreglass sport fishing outrigger poles hanging out five metres each side of the mainmast like a giant insect's antennae. They are supports for a 20-metre dipole antenna hoisted on the main halyard. John and Nancy Alexander talk to their family regularly by means of ham radio from wherever they happen to be. A son and son-in-law are both amateur radio operators. John and Nancy sailed as far as New Zealand which they visited for two successive summers. They are now on the last leg of their return trip to the US west coast via Aitutaki, Tahiti and Hawaii. Alexander, an aeronautical engineer, retired early from Boeing. He and his wife left on their Seattle registered CT 41 for their Pacific cruise just a month after his retirement. John would like to start a consulting business when he gets back, using his mathematical background and cruising experience. 'We could have used such a service when we were fitting out,' he said.

• **GLAYVA.** This powerful 15-metre British yacht made the passage from Opuia, in New Zealand, to Suva in just seven days. She left in mid-July with strong winter

southerlies to speed her on her way. *Glavya*, (the name of a fine Scottish liqueur) is a Ted Hood design fibreglass vessel which Tony Hallsworth of Lancaster completed himself, then singlehanded to New Zealand four years ago. No longer a solo sailor, Tony sailed from Kerikeri, his base for the past few years, with his Tokyo born wife Miwako (Mia), and his 17-month-old son Douglas, born in New Zealand. Ken Hart of Kerikeri also made the trip to Suva to gain experience in offshore voyaging.

First mate Mia is an experienced blue water voyager. She made the trip from Los Angeles to New Zealand four years ago in the 15-metre steel ketch *Polack*. She and Tony met in several ports along their shared route, including Rarotonga and Suva. Tony, a gunsmith by trade, has worked at a variety of jobs during his stay in New Zealand. He built the Kerikeri Stone Store Tearooms, and skippered the Kerikeri River sightseeing launch, *Ernest Kemp*. After several weeks in Fiji, Tony and Mia intend to island-hop through Kiribati, the Marshalls, the Carolines and the Marianas, hoping to arrive in Japan by May. They will first head up to Japan's Inland Sea.

Glavya will probably spend two summers in Japan before returning to Kerikeri in four years for Douglas to start school.

• **POLETTE.** Basil and Nancy Campion left Auckland on their 12-metre steel ketch *Polette* in early May bound for Indonesia. Basil, owner of an Auckland engineering firm, built *Polette* after completing a circumnavigation on his previous much larger steel ketch, *Polack*. Mia Hallsworth sailed in *Polack* from Los Angeles. The Hallsworths and the Campions recently cruised together again when *Glavya* and *Polette* spent New Year together in Whangaroa Harbour in Northland, New Zealand.

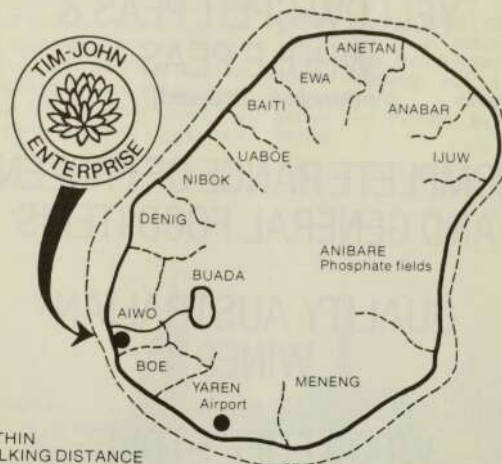
• **MAKANI.** Captain John Littler and his wife Elizabeth, both originally from Canada, sailed their Formosa 41 Sea Tiger *Makani* from Opuia in New Zealand to Lautoka in Fiji. With them was Ashley Bain, formerly of Suva. The Canadian couple made the same passage some years ago when they sailed their 13-metre catamaran *Doubloon* to Fiji. They cruised there for many months and later sold *Doubloon* to take up citrus growing in Kerikeri, New Zealand.

Captain Littler, who retired from the Royal Canadian Navy with the



British yacht *Glavya*: Opuia to Suva in just seven days. — Basil Campion picture.

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Liz Littler, Captain John Littler
and Ashley Bain about to leave
Opua in the 13 m ketch *Makani*.
— Jane DeRidder picture.

rank of commodore, was at one time captain of the cruiser *Ontario*. Ashley Bain too has strong ties with the sea for his Danish Emberson ancestors include seafarers and ship builders. The last boat that his grandfather built was the *Kadavu Levu*. Friends and family in Tonga and Fiji will be interested to learn that Ashley has returned to the UK to complete his degree in economics. The Littlers will spend several months once again enjoying cruising in Fijian waters. Liz says 'We have really had a rousing welcome from everyone here — in fact it feels like coming home.'

MICHAEL PRAIN re- ports from Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea:

• KETCH-UP. An Australian radio amateur 3000 kilometres away stayed on duty in his station for 19 hours in August supervising the rescue of six people from the 16-metre US ketch *Ketch-up* which was a total loss after striking a reef between Papua New Guinea and Australia. The ham operator, Don Reimann, in Perth, Western Australia, heard the ketch's mayday at night. He established radio contact and maintained calls every 30 minutes while a PNG Defence Force patrol boat went to the yacht on Portlock Reef in the Torres Strait region. The rescue bid was put into operation after Reimann alerted Australian marine authorities who then contacted PNG.

Reimann stayed in contact with the owner-skipper of the grounded yacht, Boris Levin, a retired doctor from Los Angeles USA, until the patrol boat *Madang* arrived at the reef. Landed later in Port Moresby Dr Levin said 'The man on the radio was a fantastic guy — he saved our lives. Anything could have happened to us if we had stayed on that reef.'

Ketch-up earlier had sailed north

to PNG along the Australian east coast, and was making for northern Australia out of Port Moresby when the grounding occurred in darkness.

On board with Dr Levin was his wife Barbara, an American man and woman, an Englishman and a Swiss woman. They salvaged some of their personal belongings, but little else. Efforts by the yacht's crew and sailors from the patrol boat to haul the yacht from the reef by using anchors and winches failed. At one stage, the patrol boat's aluminium dinghy tipped, spilling its crew into the water. The yacht was eventually pushed off the reef by rough seas and into water about 70 metres deep.

A Port Moresby salvage expert who later went to the reef in a tugboat reported that the yacht was beyond saving. Dr Levin had owned it for nine years and had cruised to the Pacific Islands, Central America, Australia and New Zealand.

PETER McQUARRIE reports from Funafuti, Tuvalu:

• DAYSPRING III. The 22.5-metre Dayspring III was a recent visitor to Funafuti from Suva. This interesting yacht is an all-steel ketch, and its masts and main boom are also of steel. *Dayspring* is sailed by Ron and Aggie Russell who sell Christian literature throughout the islands. They are accompanied by a crew of seven. The Russells visited Tuvalu in 1973 in the smaller ferroceement *Dayspring I* and called at seven of the nine islands of the Tuvalu group. This visit they also hope to include Nukulaelae which was missed last time. *Dayspring* is carrying bibles for the Bible Society in the South Pacific.

Yachtsman Webb Chiles, who left San Diego on the US west coast in November 1978, is now in Malaysia and well on his way to singlehanded his 5.5-metre open yawl *Chidiok Tichborne* round the world in five years. JOHN B. HART writes here about the Pacific leg of the venture, and how Chiles made history late last year when he sailed into Cairns in northern Australia. It was the first US-Australia crossing in an open boat, and included a disastrous capsized east of Vanuatu.

Crossing the Pacific with oar and sail

'I am striking a blow for small boats everywhere' were the words of Webb Chiles when he put to sea from Mission Bay, San Diego, in November 1978 to cross the Pacific on the first leg of a five-year voyage round the world in an open boat. There was no wind, so he rowed his 5.5-metre British-made yawl *Chidiok Tichborne* out to sea with 32 000 miles ahead of him.

Webb, now 38, first became known as a world voyager when he sailed the 11-metre cutter *Eggregious* round the world in 202 sailing days in 1975-76. *Storm Passage*, his book about the voyage, is still a best-seller among nautical publications. His current exploit in *Chidiok* took him first from San Diego to the Marquesas, and despite the lack of wind at the start he made the 3000-mile crossing in 34 days and nights — surprisingly fast for such a small craft. He suffered one knockdown from a 50-knot wind gust, but the boat righted itself immediately and he sailed on without further incident.

His first landfall was in Nuku Hiva's glorious Taiohae Bay in the Marquesas, where Maurice McKittrick's island store welcomed him with all the French vanilla ice cream he could eat. Fewer than 50 boats call at this mountainous Marquesan island each year. A small airstrip now receives one flight a week from Tahiti, but the visitor finds no hotels, no restaurants, no bars and no honkytonks in this remote north-eastern corner of French Polynesia where nothing much has changed over the past 100 years.

Ending nearly three weeks in the Marquesas, Webb pointed *Chidiok* toward Tahiti, 900 miles to the southwest, on January 3 1979. After skirting the dangerous Tuamotu archipelago close to the huge atoll of Rangiroa, Webb raised Point Venus light in a mere 10 days — a creditable performance. Nearby was historic Matavai Bay where sailing captains Cook, Wallis and Bligh had anchored in earlier centuries.

Next morning, instead of an uneventful couple of hours to Papeete harbour, a sudden tropical storm began to blow engineless little *Chidiok Tichborne* clear round the island of Tahiti the wrong way. It meant 100 extra miles in four rough days and nights. For one stretch Chiles was at the helm more than 33 hours straight, as Lindbergh was when he flew solo from New York to Paris. South of the isthmus separating Tahiti and Tahiti-Iti — near Mataiea where Maugham wrote *The Moon and Sixpence* — Webb had to row frantically to avoid being run down by a wide-swinging ship under tow. 'It was my closest call since leaving San Diego — there's danger even in Paradise' was Webb's comment later.

When Webb finally tied up in Papeete he slept solidly for 24 hours. Mum Stuart, from the waterfront hotel bearing her name (she died this year at the age of 84), said 'That nice American boy on little sailboat, he sleep such a long time with no wake-up at all. He very tired.'

Webb's wife Suzanne flew from California to join him in French Polynesia, and they spent three

months on board *Chidiok* exploring Tahiti and the outer islands of Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa and Borabora.

Alone again, Webb sailed *Chidiok* out of Borabora and after a slow 16-day passage sighted mountainous American Samoa. 'The winds blew every which way except from the south-east as they are supposed to do,' he said. On July 14 (Bastille day back in Tahiti) *Chidiok* found a mooring beneath the towering green hillsides which surround spectacular Pago Pago harbour. Suzanne rejoined him after a flight from Papeete, but there was little opportunity for local cruising because of the pounding surf and lack of safe anchorages. 'Too Americanised' was their comment on Pago Pago and its hinterland.

Webb's next stage was 340 miles south to the Vavau islands of Tonga, and he reached beautiful fjord-like Neiafu harbour on August 13 after a run of five days. Fifty miles further south lies yet another perfect group of cruising gems known as the Haapai islands. Webb found tranquil cruising in the islands of Tonga, but warned that it was easy for a yachtsman to become temporarily lost because so many of the uninhabited islands look alike with their white sand beaches and good anchorages.

Suzanne flew from American Samoa to join Webb for days of idyllic cruising among the Tongan islands, and then flew on to Fiji which was to be *Chidiok's* next landfall. Early on September 6 Webb shaped a compass course of 275 degrees for Fiji, and he covered the 500 miles in a fast five days.

On September 11 Webb steered *Chidiok* into the Suva harbour area marked customs and pratique, and the officials merely smiled and wished him a pleasant stay in their

country. His reputation had gone ahead of him. Webb and Suzanne spent a month round the main island, Viti Levu, and the picturesque outer islands. They found life in Suva particularly satisfying and spoke highly of the venerable Royal Suva Yacht Club and the Bay of Islands anchorage off the Trade-winds Hotel.

In November, *Chidiok* was trailered to high ground near Suva to wait out Oceania's December to March hurricane season. A loyal young civil service employee who had befriended the Chiles promised to protect the boat.

Webb and Suzanne booked passage to Auckland aboard a luxurious yacht named *Cyclone*. Its owners, Gene and Kathy Taatjes from Minnesota, USA, charter comfortable crewed cruises any where in the South Pacific. After a month's visit to New Zealand, the Chiles were at home in San Diego for the remainder of the winter of 1980. Webb wrote articles and gave slide shows about his voyage, the first leg of a history-making trip around the world.

The middle of April found Webb back in Fiji again, readying his little sailboat for more adventures at sea. On May 7, with the tradewinds to speed him on his way, he set sail for the New Hebrides, now Vanuatu.

Three nights later *Chidiok* crashed into a submerged object and pitched down the face of a wave. Her masts were shattered and she filled with water. 'But we remained afloat,' Webb says, 'and right side up.'

'Nearly everything on board was lost,' he continued, 'even my bailing

Webb Chiles rows *Chidiok Tichborne* to a mooring in Mission Bay, San Diego, shortly before setting out on his singlehanded circumnavigation. — Picture by Ralph Saylor.



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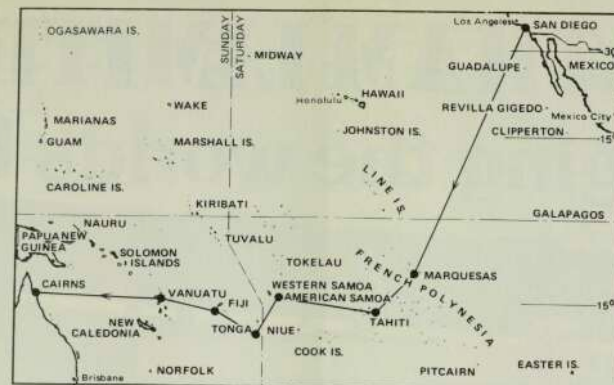
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bucket was torn out of its handle.' Some \$4500 worth of gear went over the side — sextant, radio direction finder, food, clothing, charts, compass, and a new typewriter. Somehow Webb inflated his Whaler raft, climbed in with emergency rations, and tied himself, the dinghy, and his boat all together to await daylight.

The flimsy flotilla drifted ever so slowly for two weeks on a one-knot current 300 miles to safety. 'From our position on the night of the collision,' Chiles remembers, 'the direction and rate of drift were what I expected.' But he cut food to the bare minimum for survival just in case he missed his hoped-for landfall in southern Vanuatu. The next land lay a long, lonely 2000 miles beyond. So Webb's skimpy diet consisted of four biscuits for breakfast, a vitamin pill for lunch, half a can of tuna for supper, and six sips of water during the day.

When finally found by kindly residents of the remote island of Emae, Webb was huddled under a soggy blanket beside his liferaft on a beach. They saw to it that he was flown by Air Melanesia 50 miles to Port-Vila's small but modern hospital. Doctors found symptoms of malnutrition and exhaustion, plus a minor skin infection on his hands and feet. But luckily Chiles suffered



no lasting health problems as a result of his harrowing experience.

Recuperating at the home of his wife's parents in New Zealand, Webb ordered repair parts for *Chidiack* from England and made plans for returning to his open-boat circumnavigation as soon as possible. Because he had been harbour-bound for so long making ready to set sail again after the bad luck, Chiles felt 'bogged down' in the South Pacific Islands. So on October 9, 1980, he embarked on a bold passage straight across the Coral Sea to Cairns, some 1500 miles westward.

Since *Chidiack* had been towed

from Emae to Port-Vila for refitting, Webb swung north again to cross the track he followed while drifting in May. He wanted to make certain the epic voyage around the world continued without a break in course, and by sail preferably but with oars when necessary. After two years and thousands of miles at sea, Father Neptune allowed a 'fast, smooth, comfortable trip' toward a huge, easy-to-find target — the obliging continent of Australia. In fact, during the first 8 days and 1000 miles of true tradewind sailing Webb never had to touch a line or trim a sail.

A noon sight on October 23 put

YACHTS

Chidiack only 60 miles off the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, and about 30 miles south of Cairns. By evening, navigation lights became visible as the tiny yawl made for Fitzroy Island. Within 10 miles of Cairns itself, Webb finally saw the famous reef (or parts of it) beneath his keel for the first time.

'Why not anchor for the night right here?' he asked himself. 'The water is shallow, the moon bright, the sea smooth. And the coastal forecast is for calm conditions.' After Webb furled his sails and raised the centreboard, *Chidiack* went aground briefly on a falling tide. So land, at least the coral kind, was actually reached only 15 days out of Port-Vila.

It took him all the following day to reach an anchorage near the aboriginal mission in the lee of Cape Grafton, and every single breath of air was utilised. Then Sunday October 26 was truly a day of rest with no wind at all. Even on Monday, Webb had to row halfway to Cairns before finding a helpful sea breeze to carry him in to port.

About noon, after convincing harbour officers he had actually arrived from a foreign country, Webb telephoned Suzanne. She was already with friends in Brisbane, further south on the coast, awaiting his call.

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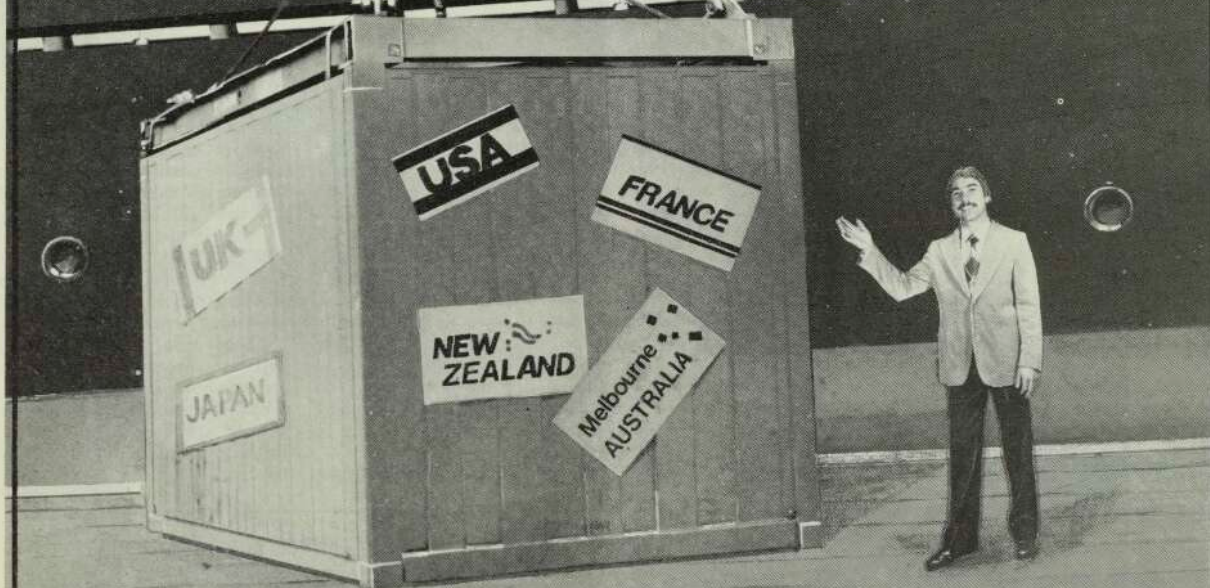
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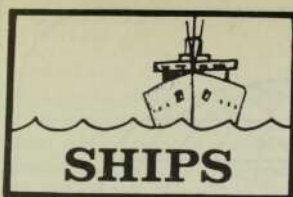


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SET 004



New plans for PNG shipping

The financially-troubled Papua New Guinea Shipping Corporation is entering an arrangement with Bougainville Copper Limited to provide an export service for PNG products to the USA west coast. The corporation will use BCL-chartered vessels to provide the shipping space needed for USA shipments, mainly made up of coffee, cocoa and specialised timber.

The arrangement follows what the corporation describes as its 'disastrous venture' into operating a service to the USA. The service was operated last year and early this year by the freighter *Niugini Chief*, but each voyage was operated at a loss and contributed to the liquidity problems which the

line now faces. The corporation reported in September that the charter of *Niugini Chief* had concluded, and a careful study was being made of overseas and coastal operations to increase efficiency, establish a profit situation and provide essential import and export services. The new arrangement for handling exports to USA under agreement with Bougainville Copper was expected to contribute to these aims. The first voyage under the new arrangements has already been made by the freighter *Zep Hunter*.

The PNG Shipping Corporation is a locally-based organisation established with government backing to involve PNG equity in overseas shipping and in coastal services. The operation is considered to be financially sound in the long term, but at June this year the corporation and its subsidiaries had an accumulated loss of about \$500 000 and the corporation was forced to come to arrangements with its creditors because of liquidity problems.

The directors held a series of conferences in September to review operations, and during

October they plan to put before creditors a plan which they believe will allow the corporation to trade out of its difficulties. Legal negotiations indicate that the plan is likely to be accepted, and the corporation believes it can return to an earning situation by the end of this year.

Tug and salvage operations carried out by the corporation may be closed down as a result of the current review, or the corporation may enter into a joint arrangement with another operator.

Meanwhile the PNG Transport Minister, Mr Okuk, has expressed confidence in the ability of the corporation to retrieve its financial situation.

Tuvalu concern over shipping

Tuvalu is becoming increasingly concerned at a lack of shipping services for passengers and cargoes and is threatening to withdraw from the Pacific Forum Line if the line is unable to provide a service. Tuvalu is one of the member countries of the line and has made financial

contributions under a formula agreed to by the member countries.

The Forum Line earlier provided a charter service to Tuvalu, but the size of the ships now operated by the line makes it uneconomic to call there because of the comparatively small value of trade. Tuvalu's High Commissioner in Fiji, Mr Kamuta Latasi, said recently that he had been instructed to formally indicate that his country would leave the line if a shipping service could not be provided.

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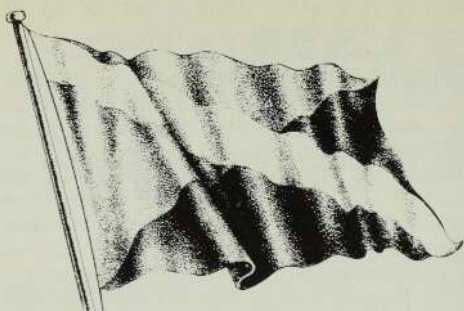
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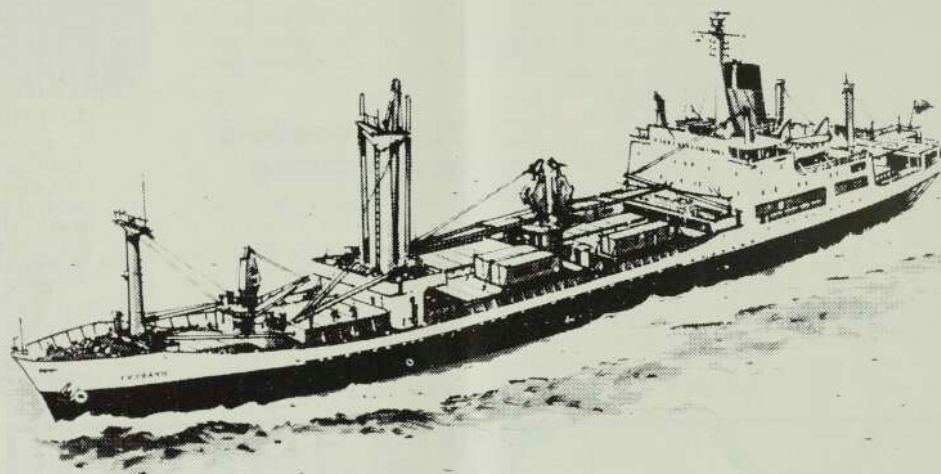
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SHIPS

Mr Latasi said he appreciated the economics of the operation in relation to Tuvalu, but there was no point in providing financial support for the line if no service was being received. He said that Tuvalu required the services of a ship of about 300 tonnes with general and refrigerated cargo facilities and with passenger accommodation.

A spokesman for the Forum Line said that the line had initially met its commitments to Tuvalu by chartering the ship *Ai Sokula* to provide an economic link between Tuvalu and the region. The service had ceased when the ship grounded on a reef. Attempts to provide a new service were now being made under a general review of the line's operations. The proposed service would link Tuvalu with Western Samoa and the Tokelau Islands, and possibly with Kiribati.

Australian aid for containers

Australia is to provide \$1.5 million to buy containers for the

Pacific Forum Shipping Line. The Australian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, announced this at a private meeting with leaders of Island countries while the leaders were in Vanuatu for this year's conference of Forum countries. The issue of Australian aid in relation to Forum shipping is a sensitive one because of Australia's earlier attitudes expressed at a meeting of regional heads of Commonwealth countries. Australia said then that any aid for Forum shipping would need to be at the expense of general development aid.

The Australian decision to finance containers for the line has liberalised this attitude.

Sea tests for patrol boat

A new type of patrol boat developed in USA and Australia is expected to have application to Pacific Island situations as Island governments intensify their controls over the 200-mile marine resource limits. The new type of boat, the

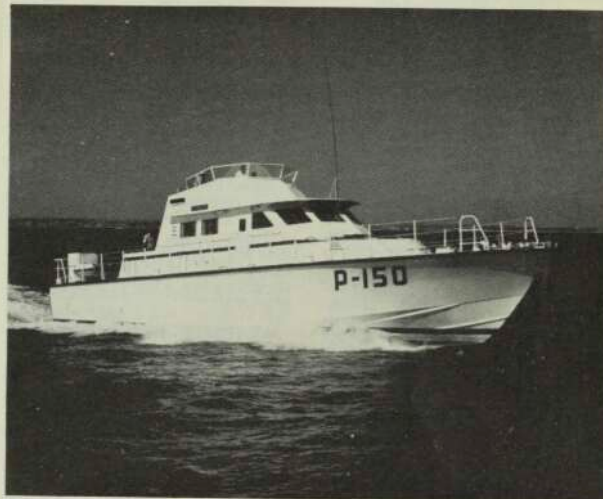
prototype named *Project 150*, was commissioned by a consortium of businessmen in Western Australia and designed by C. Raymond Hunt Associates of Boston in USA.

It is built in Perth, Western

Project 150 undergoing trials off the Western Australian coast. The hull is of foam-sandwich fibreglass, with aluminium deck and superstructure.

Australia, using a moulded fibreglass hull and the prototype is at present undergoing trials and giving demonstrations.

The 25-metre patrol boat carries a crew of six. It cruises at 19 knots with a sprint speed of 30. It is described as an offshore surveillance craft with design flexibility for a number of applications.

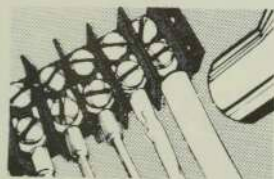


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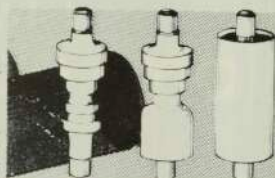
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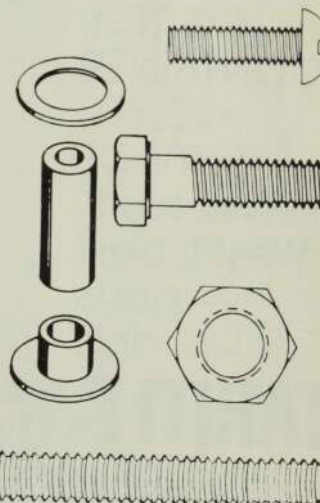
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Should any shipping company wish to have its services — cargo and passenger — included in these listings they should contact PIM

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Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd operates monthly cargo services from Sydney to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (232-1011), Dalgety Shipping, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne (60-0731), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

Sofrana-Unilines (Fiji Express Line) operates to Suva and Lautoka every three weeks from the main ports on the east coast of Australia and monthly to Lautoka from Melbourne and Sydney.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 19 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031), Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne (67-9162), ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane (221-3116), Elders-ANL Pty Ltd, Port Adelaide (47-5688), ANL, Newcastle (049-24364), Clements & Marshall, Burnie, Tasmania (31-1833), Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson St, Suva, Fiji (312-244), Tlx 2199 FJ.

AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA - FIJI - SAMOAS - TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully

containerised service (Gen/Reefer) from Sydney to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago and Nuku'alofa.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, Sydney, Union Bulkships, Sydney and Melbourne; SATO, Noumea; Australian National Line, Brisbane, Burns Philp (SS) Co, Lautoka, Suva and Apia; Union Co, Nuku'alofa; Polynesia Shipping Services, Pago Pago or Pacific Forum Line Head Office, Apia.

AUSTRALIA - LORD HOWE IS - NORFOLK IS

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates four-weekly cargo service Sydney - Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island.

Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

AUSTRALIA - KIRIBATI

Karlander operates a 5/6 weekly service from Melbourne and Sydney to Kiribati (Tarawa).

Details: Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (232-1011).

AUSTRALIA - NAURU - KIRIBATI

Nauru Pacific Line operates regular cargo/passenger service from Melbourne to Nauru and Tarawa.

Details: Nauru Corporation (Vic) Inc (Shipping Division), Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne (653-5709), Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

AUSTRALIA - NEW CALEDONIA (AND/OR) VANUATU

Sofrana-Unilines ships serve Noumea every three weeks from the main ports along the east Australian coast.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 19 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031), Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne (67-9162), ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane (221-3116), Elders-ANL

Pty Ltd, Port Adelaide (47-5688), ANL, Newcastle (049-24364), Clements & Marshall, Burnie, Tasmania (31-1833).

Compagnie des Chargeurs Caledoniens operates a three-weekly containerised cargo service from Sydney to Noumea.

Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671).

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break bulk cargo.

Details: Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

AUSTRALIA - NZ - FIJI - HAWAII - US

P & O liners call at Auckland, Suva, Pago Pago and Honolulu on eastbound and westbound voyages between Sydney and the US.

Details from P & O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (231-6655).

AUSTRALIA - NZ - FIJI - TONGA - VANUATU - NOUMEA - SOLOMONS - SAMOAS - TAHITI

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise programme to include most of the above countries.

Details from Sitmar Cruises, 47 Elizabeth Street, Sydney (232-7511).

AUSTRALIA - NZ - FIJI - TONGA - VANUATU - NOUMEA - SOLOMONS - SAMOAS - TAHITI

P & O liners call at Auckland, Bay of Islands, Honiara, Lautoka, Noumea, Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Papeete, Port Moresby, Santo, Savusavu, Suva, Vavau and Vila on cruises from Australia.

Details from P & O Booking Centre, World Travel Headquarters Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh Street, Sydney (231-6655).

Pacific Forum Line operates con-

tainerized and general cargo service from Australia and NZ to Fiji, Apia, Pago Pago, Tonga and other South Pacific ports.

Details from Polynesia Shipping Services Inc, PO Box 1478, Pago Pago 96799.

AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC ISLANDS - SOUTH EAST ASIA - CHINA

Minghua Cruises operates regular cruise services from Sydney to most Pacific ports, with several cruises to South East Asia, including Japan and Hong Kong.

Details: Minghua Cruises, 7 Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 and all Burns Philp Travel offices in Australia.

AUSTRALIA - PNG

Karlander New Guinea Line's cargo vessels call at Melbourne, Sydney, Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Wewak, Manus, Kimbe, Rabaul, Popondetta.

Details from Karlander (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (232-1011), DALGETY Shipping, 461 Bourke Street, Melbourne (60-0731).

AUSTRALIA - PNG - SOLOMONS

A consortium of Conpac, NGAL/PNGL have three container vessels operating on a 28 day turn-around from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kavieng, Wewak, Madang, Kieta and Honiara.

Details from Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (2-0547) and InterOcean Swire, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (2-0522).

New Guinea Express Lines operates a fortnightly container service from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Aitau, Rabaul, Honiara.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange, Sydney (241-3991), MacArthur Shipping Agency Co, 39 Creek Street, Brisbane (229-3777), New Guinea Express Lines, 327 Collins Street, Melbourne



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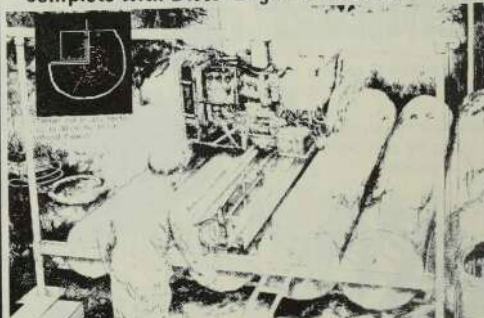
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(61-3053), Niugini Express Lines, Port Moresby (21-4572); Lae (42-1536), Rabtrad Niugini Pty Ltd, Rabaul (92-2911), Aiotau Stevedoring & Transport, Aiotau (61-1318) and Island Co-operative Shipping Federation, Honiara (808).

Sofrana-Unilines (PNG Line) operates a monthly service to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta, Honiara from main ports on the east coast of Australia.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines, 19 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2031); Trans-Austral Shipping Pty Ltd, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne (67-9162); ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane (221-3116); Elders ANL Pty Ltd, Port Adelaide (47-5688).

AUSTRALIA - TAHITI

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney to Papeete for containerised and break-bulk cargo.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

AUSTRALIA - TAHITI - US

Karlender operates a monthly cargo service from Melbourne and Sydney to Papeete, US west coast.

Details: Karlender (Aust) Pty Ltd, 19-31 Pitt Street, Sydney (232-1011).

AUSTRALIA - W. SAMOA

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney to Apia.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

FAR EAST - FIJI - NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (NZUE) operates a monthly palletised cargo service from Manila, Keelung, Kaoshiung and Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and thence to NZ.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson Street, Suva (312-244).

Burns Philp, Suva (311-777), P & O S.N. Co, Wellington (736-477) or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney (20-522).

Nedlloyd operates bi-weekly cargo service with four ships from Sourabaya, Jakarta, Bangkok, Port Kelang and Singapore to Suva and NZ ports.

Details from Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, 8 Spring St, Sydney (27 3801), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

FAR EAST - MID-S. PACIFIC

China Navigation's New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Port Kelang and Singapore to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Honiara monthly and to Wewak, Madang and Kieta every three months. The South Pacific Islands of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Rarotonga and Tarawa are covered by a monthly container/ro-ro service via Japan.

Details from Steamships Trading Co., Port Moresby (21-2000).

Kyowa Shipping Ltd, operates monthly services from Hong Kong, Taiwan, S. Korea and Japan, to Guam, Saipan, Solomons, New Caledonia, Fiji, Western and American Samoa, Tahiti, Cook Is., Tonga and Vanuatu.

Details: Hetherington Kingsbury Pty Ltd, 37-49 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-1671); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (312-244).

JAPAN - FIJI - NEW ZEALAND

China Navigation, operates a monthly service from main ports Japan to Suva and Lautoka and thence Noumea and NZ.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thompson St, Suva (312-244).

JAPAN - PNG

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines operates a monthly service from main ports Japan and Port Moresby, Rabaul, Lae, Madang, Kieta and Kimbe.

Details from Robert-Laurie (PNG) Pty

Ltd, Port Moresby (21-2466/21-1898).

NEW CALEDONIA - FIJI - WEST COAST NORTH AMERICA

PAD Line operates an approx. 3-weekly ro-ro service from Noumea and Suva to Honolulu and West Coast USA and Canadian ports.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines SA, BP 1602, Noumea (27-51-91), Tlx NM048; Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson St., Suva (312-244), Tlx FJ2199.

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Papua New Guinea Mainport Liner Services offer scheduled 10/20-day coastal liner services linking all PNG mainports with containerisation, reefer, heavy lift and transshipment facilities.

Details from PNG Mainport Liner Services, Box 1448, Lae, PNG (42-3537), Tlx PNG 42465.

PNG - NORTH AUSTRALIA

Papua New Guinea Line offers a 60-day service from Port Moresby, Lae and Vanimo to Darwin with through bills of lading from West Coast North American ports. Inducement calls at Weipa and Gove.

Details from PNG Shipping Corporation, Box 543, Port Moresby, PNG (21-1174), Tlx PNG 22269.

PNG - KIRIBATI - SOLOMONS - WEST COAST USA

Papua New Guinea Line offers a 60-day service from Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Kieta to San Francisco and Los Angeles with inducement at Vancouver and stop-off calls at Tarawa and Honiara. Through bills from all PNG mainports and mini-bridge services to other US and Canadian destinations.

Details from PNG Shipping Corporation, Box 543, Port Moresby, PNG (21-1174), Tlx PNG 22269; or from TFC Shipping, 100 California St, San Francisco, CA, USA (415 398-1604), Tlx 340958 GTS UR SFO.

PNG - UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Port Moresby, Oro Bay, Kieta, Rabaul, Kimbe, Madang and Lae to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, PNG ports.

SOLOMONS - UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line operates regular cargo service from Honiara to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041); Tradco Shipping (588).

NZ - COOK IS - NIUE - TAHITI

Shipping Corporation of NZ Ltd operates cargo services based on pallets and similar units from Auckland to Niue, Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Details from the Shipping Corp of NZ Ltd, PO Box 3420, Auckland (797-210), Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Rarotonga; Cook Islands; Niue Govt Offices, Niue Island Compagnie Maritime Polynésienne, B'P 368, Papeete, Tahiti.

NZ - FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18-day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies, PO Box 3382, Auckland, NZ (77-1221-3); M.V. Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd, Private Bag, Suva, Fiji (31 1056).

Pacific Line with one ship operates fortnightly ro-ro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva.

Details: Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs Street, Auckland (773-279) PO Box 3614, Telex: NZ2313; Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson Street, Suva (312244), Tlx: 2199 FJ.

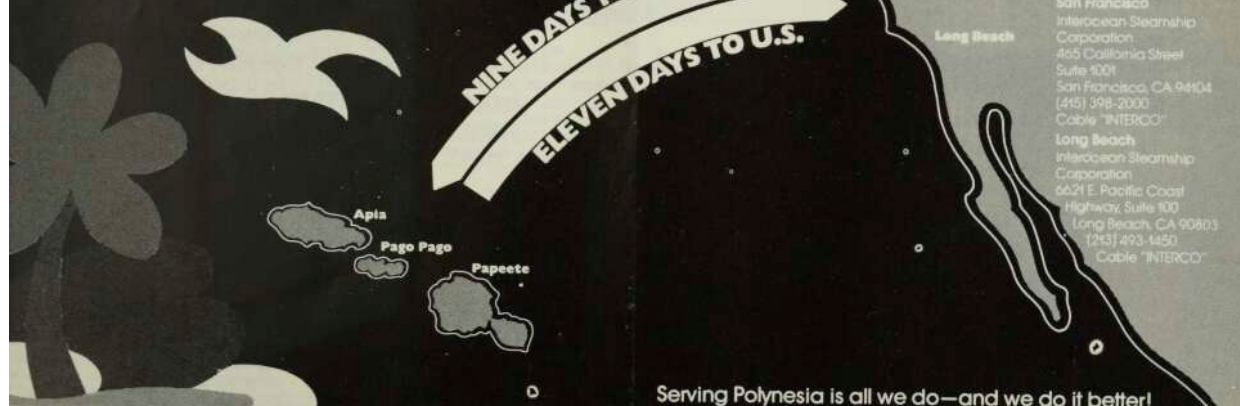
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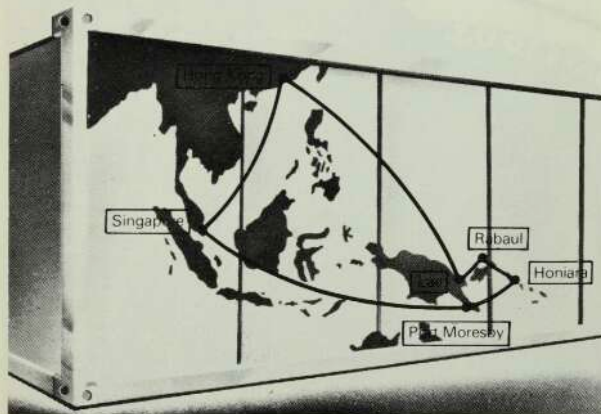
For further details on the new Dragon Boat service contact:

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Steamship Trading Co., Ltd.

Port Moresby
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HONG KONG
Swire Shipping (Agencies) Ltd.
Telephone: 5-264311

SINGAPORE
Straits Shipping Pte. Ltd.
Telephone: 436071



NZ - FIJI - NORTH AMERICA (WC)

Blue Star Line Ltd Pacific Coast container services. Only direct service to and from New Zealand. Blue Star vessels call at Suva and Honolulu on NZ-US-West Coast voyages.

Details from Blueport ACT (NZ) Ltd, PO Box 192, Wellington (739-029), Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva, Fiji (311-777). Tlx. FJ2168 Burship.

NZ - FIJI - SAMOAS - TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised three-weekly service (Gen/Reefer) from Auckland to Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago and Nuku'alofa.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, Auckland; Union Co, Auckland, Lautoka, Suva, Apia and Nuku'alofa; Polynesia Shipping Services, Pago Pago or Pacific Forum Line Head Office, Apia.

NZ - TONGA - SAMOA

Warner Pacific Line operates a regular cargo service from Timaru, Onehunga and Westport to Nukualofa, Vavau and Apia with regular calls to Haapai and Pago Pago.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, PO Box 1372, Auckland, NZ; Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nukualofa, Tonga and Neiafu, Vavau, Tonga; Polynesia Shipping Services, Box 1478, Pago Pago; and Molua Folau Shipping Co, Box 4171, Apia, W. Samoa.

NZ - N. CALEDONIA - FIJI - SOLOMONS - PNG

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (Gen/Reefer) from Lyttelton, Napier, Auckland to Suva, Lautoka, Honiara, Kieta, Lae and Port Moresby.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, Auckland; Shipping Corporation of NZ, Auckland, Lyttelton, Napier; Union Co, Auckland, Suva, Lautoka; Steamships Trading Co, Kieta, Lae, Port Moresby; Sullivan's (SI) Ltd, Honiara or Pacific Forum Line Head Office, Apia.

NZ - N. CALEDONIA - VANUATU - PNG - SOLOMONS

Sofrana Unilines with three ships operates to Vila and Santo, to Honiara and Papua New Guinea and to Norfolk Island and Noumea.

Details from Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs Street, Auckland (773-279), PO Box 3614, Telex NZ22313.

NZ - TAHITI

Compagnie Tahitienne Maritime SA with one ship operates monthly service New Zealand - Papeete.

Details from Sofrana Unilines, PO Box 3614, 18 Customs St, Auckland (773-279), Tlx NZ2313.

NZ - TONGA - SAMOAS

Warner Pacific Line services Auckland - Nuku'alofa/Vavau/Apia/Pago Pago fortnightly carrying general and freezer cargoes.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, Downtown House, 21 Queen St, Auckland, PO Box 1372 (30-299), Cables MACSHIP, Telex NZ2554.

NZ - CENTRAL PACIFIC

Kyowa Shipping Ltd operates a monthly cargo service from Auckland to Noumea, Vila, Santo, Guam, Majuro and Tarawa.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, PO Box 1372, Auckland (9-30229); Tlx 2554 NZ.

EUROPE - TAHITI - NEW CALEDONIA - NEW ZEALAND - PERU

Polish Ocean Lines offers regular monthly sailings for containerised and breakbulk cargo from Hamburg, Antwerp, Dunkirk and Rouen to Papeete, Noumea, New Zealand and return to Europe via Peru. Other ports in the South Pacific can be served with inducement.

Details from Sotama, BP 9170, Papeete (27805), Tlx. 296, SATO, BP C2, Noumea (272094), Tlx. 051NM

PENOCEN; Union Steamship Co of NZ, PO Box 50, Apia, Tlx. 25; Williams and Gosling, PO Box 79, Suva (312633), Tlx. 2163; Warner Pacific Line, PO Box 93, Nukualofa (21089), Tlx. 66219; Universal Shipping Agencies, PO Box 2282, Auckland (30930), Tlx. 21517; H. C. Sleight, 6-10 O'Connell Street, Sydney 2000 (923 9201), Tlx. 20428.

EUROPE - TAHITI - NEW CALEDONIA

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates services from Europe and Mediterranean ports to Papeete and Noumea using three ro-ro and multi-purpose vessels thus ensuring a bi-monthly sailing to and from.

Details Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (231-3700).

EUROPE - TAHITI - W. SAMOA - FIJI - N. CALEDONIA

Nedlloyd offers regular cargo services from Northern Europe and UK to Papeete, Apia, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Details Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (27-3801); Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson St, Suva (312 244), Tlx 2199 FJ.

EUROPE - TAHITI - W. SAMOA - TONGA - FIJI - SOLOMONS - PNG - VANUATU

Columbus Line Reederei GMBH operates regular services from Hamburg, Hull, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Dunkirk, Le Havre, to Papeete, Apia, Suva, Lautoka, Noumea, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Kieta, Rabaul, Lae, and return to Europe.

Details from Columbus Overseas Services Pty Ltd, 333 George Street, Sydney (290-2966), Columbus Maritime Services, 17 Albert Street, Auckland (77-3460); Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson St, Suva (312 244), Tlx 2199 FJ.

UK - N. CONTINENT - FIJI

The Bank Line operates a regular cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (South Sea) Co Ltd, Suva and Lautoka.

UK/N. CONTINENT - PNG - SOLOMONS

The Bank Line operates a regular cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara and on inducement to Yandina.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, PNG ports; Tradco Shipping (588).

UK/N. CONTINENT - TAHITI - N. CALEDONIA

The Bank Line operates a regular cargo service from Hull, Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Papeete and Noumea.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041); Ets A M Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea.

US - FIJI - TAHITI - NZ - AUSTRALIA

The Bank Savill Line Ltd, operates regular cargo services from US Gulf ports to Australia and NZ. Calls at Suva, Lautoka and Papeete on demand.

Details from The Bank and Savill Line Ltd, 51 Pitt Street, Sydney (27-2041) or Orient Shipping Services, 32 Bridge Street, Sydney (241-2153).

US - HAWAII - KIRIBATI - MICRONESIA

Philippines, Micronesia & Orient Navigation Co (PM&O Lines) operates regular container service on self-sustained ship with ro-ro capabilities from Oakland, Portland and Honolulu to Tarawa, Ebeye, Majuro, Kosrae,

Ponape, Truk, Saipan, Yap and Koror.
Details for Micronesia can be obtained from Larry Guerrero, PM&O Owners Rep, PO Box 803, Saipan, MI 96950, Cable COMMONTIME, Tlx 783605, PM80; PM&O Lines, 181 Fremont St, San Francisco, California 94105, Cable PMONAV.

US - HAWAII - NAURU - MICRONESIA

Nauru Pacific Line operates regular conventional/container and passenger service from San Francisco and Honolulu to Majuro, Ponape, Truk and Saipan. Cargo is accepted for Nauru and Kosrae with transshipment at Majuro and Ponape.

Details from Nauru Corporation (Vic) Inc (Shipping Division), Nauru House, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne (653-5709); North American Maritime Agencies, 100 California St., San Francisco, California 94111.

US - NOUMEA - FIJI

PAD Line operates an approx 3-weekly roto service from West Coast USA and Canada to Noumea and Suva.

Details from Sofrana-Unilines SA, BP 1602, Noumea (27-51-91), Tlx NM048; Carpenters Shipping, 100 Thomson St, Suva (31-2244), Tlx FJ2199; Trans-Austral Shipping, Box R232 PO, Royal Exchange, NSW (27-2441), Tlx AA21204.

US - TAHITI - SAMOA

Pacific Islands Transport operates a five weekly cargo service from North America west coast ports to Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia.

Details from Polynesia Shipping Services Inc, PO Box 1478 Pago Pago 96799.

Polynesia Line operates container and general cargo service from US west coast ports to Papeete and Pago Pago.



Priscilla Amelia Moors Muench

At the LBJ Tropical Medical Center, American Samoa, on June 25, aged 86.

The youngest daughter of the American Harry Jay Moors and

Details from Polynesia Shipping Services Inc., PO Box 1478, Pago Pago 96799.

US - TAHITI - SAMOA - NZ - AUST

Farrell Lines Inc, operate a fast regular lash/container cargo service from west coast ports Canada/USA to Papeete and Pago Pago thence to NZ and Australia.

Details with Wilhelmsen Agency, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, Tlx AA20136, Cable FARSHIPS Sydney; Dalgety (NZ) Ltd, Auckland and Wellington, Tlx NZ2445, Cable DALSHIP Auckland; Compagnie Maritime Polynesienne, Immeuble Franco Oceanienne, PO Box 368, Papeete, Tahiti, Tel 26393, Tlx 258. FP ANSB Taporo, Cable OCEAN Papeete; Kneubuhl Maritime Service, PO Box 39, Pago Pago, Telephone 633-5121; Tlx 782505.

his Samoan wife Fa'animonimo, Priscilla Muench, also known as Filoi, was the aunt of Western Samoa's Prime Minister Tupuola Efi, and the sister of Afoafouvale Misimoo, a former secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission.

Much as her father did, Priscilla led a touring dance company, the Royal Samoans, across the United States in the 1920s. She did stage plays in the US, and was friends with Lloyd Osbourne, Robert Louis Stevenson's stepson. She was given the title Tuitogama'atoi.

After her marriage to Muench she gave birth to one son, who died.

She worked in a dress shop in the Far East, making and inheriting enough to buy a yacht which was chased by pirates in the China Sea. She eluded them by directing the captain to sail into a typhoon. She later lived for many years in the Philippines, where her house was bombed during World War II, causing the loss of many of her possessions.

She lived the last years of her life at Tafuna, Tutuila, American Samoa, building a

new house and writing her memoirs.

She was an avid bridge player, and loved the theatre and parties — tastes she indulged right up to the last month of her life.

She is survived by Larry Moran, with whom she spent 41 years, and 16 nieces and nephews.

She was buried next to her parents at Ululolola, Western Samoa.

'Ahome'e

At Nukualofa on August 19, Aged 46.

A Tongan noble of the realm, and brother of Queen Haleavalu Mata'aho, 'Ahome'e was appointed superintendent of police only three months before his death. His father, the former 'Ahome'e, died in office as minister of police in 1961.

'Ahome'e did police training courses at various times in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia.

His body was honoured with the traditional all-night vigil at his family's residence, Vakauho, at Kolomotua. He



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was buried at Nukumaanu
Cemetery, Haavakatolo.

Al Haj Hasan Mohammed

At Drakinakelo, Nausori, Fiji,
in July, aged 65.

A prominent Moslem priest,
Haji Shaheb was a foundation
member of the Fiji Moslem
League Rewa branch, and
served on the Nausori Advisory
Council and the committees of
several charitable and sporting
organisations in Rewa.

A keen sportsman, he took an
active part in soccer and wres-
tling contests in the Rewa area.

He made his pilgrimage to
Mecca in 1963.

Matamua Matamua

At Greenlane Hospital, Cook
Islands, in August, aged 59.

Matamua Matamua, a post
office employee based in
Rarotonga, also served at vari-
ous times as Chief Adminis-
tration Officer on the islands of
Mitiaro and Manihiki.

Vincent T. Sanders

At Cairns, Australia, in July,
during a visit from Papua New
Guinea.

Vince Sanders was a
prominent businessman and
colourful figure in Port
Moresby where he had lived for
30 years. He had a lifelong
interest in aviation and was one
of the founders of the South
Pacific Aero Clubs based in
Port Moresby. In the wider
community he was best known
by name, if not in person, for his
humorous letters to the editor
published over many years and
on many subjects in the *South
Pacific Post*, Port Moresby, and

in its present successor the *PNG
Post-Courier*.

He went to Port Moresby as
an employee of the then Austra-
lian Department of Civil Avi-
ation, but soon afterwards es-
tablished himself as an auction-
eer and transport operator. He
also operated a metal salvage
business and until recently flew
his own light aircraft to remote
parts of eastern PNG bringing
back brass and copper which
still remained from the war in
the Pacific 35 years earlier.

He created wide interest in
1977 when he and another PNG
businessman, Ray Thurecht,
ferried a 36-year-old Tiger
Moth biplane from Brisbane to
Port Moresby for delivery to its
new owner. The flight of 1835
nautical miles included 16 take-
offs and landings over six days.

In an account of the flight
which received wide publicity
he wrote: 'The aircraft never
gave us a moment of trouble —
it was only the crew that was
erratic at times.'

Ron Bullingham

At Norwich, England, on July
11.

Mr Bullingham was a
longtime resident and a
prominent businessman in the
Cook Islands' capital of
Rarotonga.

He was instrumental in set-
ting up the Rusco, and then the
Spinco, wholesaling outlets. He
ran the Blue Shop in Rarotonga
for many years.

He was a farmer as well as a
businessman. He set up a small
cottage industry raising cows
for milk, as well as pigs,
chickens and goats, on his
property at Titikaveka.

He left Rarotonga in 1979
with his wife Elizabeth to spend
the last years of his life in
retirement in his homeland.

Harriett Esther Julia Buffett

At Norfolk Island Hospital on
July 14, aged 76.

Julia, as she was called,
married Bob Buffett in All
Saints Church, Kingston, in
1934 and was thereafter known
as Julia Bob — as has been the
custom on Norfolk Island.

Her only time away from
Norfolk Island was a month in
New Zealand to visit members
of her family, and two months
in Australia for an eye oper-
ation.



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