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MARCH, 1989



**Papua New Guinea:
PM sidesteps vote
of no confidence**

**Australian aid scandal
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Sokomanu convicted**

HAWAII
30 years of
Statehood, but few
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Battle the elements.

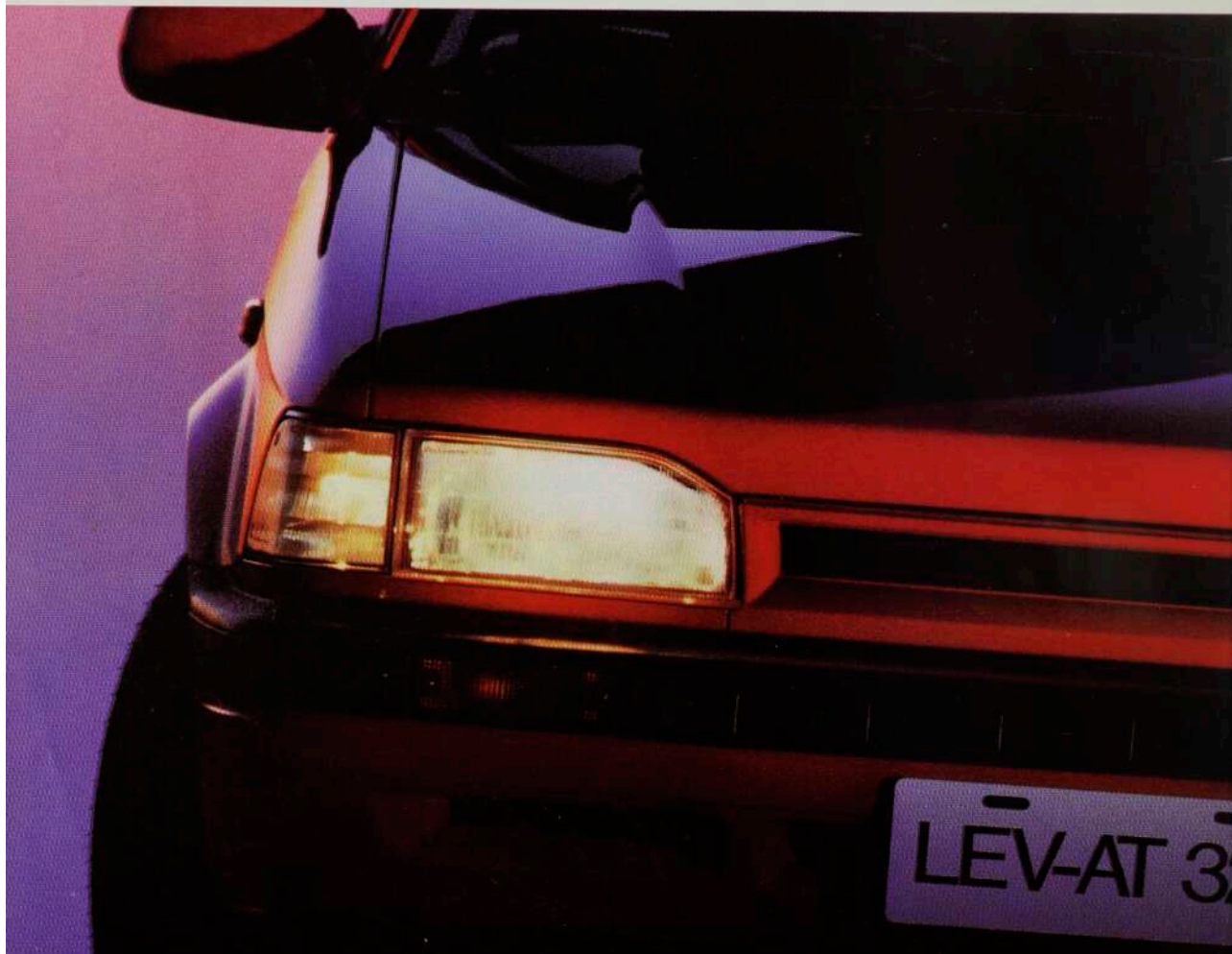
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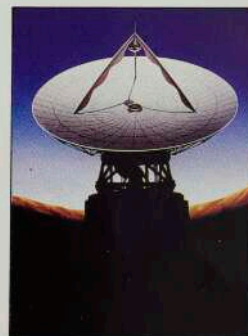
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol. 59 No. 15

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

March, '89

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Thirty years after its absorption into the Union, Hawaii is in many ways the most blessed of the United States. Its enviable weather, natural beauty and mid-Pacific location have conferred advantages that are recognised around the world . . . not least by increasing numbers of Japanese investors. But as Ed Rampell reports, the aboriginal Sandwich Islanders have paid the price for white success — with alienation, depopulation and the loss of their land.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: LOUIS H JAWITZ/IMAGE BANK

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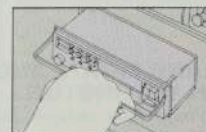
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OPINION

The art of balance: a press perspective

THIS MAGAZINE'S New Zealand correspondent, David Robie, has recently been the subject of a curious (and curiously intense) attack in the pages of *Islands Business* magazine.

The January 1989 issue of that publication devoted no less than five pages to an analysis of the region's press by Robie for the *New Zealand Monthly Review* and to a series of 'responses' from *Islands Business* publisher Robert Keith-Reid, editor Peter Lomas and New Caledonia correspondent David Los.

Naturally, David Robie is concerned that readers of *Pacific Islands Monthly* might believe that the comments printed in the article are accurate, and has made available to us information that puts the matter into a different, and certainly more balanced, perspective.

First, it should be noted that Robie's analysis includes criticisms of *PIM*. We accept those criticisms where they are based on accurate information, and have informed him of areas where he was in error. We respect his freedom to criticise, and have no intention of marshalling a body of correspondents to divert attention from the substance of his remarks by a personal attack.

That, in essence, is the matter to which both Robie and the editors of *PIM* take exception: that the pages and editorial resources of an established publication should be used in a personal vendetta which, to be frank, fails to address much less refute his criticisms.

John Richardson, former editor of *Islands Business*, has written to *PIM* to present his response to the 'analysis'. As well as presenting a cogent and unemotional reaction to the article's tone, Richardson makes the point that: "no one . . . would argue that the Pacific is, for many of its indigenous inhabitants, unjust. Some [islanders] are forced to live in squalor, some in fear of nuclear hazards, some are reduced to being outcasts in their own land and many must look on as their political leaders indulge in intrigue and corruption.

"Robie, who has a keen sense of what is just and what is not, wrote about these issues objectively and fairly. Many Pacific commentators are unable to do what Robie did for *Islands Business* — report injustices heaped on South Pacific people while remaining dispassionate.

"David Robie's articles reflect a journalist who is either anti-right or pro-left. He is, however, pro-Pacific. And for the record, he wrote for *Islands Business* on topics [that] had nothing to do with politics. And we published them."

PIM will continue to publish David Robie's reports to preserve a balanced perspective of regional forces. It is our experience and belief that truth is not a unitary quality; that no one individual, organisation or government can represent truth in its entirety. Therefore we will seek analyses and perspectives from as broad a range of correspondents as is possible. We will not, as Peter Lomas has done, seek to suggest that David Robie must have French documents translated for him . . . when we know, as does Peter Lomas, that Robie worked as a journalist in France for several years . . . no mean feat for a man characterised by Lomas as a Francophobe who does not speak the language!

We can assure our readers that we will continue to respect their intelligence by presenting them with a variety of opinions and perspectives in the firm conviction that they will not suffer deliberate misrepresentation.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Parliament suspended to stop no-confidence vote

Waigani seems condemned to repeat its recent history of rule by defection rather than election, writes Frank Senge

STUDENTS OF Papua New Guinea's tangled politics would be amazed to read a report that began with the words: "Parliament sat the full three-week session without the mention of the now infamous vote of no confidence . . ."

Those not too familiar with the Byzantine character of life in Waigani's corridors of power might ask why: the answer is, quite simply, that the unusual — frequent motions of no confidence and equally frequent changes of government — is absolutely ordinary.

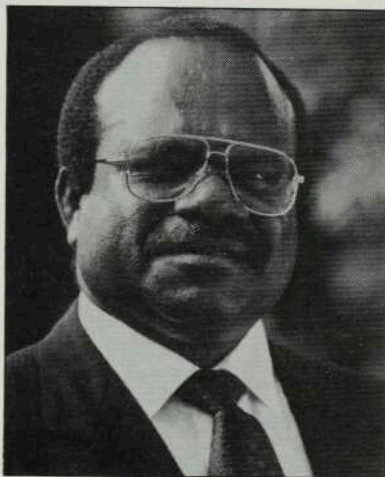
The novelty of this provision in the PNG Constitution has died down with its regular invocation, so that people now want to see a return to boring, down-to-earth democratic governing.

For this report, however, the routine sentence must suffice: In the wake of persistent rumours of military coups and continuing industrial disputes, another motion of no confidence — PNG's 15th in 11 years — was moved on the eight-month-old Government of Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu on March 2.

Former student leader and Morobe Provincial Premier Utula Samana sponsored the motion, naming Opposition Leader Paias Wingti as alternative Prime Minister.

The next day the Government employed the very tactic used by Mr Wingti's government last April when it was facing a vote of no confidence. Leader of Government business John Giheno moved that the house adjourn to July 4, catching the Opposition totally unaware and unable to muster enough votes to defeat the motion. The Government survived the division by 53 votes to the Opposition's 46.

The only difference between last April's move and this was that this time Parliament convened for two full weeks: last year, the House adjourned after only two hours — and when the vote was finally taken, on July 4, the Government was defeated and Mr Namaliu became Papua New Guinea's fourth Prime Minister since Independence in 1975. Not a bad record in comparison with some parliamentary democracies, but one that reflects a nation increasingly dependent on



PM Namaliu: turning the tables on Wingti . . . again.

votes of no confidence rather than elections as a tool of government.

Ironically, on March 1 the Government had tabled a series of proposed amendments to Section 145 of the Constitution . . . the very section that provides for no confidence motions. The Government is proposing to increase the minimum period between votes of no confidence from six months to between 18 and 30 months; alternatively, after each successful vote the Prime Minister or Governor General will, it is proposed, be given the power to dissolve Parliament and schedule elections.

Constitutional amendments have to be passed by an absolute majority of 73 members (out of 109) in three separate sittings of Parliament.

As has become usual, the motion of no confidence in the Government of Mr Namaliu was tabled after weeks of speculation, negotiations and defections. But it would appear that Mr Wingti was reluctant to move the vote: his idea was to act in the July sitting, by which time people would judge Mr Namaliu to have been in Government long enough for them to be able to assess his fitness for the position.

The majority of Opposition members, however, were determined to push ahead with the vote. Mr Wingti's former chief adviser Gabriel Ramoi

said: "I am sorry for Wingti. He is cautious, but he is a reluctant commander leading a willing army."

At the same time, it appears the Opposition was still trying to decide which commander to follow. The choice was between Mr Wingti, People's Progress Party leader Sir Julius Chan and Melanesian United Front leader Utula Samana.

The problem was only resolved on the evening before the motion was tabled: Paias Wingti was to be alternate Prime Minister, Utula Samana was to be his deputy.

The decision to put up Mr Wingti again cost the Opposition the support of Gabriel Ramoi, who claimed he would not support anybody in whom Parliament has already shown it had no confidence.

Five members defected from the Government to the Opposition during the negotiations. The National Party, led by Mount Hagen businessman Michael Mel, pulled out of the coalition Government and chose the middle benches, with Mel declaring that he would offer the support of his 10 members to whichever side gave them the greatest number of ministries.

Mel had apparently become frustrated by Mr Namaliu's repeated failures to assign a promised ministerial portfolio to the ambitious Highlander or his group.

Michael Mel's negotiations were thwarted by the presence in Cabinet of Finance and Planning Minister Paul Pora, who leads a faction of five National Party members and who voted with Mr Namaliu in the last motion of no confidence while the Mel faction voted with Mr Wingti (Mr Mel later brought his party across to the Government benches).

The present estrangement was Mr Mel's punishment for not voting for Mr Namaliu when he took Government last year. And when Mel announced the withdrawal of his group this time, Government ministers commented that the National Party had never in any case been considered part of the Government. "[The Mel faction] never voted with us. We don't need their numbers," one spokesman is reported as saying.

Michael Mel has given Paul Pora's group an ultimatum to follow the majority decision or be sacked from the party. The Government's fate would be sealed should this group move out, but is highly unlikely: and Mr Pora has told a special meeting of the National Party that he would never vote for Mr Wingti — the two have bitter grudges that date back to the 1982 elections.

er vote for Mr Wingti — the two have bitter grudges that date back to the 1982 elections.

The Melanesian Alliance, led by Father John Momis and human rights lawyer and Minister for Justice Bernard Narakobi, will not leave the Government benches, if only because the Melanesian Alliance has never before enjoyed the privilege and power it currently holds. With four of its eight members holding ministries, the Melanesian Alliance has the enviable position of having a set of policies that is agreed to readily by the Prime Minister. The mining forum, which for the first time enabled direct negotiations between landowners and developers; the involvement of provincial governments in decision-making; and heavy emphasis on law and order are Melanesian Alliance ideas.

That leaves Ted Diro's People's Action Party as the only other potential power broker with any real capacity. And again as usual, Diro's is the unpredictable party in any coalition. Diro is as frustrated as Michael Mel at not securing a portfolio for himself (he lays claim to the deputy Prime Minister, currently held by fellow PAP party member Akoka Doi.)

Diro's problem, however, is that there is no guarantee he will get any better deal with the Opposition. Though Paias Wingti is showing interest in Mr Diro, it was he who initiated the Forestry Inquiry and who thereby started Diro's problems.

With parties thus entrenched, the

Opposition is working on securing the Parliamentary support of individual, unaligned members.

During the two weeks prior to the March 2 motion, Minerals and Energy Minister Patterson Lowa was told by the Opposition that he could keep his ministry if he would cross the floor. The same message was passed on to Housing Minister Gerald Sigulogo. It is reported that third MP had flown to Rabaul — and, when he returned, had already switched sides.

Trade and Industry Minister Galeva Kwarara and Forests Minister Karl Stack were said to be talking to the Opposition, but the tide was stemmed suddenly by former Communications Minister Gabriel Ramoi, who announced that he was crossing to the Government with eight fellow Opposition members.

He did not, it seems, actually have the eight MPs, but the announcement was enough to cause reflection among Government members who were thinking of defecting.

Mr Ramoi is adamant that he would not support his former boss again. "There was a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Wingti. Parliament had no confidence in his leadership.

"How can we put the same man up and ask the same Parliament to change its decision and have confidence in him again?" Mr Ramoi wondered to reporters.

The vote to which Mr Ramoi refers was taken in July 1988, and was followed by a vote of no confidence in Paias Wingti's leadership of the People's Democratic Movement . . . by Gabriel Ramoi. When the party reaffirmed Wingti's leadership, Ramoi left with fellow PDM member Peter Kuman. They now hold independent positions in the Opposition.

The main reason for the vote of no confidence is what the Opposition refers to as a "lack of leadership" on the part of Rabbie Namaliu. The Opposi-

tion blames recent industrial disputes in the mining industry and military demonstrations in Port Moresby on the Government and on the Namaliu style of administration. It is commonly acknowledged that Mr Namaliu is a committee man, one who is uncomfortable with the prospect of tough action. This has been displayed both on Bougainville and in the soldiers' 'rampage', when he delegated his deputy, Akoka Doi, to sort out the problems.

But the overriding feeling in the community is that Mr Namaliu must be given time. One Opposition MP who crossed to the Government, Theo Tuya, summed it up thus: "Whether Rabbie is the right Prime Minister or not, I want him to be given sufficient time to prove himself." Mr Tuya said the continuous votes of no confidence had undermined the credibility of PNG and had effectively made it a "laughing stock" in the eyes of countries that practised the same or similar systems of government.

After adjourning Parliament Mr Namaliu admitted that his Government was "spending too much time and resources looking over its shoulder" for votes of no confidence.

"We have to get back to government," he declared.

But governing with a motion of no confidence on Parliament's agenda has always been an impossible task. And Opposition leader Paias Wingti has vowed to get rid of the Government, saying it lacks the support of the majority of members.

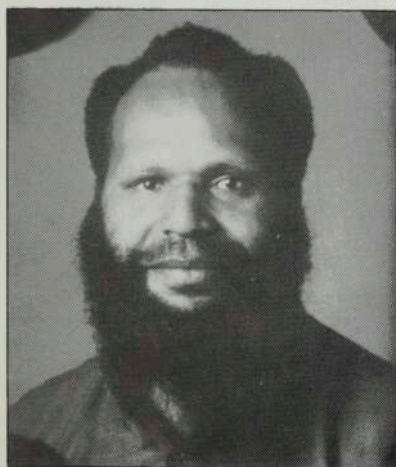
Government can be changed with a simple majority of 55 members, and Mr Wingti says the adjournment vote of 53-46 shows the Government still lacks the required majority in the 109-member Parliament (one seat is currently vacant after a member's death) and that he has the support of 57 members, some of whom were not present in the house when the adjournment vote was taken.

"We now have a minority government," he says, "a situation in which in any other country, the Prime Minister would resign. Knowing PNG politics I would not expect that, but we will eventually take over Government. The [present] Government," Mr Wingti claims, "is as good as dead."

Mr Namaliu said his Government was intact, accused the Opposition of being "frivolous and irresponsible" — and at the same time put part of the blame on the development of the political system in PNG and the public's lack of familiarity with the Westminster system and its workings.

Said Mr Namaliu: "The PNG political situation is volatile. Political party discipline is not really entrenched.

"We are going through a period of experimenting. It takes time for our leaders to get used to it." □



Opposition strategists Paias Wingti and Sir Julius Chan: ambitions thwarted by use of their own weapons.

VANUATU

Sope, Sokomanu guilty of mutiny and sedition

John Dunn reports from Port Vila on the trial that saw a President and a former Ambassador to the United Nations behind bars for treason.

ATI GEORGE Sokomanu, 52, should have been in Japan last month as President of Vanuatu, representing his country at the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

Instead, he spent his days on a hard wooden courtroom bench and his nights in the near suffocating heat of Port Vila's steamy, concrete goal. Sokomanu had been arrested last December, following his attempt to dissolve Parliament and to install his nephew and friend, Barak Sope, 38, as head of an interim Government.

He appeared in the capital's red-roofed colonial Court House charged with incitement to mutiny — a crime that carries a life sentence. With him were Sope and five others, also charged with mutiny and additional charges, including sedition, for which the maximum sentence is three years.

Two blocks away their former friend and colleague, the country's Prime Minister, Walter Lini — the man they tried to depose — worked on in his office. Sokomanu, Sope and Lini had been freedom-fighting comrades under the slogan *Seli Hoo* (Let's Pull Together) and leaders of the self-government push in the 1970s.

Father Lini, a former Anglican priest, became the Republic of Vanuatu's first Prime Minister. Sokomanu became its first President and Sope, a wealthy businessman, was Secretary-General of the ruling Vanua'aku Pati, Ambassador to the United Nations and later Minister for Public Works. For seven years the triumvirate ruled peacefully and well over this chain of 83 islands and its population of 146,000. Among the newly emerging nations of the South Pacific, Vanuatu was something of a model. Tourism, based on uncluttered beaches, reef-protected lagoons and newly built resort hotels, began attracting travellers from Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

But things began to sour. Sope began to flirt with Libya, which upset Lini. Then in January 1987, Lini — in Washington to visit President Reagan — suffered a severe stroke and there were doubts he would be able to stay on as leader. Sope saw his chance and began to bid for power but Lini reco-



Above: Vanuatu's new President, Fred Timakata, escorted by military forces who refused to heed a call to overthrow Lini. Left: Sokomanu acknowledges supporters on his way to court.



vered (though partial paralysis remains) and retained his position.

Sope continued to manoeuvre, and last May staged an anti-Government demonstration after Lini had transferred land leases around Port Vila from VULCAN, a semi-Government authority, to a Government Department.

Police and the Government's 550-man paramilitary mobile force restored order, but not until one man had been killed and damage estimated at close to \$A1 million was caused to shops and office buildings.

An angry Lini expelled Sope from the Vanua'aku Pati and declared this

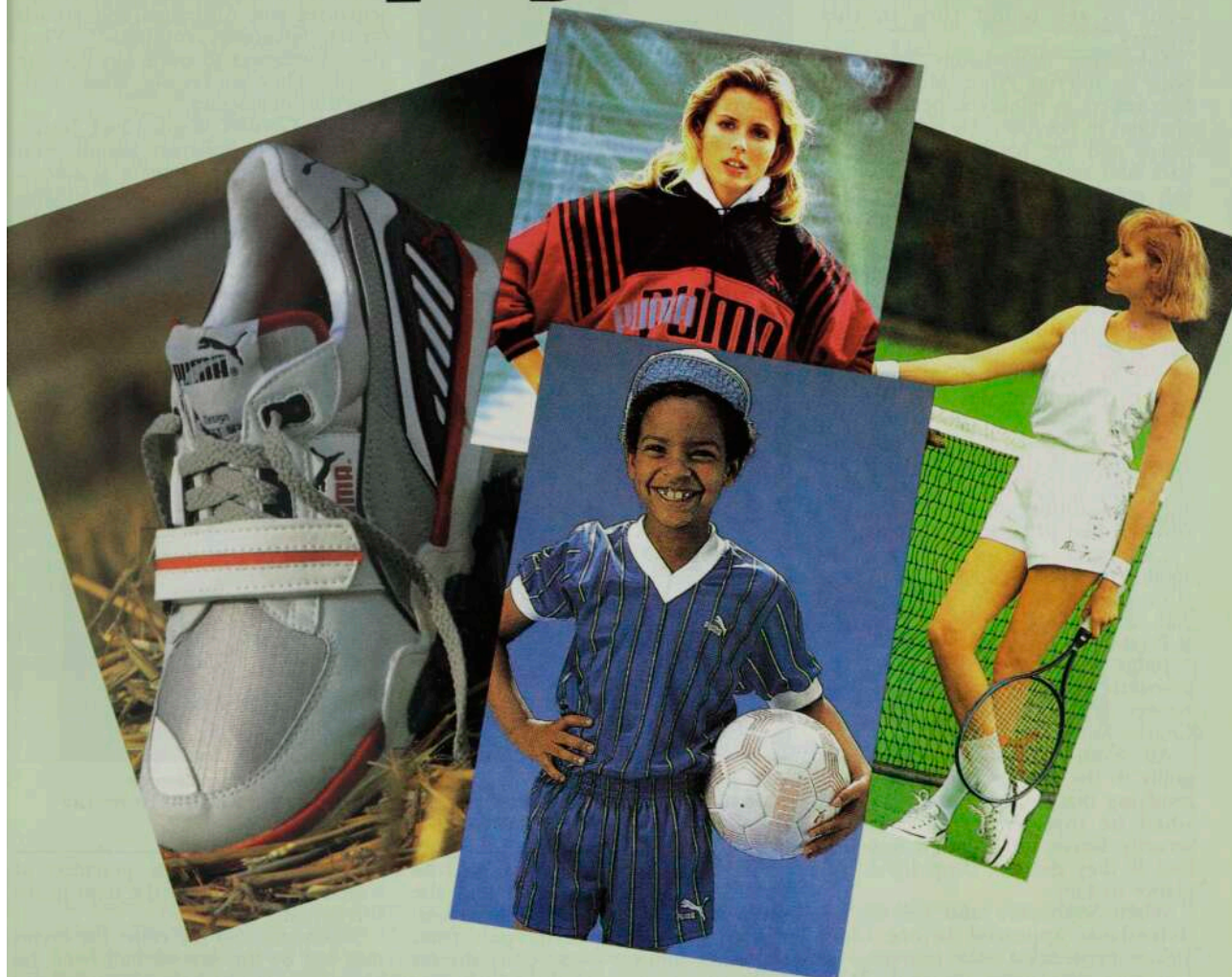
meant he also ceased to be a Member of Parliament: under the constitution an MP expelled from his party must immediately vacate his seat.

Lini pushed this move through the 46-seat Parliament in July, expelling Sope together with four supporting MPs plus the 18-member UMP (Union of Moderate Parties) Opposition, which had boycotted Parliament and which was thus deprived of its seats on the technicality that its members had forfeited Parliamentary membership by not attending sittings.

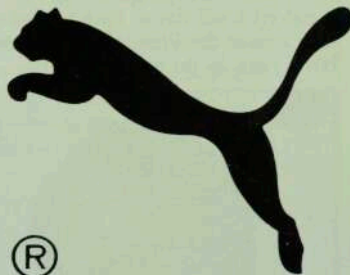
By-elections in December to fill the seats were boycotted by Sope's newly formed Melanesian Progressive Party and the UMP, and when only 40 per cent of voters (compared with a usual average of 80 per cent) participated in the poll, Sope called on Sokomanu to dissolve Parliament on the grounds that Lini had lost popular support. The result was that Vanuatu now had virtually a one-party legislature, and tensions were beginning to rise.

Then, on December 17, Sokomanu acted. Using his ceremonial address to open Parliament, Sokomanu

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announced instead that he was dissolving it. Maintaining that he had a duty to act in the national interest, he said: "I do not only abide by the Constitution but my fear of what is happening to the country. The people will follow me. I am the last person who would want to see blood flow in this country."

Sokomanu immediately 'swore in' Sope as interim Prime Minister and four others as ministers, pending new elections in February. He called on the police and the paramilitary force to back him and threatened to seek outside military aid if they did not.

But the police and the military moved equally swiftly, arresting Sokomanu, Sope, the four 'ministers' and Sokomanu's secretary.

Said Lini: "I am totally disappointed with [Sokomanu]. He does not have the legal power, the constitutional power or even the political power to declare Parliament dissolved. He has made a mockery of the democratic system and a political fool of himself." Lini applied to the Supreme Court for a ruling; it declared illegal Sokomanu's dissolution of Parliament and ordered him to keep out of politics.

Lini made sure of that, and last month the country's Electoral College dismissed Sokomanu and replaced him as President with Fred Timakata, a Presbyterian pastor.

Judge Ward presided over the trial assisted by two local assessors — Krovet Ailuba Obed, a gardener and Charles Smith, a council clerk.

All seven defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges, with Sokomanu testifying that he had been "bluffing" when he threatened the country's security forces with foreign intervention if they did not drop their allegiance to Lini.

When Sokomanu and his six co-defendants appeared before Chief Justice Frederick Cooke just prior to Christmas, the judge declared: "This is indeed a sad day to have to deal with a case against the President of the country, but I have to do my duty."



12 PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — MARCH 1989



Top: Barak Sope — bizarre tales of Chinese arms deals. Above: George Sokomanu — accused court officials of being "fascists". Below left: Walter Lini — Sokomanu had "made a political fool of himself".

He refused bail "because of the seriousness of the charges" and the seven were taken to Port Vila Prison, where they were placed apart from the other inmates — 54 petty thieves and two rapists — in the female section, where no women were being held at the time.

Sope immediately began a hunger strike, refusing the twice-daily meal of boiled beef and rice until he had his companions were given legal representation. "Lawyers in Vanuatu are afraid to act for us because they fear they will be expelled," he charged.

Sope began eating after six days when a French lawyer, Jean Louzier from New Caledonia, was appointed. Louzier and two assistants waited in the Vanuatu Supreme Court as the seven prisoners stepped out of a blue police van.

Police, fearing demonstrations by supporters of Sokomanu and Sope, had set up roadblocks manned by armed troops who admitted only relatives of the accused.

An angry Sokomanu loudly pro-

tested this restriction. "Even in colonial times people were allowed to come to court," he shouted as he climbed the steps to the courthouse.

Waving his hand around the small courtroom packed with relatives, a handful of diplomatic corps representatives and Australian and French media, Sokomanu continued: "They allow foreigners to come but not our people. They are fascists. What's happened to democracy."

Judge Gordon Ward, Chief Justice of the nearby Solomon Islands, who had flown in from Honiara as a neutral official, quickly upheld a submission by Louzier that the hearing be open to all and on the second day several hundred people crammed into

the courtroom and its precincts or waited in the shade of the trees in the surrounding grounds.

Sokomanu told the court the events that led to the arrests had been his idea alone, but he believed he had discretionary powers under the Constitution to dissolve Parliament and to install an interim administration. He had felt he had the support of the security forces and though he had no plans to call in overseas troops, he wanted to test their loyalty.

Sope denied he had any part in Sokomanu's attempted dissolution of Parliament or plans to set up an interim Government, or the writing of the circular threatening the formation of another armed force.

In response to the introduction of highly unusual questions by the prosecution, Barak Sope told the court about an aborted arms deal, saying that in 1983 Lini had sent him on a secret mission to China to conduct an arms purchase worth \$A21 million. Even though documents were signed, no money had been paid, no arms had

been delivered and the discussions had nothing to do with the events before the court.

Sokomanu's lawyers argued that he had been forced by deteriorating political and economic circumstances to "fall back on the unwritten powers of a traditional Melanesian leader": said Gustave Tehio, "Mr Sokomanu had worked on the basis that Melanesian customs could override constitutional law. The Head of State acted like a chief and a Christian."

Another of Sokomanu's lawyers, Ms Sue Barlow, said: "These are not evil men. These are men of high standing, who went wrong with a good motive."

Judge Ward, however, accused the quartet found guilty of "craving political power" and of being "driven by personal ambition". He added: "However ill-conceived, badly executed and unsuccessful this attempt turned out to be, for a few days in December parliamentary democracy in this country hung by a delicate thread."

"The credit must go to the Government for continuing to follow the constitutional process despite such an open threat, and to the disciplinary forces who [remained] steadfast in their duty."

"It is sad to see men who, a mere decade ago, were striving to establish a parliamentary democracy, flouting the

safeguards they helped to make."

About 150 people, most of them relatives and friends of the prisoners, crowded into the Port Vila Court House on March 7 to hear Judge Ward conclude the two-and-a-half week trial and announce the verdict.

Judge Ward found Ati George Sokomanu guilty of incitement to mutiny, seditious conspiracy and administering an unlawful oath, and sentenced him to four years' jail on the first charge; the other two charges brought sentences of two years each, to be served concurrently — a total of six years' imprisonment.

Barak Sope and Maxim Carlot were also found guilty of incitement to mutiny (three years' jail) and seditious conspiracy, taking an unlawful oath and making seditious statement (each two years). The last three sentences are to be served concurrently, making a total of five years' imprisonment.

Willy Jimmy was sentenced to two years' jail on each of three charges, all to be served concurrently: seditious conspiracy, taking an unlawful oath and making a seditious statement.

All will appeal, especially since the remaining three defendants were acquitted in a decision Australian observers for the International Commission of Jurists condemned as political rather than judicial (see Page 49).

The verdicts were at least initially received calmly (an explosion on the outskirts of Port Vila on the night of March 7 may have been a protest against the sentences, though at time of going to press no details of the police investigation were available). There was no public reaction from Father Lini, but Vanuatu's new President, Fred Timataka, called on the people to stay calm and to respect the rule of law. "People should try to work together and consolidate for the betterment of this country," Mr Timataka said.

It will be some time before the bitterness and divisions of the past months are healed. And there is the disquieting fact that because of last year's Parliamentary expulsions and boycotted by-elections, there is virtually no Opposition in the 46-seat legislature. Lini's Vanua'aku Pati holds 34 seats, a minor group has five and seven are currently unoccupied because by-elections are still to be held.

This, of course, means that a large part of the population is unrepresented and likely to remain so because the next general election is not due until the end of 1991.

Meanwhile Father Lini, anxious to restore calm, has called for "harmony and peace". Achieving that is the real test ahead for Vanuatu. □

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Conflict over mining profits

Robin Bromby reports on the financial, legal and political battles that have seen resources firms increasingly unwilling to risk investing in PNG's minerals boom.

THE Papua New Guinea Government has defused, at least for the moment, simmering landowner discontent over the question of royalties from mining by foreign companies and has managed to convince the Enga provincial government to forgo part of its share of the payment coming from Placer Pacific Ltd's \$A1000 million Porgera gold mine.

Landowners formerly received just 5 per cent of the royalty, with the provincial governments pocketing 95 per cent. Now the split — which is expected to set a guideline for future mine deals — is to be 20 per cent to the landowners and 80 per cent to the provincial government. As compensation, provincial governments will receive 1 per cent of the total export value of minerals from mines in their areas — this money to come from general revenue — but will be more than adequately covered by the central government's dividend receipts from its share of the mines.

PNG Finance Minister Paul Pora says the new ratio will also apply to the Bougainville Copper Ltd project, the subject of drawn-out landowner attacks and even sabotage (see *Pacific Islands Monthly*, January).

However, it is yet to be seen whether (or rather how long) this new deal will satisfy the people whose land is being used for mining. Indicative of just how great the demands could become is the recent call from the Wau people for K4 million and free equity in CRA Ltd's Hidden Valley gold project. The cash is seen as compensation for environmental damage, while free equity is a new development; not even the central government receives free equity in a mining project.

While the claim is still modest compared with the K10,000 million being asked by traditional landholders from the Bougainville project. The mining companies must be hoping that the latest government move to adjust the royalty payments will silence those people making new demands; no mining company would countenance handing over a percentage of shares free of payment. Even the national government has either to pay for its shares or forgo its proportion of a project's income until that lost money equates with the value of the shares being purchased.

But the politicians and landowners

who are arguing for a greater share of the country's mining wealth have been given new respectability by the president of the PNG Law Society, Peter Donigi, who last year wrote a paper arguing that the country's constitution could be interpreted to the effect that landholders have claim to the ownership of the minerals beneath their land. Mr Donigi wrote at the time that his paper would shock the government and private sector, but "we must not be accused by future generations of being imbeciles, unable to protect what is rightfully theirs."

"We must not be like the Canadian or American Indians or the Australian Aborigines" and allow the people's resources to be confiscated for the benefit of non-citizens.

Mr Donigi's argument is based on the fact that the Constitution makes no specific provision that all the land belongs to the State of PNG. He cites section 53 (1), which states explicitly that no property could be compulsorily acquired except by act of Parliament, and that grounds exist for challenges to the acquisition through the courts. That means that no interest or right over property could be compulsorily acquired by the State.

More recently, Kisakui Posman, a former mining law lecturer now working in Mr Donigi's Port Moresby law firm, has issued a paper that attempts to rebut Donigi. Mr Posman puts the case that the Mining Act, which gives the state authority to allocate mining rights, is constitutional, and that compared to ownership by the people or the provinces, ownership by the state is more conducive to an orderly development of the mining industry. According to Mr Posman, "Ownership by the people or provinces, which would invite more chaos than order, would render control and regulation of the industry less effective."

Pre-independence mining ordinances, including that of 1937, drafted in public ownership of gold, silver and all other minerals; gold and silver are covered by the 1966 ordinance, which also makes provision for acquiring mining leases.

The 1977 Mining (Amalgamated) Act states that "all gold and minerals in or on any land in the country are the property of the State". Mr Posman argues that Section 2 (2) of the Constitution specifically gives the State

sovereignty over natural resources, and that the Constitution clearly leaves the ownership of minerals and other resources to Parliament to resolve.

Mr Posman argues that mining companies will only invest the millions of kina necessary for exploration if the investment climate is stable and predictable, and there is already uncertainty over many areas of customary land. "This uncertainty has been a source of tribal fights and tensions," he says. "Instability and unpredictability of ownership of land within PNG's customary land tenure [do] not make for an investment climate that renders itself attractive to mining investors — these problems are greatly minimised by the State's ownership of minerals."

Just how great is the commitment required by mining companies was illustrated in February, when the Sydney-based Kundu Petroleum Ltd had its shares suspended in Australia while it restructured. It had spent \$A10 million sinking one well — three times the cost of equivalent drilling in Australia. These high costs are borne because of the potential riches to be found, but new demands from landowners could raise questions of viability for some projects.

There is no question that the industry is alarmed by the demands is regard to the Hidden Valley prospect and the Bougainville mine, and that the Donigi argument — if it gained wide currency — could just encourage more, even more inflated, demands. There are questions about just how equipped the landowners are, or even the provincial governments, when it comes to negotiating with international mining companies.

The National Government is acutely aware of the dangers, and the loss of confidence such demands could bring. Many of the landowners would have little idea of the enormous costs involved in the exploration of Papua New Guinea. As reported previously in *PIM*, Westpac PNG Ltd has warned against companies believing they can move quickly in the country, and that mining companies have to contend with mountainous or swampy terrain, high rainfall, earthquakes and a lack of infrastructure. Helicopter charters cost from \$US600 a day, consultants \$US300 a day; a seismic survey costs \$A60,000 a kilometre compared with \$7000 a kilometre in Australia. □



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LOU JAWITZ / IMAGE BANK

Hawaii celebrates 30 years of Statehood — but self-determination languishes

Mainland tourists, Japanese investors — even Australian businesses — are moving into the Aloha State. But as Ed Rampell reports, the Polynesians who first settled the islands are beginning to agitate for a better deal.

MARCH 12 this year marks the 30th anniversary of Hawaii's attainment of Statehood. On that day three decades ago, the United States Congress formally handed to President Dwight Eisenhower legislation passed by the House of Representatives by 323 votes to 89 and by the Senate 76 votes to 15, endorsing the Territory of Hawaii's admission to the Union. Eisenhower signed the bill, a political status plebiscite was held on June 27 and Hawaii's electorate approved Statehood by a margin of 17 votes to 1. Out of 240 voting precincts, on repudiated the measure: the only electoral precinct to vote against statehood was Niihau, the 'forbidden island' off the coast of Kauai, where a few hundred pure Hawaiians still live, on a privately owned isle, speaking their Polynesian tongue and pursuing

a traditional Pacific way of life.

The vote of this islander enclave was at once a prophecy and a reflection of the tortuous course of events leading up to the archipelago's absorption by empire.

"Farewell to you, farewell to you,
O fragrance in the blue depths,
One fond embrace and I leave
Until we meet again"

— *Aloha Oe*, by Queen Liliuokalani

It is a great irony that the composer of Hawaii's most famous song of parting was the Kingdom's last ruling monarch, Queen Liliuokalani. Perhaps Her Majesty was metaphorically bidding adieu to Polynesian sovereignty in the place Mark Twain called "the loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean".

It is beyond the scope of this report

to document Hawaiian history in detail, but within half a century of the first fatal contact with the *haole* (white man), the archipelago had experienced a depopulation that brought the indigenous people from an estimated pre-contact population of at least 300,000 to 60,000 within 80 years.

The coming of the West led by force of arms to the transformation of tribal chiefdoms into a European-style, highly centralised monarchy. Many contemporary critics point to King Kamehameha II's disastrous 1848 land reform program, the 'Great Mahele', as being directly responsible for the Hawaiian landlessness that still plagues this insular society. At that time, only about 1 per cent of the *Aina* (land) ended up in the hands of the *Maka'ainana* (commoners).

Throughout the 19th century missionaries, merchants, whalers, planters, adventurers, indentured labourers and other (predominantly American) foreigners entrenched themselves in the Kingdom. Their interests clashed increasingly with the royalty, which died off at an alarming rapid rate. This confrontation came to a

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head in 1893, during the reign of Queen Liliuokalani, and resulted in the colonisation of a sovereign state.

Attorney Hayden Burgess, vice president of the UN-affiliated World Council of Indigenous Peoples relates the series of events that saw the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy: "in 1893 the Americans invaded, sending 162 US Marines, armed and ready for war. Basically, what they did was to support a puppet government calling itself a Provisional Government. They told Queen Liliuokalani to either surrender to this government or to go to war with the United States."

Shortly after the January 1893 coup d'état, a new US president, Grover Cleveland, took up residence at the White House. Cleveland, an anti-expansionist Democrat, was appalled at the preceding Republican administration's gunboat diplomacy and dispatched special investigator James Blount to Honolulu for five months to assess the situation. The former Confederate Army officer reported that "a great wrong has been done to the Hawaiians", a people "overwhelmingly opposed to annexation." Blount went on to say that "their legitimate government should be restored" post haste.

In a supremely cynical move, the Provisional Government went ahead and declare the Republic of Hawaii. With the so-called pineapple dynasty's Sanford B Dole as its first President, the Republic haughtily went on to refuse Cleveland's exhortation to restore Liliuokalani to her throne on the pretext that as an independent nation, the Republic did not have to follow Washington's dictates.

A counter-revolution was crushed in 1895, the Queen was placed under house arrest and sentenced to five years' hard labour and a \$US5000 fine. In 1898, the Republicans returned to office and President William McKinley inaugurated America's imperialist age of Manifest Destiny. The ethos that had tamed a continent now eyes the world at large once America's indigenous inhabitants — as well as its former British, French and Spanish colonists — had been expunged 'from sea to shining sea'.

The expansionism that had begun in Honolulu exploded on to the world stage on April 21, 1898, with the Spanish-American War. This brief conflict resulted in Washington seizing control of former Spanish possessions in the Caribbean as well as in the Pacific, where Guam and the Philippines became US colonies. On July 7, Hawaii was finally annexed by the United States: Pago Pago quickly followed suit as the Panama Canal, linking the Atlantic and Pacific, was constructed. Thus, the United States, once a beacon of anti-colonialism, became an imperial power that in the words of

Theodore Roosevelt would "walk softly but carry a big stick".

During the first half of the 20th century, the missionary-descended Big Five — Castle & Cooke, Alexander & Baldwin, American Factors, Theo H Davies, C Brewer — consolidated its monopoly over land, power and wealth in the archipelago. The rule of this Republican-linked elite was similar to that of a Central American plantation-based oligarchy; prior to World War II almost half of the Territory's land mass — approximately 1,665,000 hectares — was owned by fewer than 80 private owners.

The bombing of Pearl Harbour in 1941 heralded a new era in Hawaii, culminating with Statehood and the ascendancy of a new power structure led by the Democratic Party, unions and various non-*haole* ethnic groups. But Statehood perpetuated many of the same unresolved problems of the Hawaiian . . . and created new ones. The Hawaiian national liberation movement that has emerged has, in the past decade, centred on two cornerstones: land and culture.

Kekuni Blaisdell describes how col-

high school dropouts, drug/alcohol abusers, family/child abusers and prison inmates. A proponent of Hawaiian sovereignty, he contends that this health crisis is the result of an imposed society where colonised people are out of kilter with their natural and social environments — a sort of schizophrenia Franz Fanon called "black skins, white masks".

UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO ('THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHT-EOUSNESS')

— The motto of the State of Hawaii

Kekuni Blaisdell and most Hawaiian dissidents firmly believe the root cause of the firmly present tragedy lies in their estrangement from *Aina* (the land), turning Hawaii's aboriginal inhabitants into aliens in their own homeland. The alienation of the *Aina* is a curse, according to barrister Mililani Trask, who accuses both Federal and State government of what she calls "a massive breach of trust".

"At the present time," she says, "there are two Native Hawaiian land

"Most Hawaiian dissidents firmly believe the root cause of the present tragedy lies in estrangement from *Aina* (the land), turning Hawaii's aboriginal inhabitants into aliens in their own homeland"

onisation has impacted on the mental and physical health of the native. Dr Blaisdell, acting interim director of the Centre for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii, analyses an 'inorganic' situation where "we Hawaiians in our native land have the poorest health profile of all the ethnic groups in the State. For example, we have the shortest life expectancy and the highest mortality rates for the major causes of death, namely: heart diseases, cancer, stroke, accidents and diabetes. We have the highest rates for chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes and kidney disease.

"Among our young people, we have the highest infant mortality rates; our school children have the highest dental caries rates and among young adult males, we have the highest suicide rates. We have the highest teenage pregnancy rate and for women who become pregnant regardless of age, we have the highest rates for complications . . . and the lowest for those who seek prenatal care.

"So this is a tragic situation — and it's not new. It has been going on since the white man came 200 years ago," Dr Blaisdell laments. Hawaiians also have the state's highest rate of

trusts managed by the State. The first was created by act of Congress in 1921 and is called the Hawaiian Homes Commission Trust. It has about [74,000 ha] in it, scattered across the islands with the exception of Lanai. These lands were set aside by Congress for the purpose of encouraging homesteading and pastoral uses.

"The second Native Hawaiian land trust was created in 1959 when we became a State. Hawaii is the only State in the American Union where the federal government required as part of the compact for its admission into the Union that the State receive approximately [566,800 ha], which it would hold in trust for the public and for Native Hawaiians. In all the other States of the Union the public land of the state is preserved for public purposes only. But in Hawaii the lands are preserved for the public and the native." These ceded lands account for almost 580,000 ha.

Though these laws exist on the books, they have not been implemented: there are two legal categories for people of Hawaiian ancestry (see *Pacific Islands Monthly*, December 1988) and only one group is legally entitled to benefit from the land

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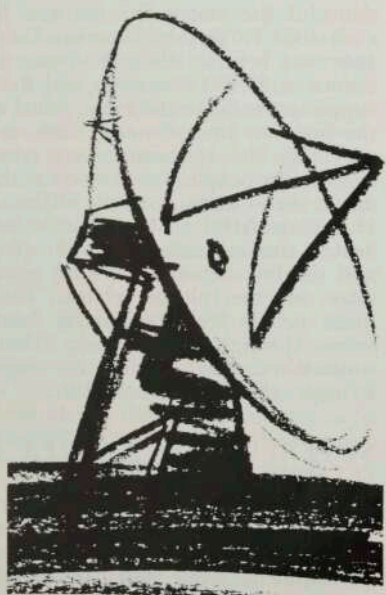
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trusts — the Native Hawaiian beneficiary class, legally defined as being 50 per cent or more Hawaiian blood. Part Hawaiians, who have less than 50 per cent Hawaiian ancestry, have no legal claim to the two land trusts, meaning the overwhelming majority has no land entitlements at all.

Native Hawaiians currently number about 40,000, while part Hawaiians are estimated to be 160,000 out of a State population of around one million. This division into two distinctly different classes has recently caused major controversy in the community, with an effort being made to create a 'single definition' Hawaiian entitling all to land trust benefits.

In any case, Mililani Trask charges that these benefits have not been received by the majority of the beneficiary class for which they are earmarked. "In 1982, we had the first federal investigation into how the state had managed those lands and the result revealed extensive breach of trust. At that time there were 8500 families waiting for homes. At the present time there are 18,000 families waiting for entitlements. The report revealed that [much of the land is being used by] State, Federal and country agencies for various public purposes." Airports and military installations, for example, have been established on ceded lands.

Land struggles have characterised Hawaiian nationalism since its reemergence in the late 1960s and early '70s. Japanese speculation, runaway development and military occupation of land — the Pentagon occupies 25 per cent of Oahu and 3 per cent of the entire State, and though Hawaii is the third smallest State it is the third largest in terms of actual lands owned by the military and first in terms of land ownership ratio — affects the entire community, but it is the aboriginal people who are hit hardest.

Activists have waged a series of protests in an effort to reclaim and preserve Kalama Valley, Hilo Airport, Waiaole-Waikane, Sand Island, Makua Valley, Waimanalo Beach, Hoae'ae, Sandy Beach and more.

The movement that has come to epitomise the Hawaiian land struggle concerns Kaho'olawe, an island off the coast of Maui that is regularly used for target practice. The US Navy has invited Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Britain to participate in manoeuvres that in 1984, for example, involved 80 warships and submarines, 250 aircraft and 50,000 troops. All of the island's 11,740 ha are part of the ceded land trust and in 1977, activists George Helm and Kimo Mitchell disappeared at sea during a protest action. There have been some concessions, but the Navy continues to bomb Kaho'olawe despite more than a decade of land occupations and other

demonstrations by the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana.

If the Hawaiian's land has been torn from beneath his feet, Western and Eastern acculturation seem to have rent his soul. Missionaries and others sought to banish Hawaiian religion, arts, language and oral tradition — everything that made Hawaii, Hawaiian. At times it seemed as if the very act of being Hawaiian was seditious behaviour: as George Helm, the activist to whom the song *Hawaiian Soul* is dedicated, said: "Far worse than not having land is not having identity, culture, pride and dignity."

"The public schools that once banned the language now offer Hawaiian as a subject"

But the exorcism of the inner Hawaiian never fully succeeded, for side by side with the land struggles came Hawaii's cultural renaissance. Hawaiian culture has re-emerged in music, dance, fashion, language, religion, film, visual arts, theatre and seafaring. The double-hulled sailing canoe *Hokule'a* is to this renaissance what Kaho'olawe Island is to the land rights movement.

Since 1970s, *Hokule'a* has traversed the vast stretches of the Pacific without modern technology, using the stars, the wind, the waves and clouds to navigate from Hawaii to the root of Polynesia. The twin masted canoe proved that the Hawaiians possessed the knowledge necessary for transoceanic voyaging and that they had not made landfalls at their archipelago — perhaps as long ago as 300 AD — by accident. Nainoa Thompson, the navigator who guided the canoe during its later voyages, described his Oceanic odyssey as "a moment of self-perspective, of one person in a vast ocean given an opportunity of looking through a window into my heritage".

Indeed, the entire Hawaiian renaissance provides a heritage window: musicians such as Gabby Pahinui, the Peter Moon Band, the Makaha Sons of Niihau, the Cazimeros and many others give voice to Kanaloa (Tangaroa), the Polynesian god of creation.

It is in songs, too, that the Hawaiian language literally finds a tongue — and the public schools that once banned the language now offer Hawaiian as a subject.

Video is playing a key role in cultural preservation and protest politics. The Make O Ka Aina (the Eyes of the

Land) group creates documentaries about feather weaving as well as propaganda vehicles attacking developers, as in its *West Beach Story* and *Kapu Kau* documentaries. Director Puhipau declares that his camera is the "gun" with which he fights the good fight.

The hula has seen a major revival, with festivals such as the Merrie Monarch highlighting traditional choreography; sarongs and other Polynesian-style garb are worn by Hawaiians to affirm their Pacific roots.

The realm of the visual arts is also richly diverse. Hawaiian aesthetics stormed the Islands' art preserves in 1987, with *paniolo* (cowboy) folk art and a contemporary Hawaiian exhibition at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. In early 1988 Rocky Jensen, the Hawaiian renaissance's own Renaissance Man, held an exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Centre that may have been the first such display by a Native Hawaiian. Jensen is probably the best Polynesian sculptor outside New Zealand, able to give form to artifacts or carvings that are suffused with a true Pacific sensibility.

Chief Maui Loa, like his cousin Rocky Jensen a descendant of King Kalakaua, is also an activist and was instrumental in Hawaiians' inclusion in the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Traditional believer — and Pele worshipper — Dr Emmett Aluli and others oppose the development of geothermal energy and a mooted spaceport on the Big Island out of deference to the volcano deity. Across the State *heiau* — aboriginal temples — are being restored and visited as places of prayer and offerings.

Nineteen eighty-seven was officially designated Ho'olako, the Year of the Hawaiian, in honour of the descendants of the State's first settlers. In early 1988 Ho'olakahi, Hawaiian Unity Day, was held at Aloha Stadium: an estimated 40,000 Hawaiians and their supporters came to the event, billed as the first time since the early 19th century that the Hawaiians have come together as people. Interviewed at the event, then-Chairman of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Moses Keale revealed the movement's master plan and the link between the land rights cause and the cultural rebirth: "First, make people feel good about themselves through ethnic pride. Then, unification. Next comes the major struggle: the return of the land."

SOVEREIGNTY: ONIPA'A!
(STAND FIRM)

As Hawaiians mark the 30th anniversary of Statehood, a number of matters are reaching a critical stage of development. While Hawaiians remain an admittedly disadvantaged minority, the twin land and culture movements



The Hawaiian cultural renaissance is expressed in 'newly traditional' forms such as non-tourist dance.

have nevertheless propelled them forward. They now have the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the agency charged with serving their interests, and Hawaiian Governor John Waihee, America's first Polynesian State chief executive. OHA and the Governor's office are reportedly conducting negotiations regarding the Hawaiian trust lands, which OHA is seeking to place under its jurisdiction.

In January, OHA trustees travelled to Washington and met with Hawaii's Congressional delegation to discuss Federal reparations to Hawaiians for the coup, annexation and the loss of land as the centennial of the monarchy's overthrow approaches. Another decade will probably see demonstrations similar to those staged by the Aborigines during Australia's bicentennial in 1988, since a number of legal questions in relation to the deposing of Queen Liliuokalani and the annexation remain unresolved: some activists even speak of trying the United States before the International Court of Justice or the United Nations' Committee on Decolonisation.

The hottest political issue in Hawaii today is the move for sovereignty (See *PIM*, January 1989). The word is defined differently by different factions: a small minority favours outright independence, including Hayden Burgess of the WCIP and Peggy Hao Ross, a pretender to the throne claiming to be Hawaii's rightful queen, whose group declared independence from the US in 1980. But considering the fact that CINCPAC, the Pentagon's Pacific and Indian Oceans command, is based at Pearl Harbour and that the US has substantial other interests in its Fiftieth State, Hawaii's withdrawal from the Union is highly improbable.

Ka Lahui Hawaii, or the Sovereign

Hawaiian Nation, is agitating for the next best thing to independence. Ka Lahui Hawaii defines sovereignty as self-determination, and is basically calling for "a nation-within-a-nation" based on the Hawaiian Homelands where Hawaiians would have extensive reservations and a government-to-government relationship with Washington. At the same time that Hawaiians practised limited home rule over part of the archipelago, they would remain US citizens and America would exercise control over much of the island chain.

Hawaii's Senator Daniel Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, has been speaking out recently in favour of limited sovereignty, saying: "Some people may scoff at this whole idea, but parts of it at least are achievable." For example, there are currently 308 Indian, Inuit and Aleut 'nations' in the continental United States, operating within federal and state confines but with various forms of local control. Parity for Hawaiians with their Native American brethren seems an attainable goal, but there are many obstacles on the path to nationhood. The Hawaiian movement has not had a unified leadership, and this lack of solidarity has taken on many forms. Some factions concentrate on special interest issues such as Kaho'olawe, Pele or various court battles; Ka Lahui competes with OHA for political hegemony; the dispute over the blood quantum — intended by OHA to unify all Hawaiians — erupted instead into a bitter feud; and there are personality clashes, such as the attack by Ka Lahui's Kia Aina (governor) Mililani Trask on Governor Waihee as "a brown puppet held prisoner by business interests". The backstabbing

among many of Hawaii's artists reaches positively Shakespearean proportions, and their hatred for one another is poisonous.

Furthermore, what is loosely referred to as the Hawaiian movement does not by any stretch of the imagination represent all Hawaiians or even a majority of them. Even in the OHA elections, which permit only those of Hawaiian ancestry to cast their ballots, participation is low (60,000 out of a potential 200,000, minus those under the age of 18). Critics contend that not only do Hawaiians not vote as a bloc, they don't vote at all; many Hawaiians identify as patriotic US citizens, such as former state Chief Justice William Richardson, who proclaims: "We're Americans now. American civilisation is not destroying Hawaiian culture; it's giving it a chance to revive, progress and grow." OHA land officer Linda Delaney asserts: "You cannot make Hawaiians choose between the Hawaiian mother and the American father." Even independence advocate Hayden Burgess estimates that at the most, only 20 per cent of all Hawaiians favour leaving the Union.

The greatest single problem within the Hawaiian movement is lack of mass participation. Though there are 18,000 signatories on the state's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) waiting list. Civil Rights for Hawaiians was only able to turn out 200 people for a demonstration at the State Capital . . . one of the largest Hawaiian demonstrations in recent times. Last December's sovereignty conference likewise drew only 200 participants. A football match attracted more spectators to Aloha Stadium than Hawaiian Unity Day, and a 1987 commemorative service for George Helm and Kimo Mitchell held at the University of Hawaii's amphitheatre was at least half empty.

Continued inequity has high social costs: crime, welfare, unemployment and the other indicators of anomie, all of which must be borne by society. Injustice is expensive and impractical: Hawaiian activist Kawaipuna Prejean contends that the State's current \$US500 million surplus exists because the state refuses to honour its trustee commitments to Hawaiians, such as providing them with the necessary capital for infrastructure on DHHL homesteads and farms. If there is no redress for Hawaiian grievances, Hawaii could sink into a situation where settlers are pitted against natives. Former OHA Trustee Hayden Burgess points out that "the UN recognises armed struggle to be the right of an occupied people," and refuses to renounce Hawaiians' right to do to the Americans the same thing the Americans did to the British in 1776. □

OLIVER STREWE / WILDLIGHT

HAWAII

Tax burdens anger residents

Hawaiians blame Asian buyers for high property taxes, but as Robin Bromby reports, the State's counties are the culprits.

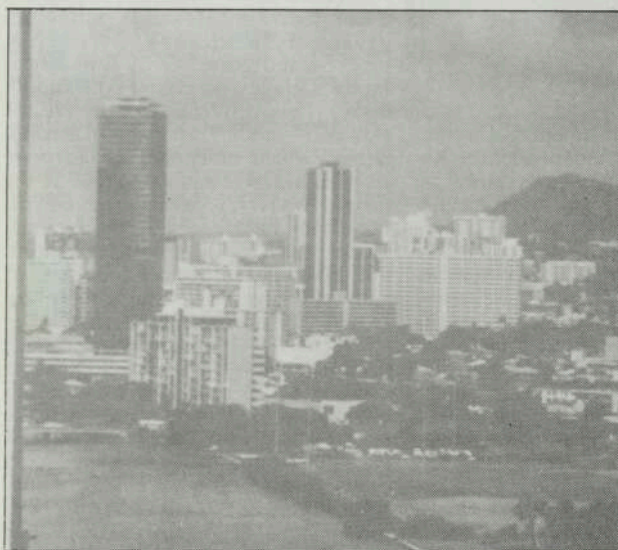
WHILE AUSTRALIANS have been blaming Japanese investors for meteoric rises in property values, Asian buyers have also been coming under attack in Hawaii for their effect on the state's property taxes (see *Pacific Islands Monthly*, February).

But, as a report from the Bank of

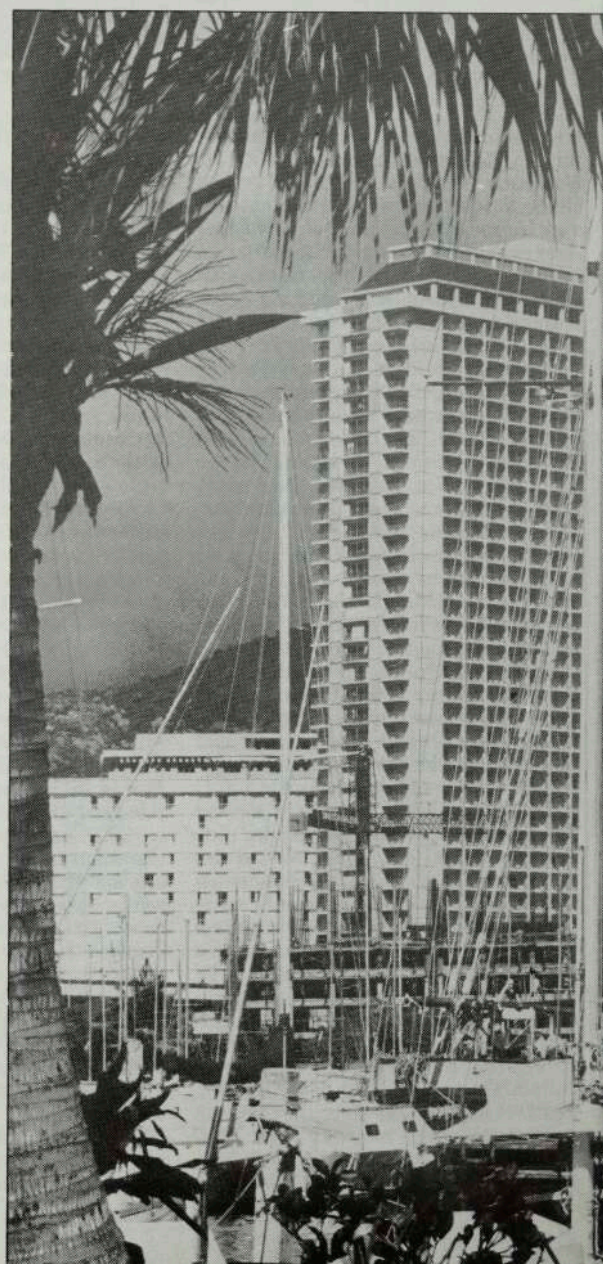
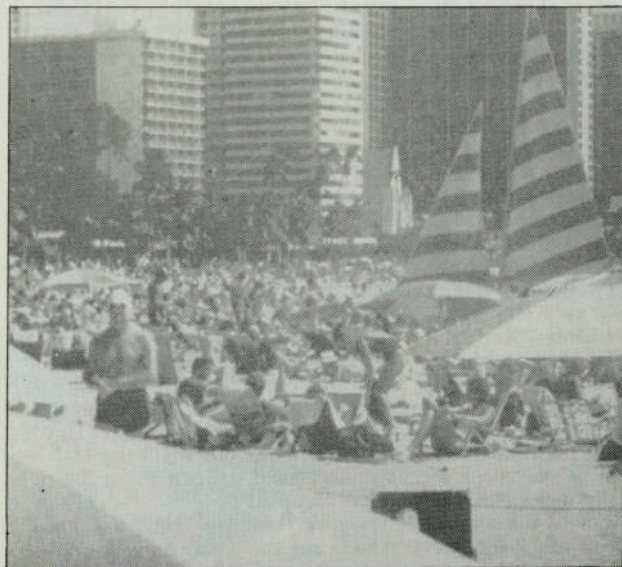
Hawaii points out, the property tax issue on those islands is more directly linked to the problems facing county administration in the State. While the State Government's coffers are showing a healthy surplus, the counties are starved of money — and the only way they have to redress that is by property taxes (or rates, as they known in

countries that follow the British system). As the bank points out, appraisals on which taxes are now based were undertaken before the current property boom, and the effect is especially noticeable in the city of Honolulu.

"It appears that Honolulu needs to raise the property taxes aggressively, and the Japanese have come along at



Waikiki high-rise (above) attracting Asian buyers. Beach scene (below) and luxury hotels (right) are evidence that islands life is good — but the tax burden is high.



the right time to absorb the blame," says the bank in its latest *Business Trends* report.

The disparity between government sectors in Hawaii has been demonstrated by the fact that the State's revenue has risen at double-digit rates in the past two years, while county income has gone just 5 per cent in that time. The state has a surplus of more than \$US500 million.

The bank suggests that the State stop taxing the counties through excise duties (Hawaii is the only US state that does so), distribute some of the surplus to the counties and cut State taxes. Hawaii, it says, has an unusually high tax rate — the average household pays a third of its income in tax, compared with a mainland average of less than a quarter. Awash with

money, the Hawaiian State administration has been addressing itself to avenues for spending money rather than cutting taxes. There is also considerable duplication of services by State and county governments, another factor that adds to the cost of running the islands.

In the meantime, says the bank, there is a simple way to defuse the issue of high-priced sales and their effect on rising valuations: allow residential assessments to rise but lower the tax rate, which would essentially keep county revenue at its current level. Then the State's surplus could be used to provide a State income tax credit for property tax burdens that exceed certain percentages of homeowner income.

Even then, Hawaiian counties would remain captive to the very narrow and inflexible tax base that leaves the State with the lowest taxable urban land area per capita in the United States — a compelling reason to allow more land to be released for urban development. Such a move would also help the current urgent need for more housing: on a State average, only 5.2 per cent of land is subject to county urban property tax.

"If the counties cannot expand their revenue sources beyond the existing

urban districts, individual property owners will continually be faced with rising assessments," the bank report said. These future tax increases have little to do with foreigners buying land; in fact, development of the remaining 95 per cent of Hawaii's land (and the conversion of it to urban use, thus producing urban property tax) depends to a significant extent on foreign investment.

In response to concern about foreign ownership, Honolulu city and county leaders are proposing to prohibit foreign ownership of agricultural land; but while that will no doubt appease those concerned about the level of Japanese property investment in Hawaii, the locking up of the land will mean that present taxpayers will be called on to shoulder the growing county revenue burden.

Meanwhile, construction in Hawaii has been rising at an increasingly rapid rate and has now reached an annual figure of \$US2.5 billion — a 26.5 per cent increase on 1987. The Bank of Hawaii believes that continued construction growth is likely. Permit values for the year ending October 1988 show an 11.1 per cent rise in private construction authorisations, and the bank predicts a solid pace of construction through 1989. □



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SOLOMON ISLANDS

\$10 million in aid 'misused'

A Commission of Inquiry finds that an Australian academic has questions to answer in the operation of a primary education project. By Richard Dinnen

AN education development project worth \$A10 million may have been distorted and rendered ineffective by the commercial interests of an Australian academic, a commission of inquiry has found.

Dr Rod Treyvaud, principal of the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education in Lismore, New South Wales, was employed in 1982 by the Solomon Islands Government to work on the World Bank Primary Education Project. In 1988 the Government ordered an inquiry into the project, following evidence of a scandal over dealings involving Dr Treyvaud, senior public servants and politicians.

The Commission's report, a copy of which has been obtained by *Pacific Islands Monthly*, cites major irregularities in the appointment of Dr Treyvaud and the subsequent performance of his duties. It claims Dr Treyvaud had almost 'total control' of the \$10 million aid project.

There were grounds to suspect Dr Treyvaud had performed some of his duties primarily to benefit himself and commercial interests owned or controlled by him, the report said. His involvement had led to breaches of Solomon Islands Government procedure, contravention of World Bank guidelines and costly problems with curriculum development.

The World Bank approved funding for the project in 1982 after two years of negotiation with the Solomon Islands Government. The project was designed to effect vital improvements in primary education by providing training of indigenous administrative and teaching staff, purchase of construction materials for school buildings and purchase of schoolbooks.

Dr Treyvaud's appointment as project director was surrounded by irregularity, the Commission found. He had been nominated in a confidential memo written by then-Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Education, Geoffrey Siapu. The Public Service Commission recommended his appointment for a two-year term but then-Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni intervened and ordered that Dr Treyvaud not be appointed. Mr Mamaloni recommended a six-month appointment after reading a letter drafted by Mr Siapu.

"It would appear that Dr Treyvaud himself drafted the contract," the re-



Dr Rod Treyvaud: "proud" of his work in the Solomons.

port says in reference to Dr Treyvaud's contract of employment, signed on behalf of the Government by Gina Tekulu, an Education Department under-secretary. The Commission found that the contract was presented to Mr Tekulu by Dr Treyvaud and that it had not been discussed with other Government officers before it was signed by Mr Tekulu who had no authority to sign contracts on behalf of the Government.

Dr Treyvaud began work in July 1982, three months before any formal contract was signed. Subsequent contract renewals were not referred to Public Service authorities as required by Solomon Islands law.

The Commission paid close scrutiny to the relationship between Dr Treyvaud and Mr Siapu, which it described as "a very close business and personal relationship". A notebook containing details of project expenditure made reference to a \$5000 payment to Mr Siapu as "Solomon Islands adviser". Both Dr Treyvaud and Mr Siapu denied that this or any consultancy payment had been made, but the Commission "did not find [Mr Siapu] a convincing witness". He had been "not at all frank . . . concerning his financial affairs."

Mr Siapu was listed as a director and major shareholder of South Pacific Development Associates Ltd (SPDAL). Dr Treyvaud is a former director of and is now a consultant to SPDAL. In January 1985 Mr Siapu received a banker's draft for \$1000

drawn on the Westpac Bank in Lismore, where an account is held by E T Development Assistance Associates Pty Ltd (ETDA), a company owned and operated by Dr Treyvaud. School fees worth \$6000 have been paid by Dr Treyvaud for one of Mr Siapu's children, who attends school in Lismore. Mr Siapu described the arrangement as a loan, but did not declare it as required. A loan of \$10,000 to Mr Siapu from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank is being repaid by SPDAL on his behalf.

The Commission recommended Mr Siapu be investigated by the Public Service Commission, the Leadership Code Commission and the Commissioner for Income Tax.

Of particular concern to the Commission was a contract awarded to ETDA, a business owned or controlled by Dr Treyvaud, to produce curriculum materials specifically for the Solomon Islands. It found the contract had been awarded in contravention of the World Bank's published guidelines for use of consultants and in breach of Solomon Islands Government procedures. Mr Siapu may have been in breach of the Constitution in recommending the award of the contract, and other public officers have been guilty of incompetence. The report finds there are grounds to suspect the contract was deliberately performed to benefit Dr Treyvaud and commercial interests owned or controlled by him.

The members of ETDA are Dr Treyvaud, his wife, his brother and sister-in-law. The Commission held that the company was formed specifically to operate the Solomon Islands project. Its obligations to the project were expressed in terms so vague as to be unenforceable, and nowhere in the agreement was ETDA made accountable to the Government for disbursements to individual consultants. The agreement was not submitted to the World Bank for approval or evaluation. The Commission found Mr Siapu had been instrumental in the award of the contract.

Payments under the contract total \$337,000 but the Commission could not establish how ETDA justified that amount. A Lismore publishing firm, was awarded a \$50,000 contract from the Solomons project. The Commission described the contract as "wasteful and unnecessary".

Concern over shortcomings in curriculum material provided by ETDA prompted it to recommend a full reassessment because of the "profound effect" it was likely to have on future generations. "There is a real danger that the educational objectives of the curriculum development project have been distorted . . . with a view to enhancing the image and profits of private commercial interests," the report said. "It should not have been allowed for the situation to arise whereby one individual played a dual role as education adviser/project director and as a businessman representing a company in a contractual relationship with the project." The report found this situation developed because of the willingness of Solomon Islands officials, in particular Mr Siapu, to be manipulated by Dr Treyvaud, and because Dr Treyvaud was not directly answerable

to any superior and was allowed almost total control over the project.

The Commission also investigated the affairs of SPDAL and found them to be "shrouded in confusion . . . its financial affairs, in particular, are unsatisfactory". The relationship between SPDAL and ETDA was at first difficult to establish, but funds had been transferred between the two companies. The Solomon Islands Government entered into an agency agreement with SPDAL because it was thought to be a locally owned company. In reality, SPDAL's affairs were controlled by Australian business interests. The Commission found "it would be reasonable to describe SPDAL as a mere sham for ETDA", and that the *bona fides* of ETDA are open to "considerable doubt". The Commission found SPDAL's accounts were incomplete, contained errors of

omission and commission, referred to apparently fictitious bank overdrafts and had overstated liabilities.

In a prepared statement to his college council last month, Dr Treyvaud claimed he was the victim of a campaign of defamation by opponents of a proposed property development he supports. Dr Treyvaud alleged those opponents had caused the Commission of Inquiry to be established.

He maintained that he was proud of the work he had done in the Solomon Islands and that he had gained great "satisfaction" from "contributing to the development of a National Primary Education Curriculum". The Commission, however, cited shortcomings in financial management, non-completion or non-delivery of projects and materials, and an apparent network of influence-peddling, nepotism and cronyism. □

NEW ZEALAND

Golden Fleece no force for peace

New Zealand military forces put down an imaginary rebellion, but protesters slam the real-life implications for Pacific nations. By David Robie

THE TROOPS moved into the remote town before dawn on a Sunday and began searching houses for armed civilian rebels. Villagers were detained for questioning and some of the insurgents sheltering in the area were shot.

The community based the soldiers as they secured the town. Operation Golden Fleece was under way. After initial difficulties and the loss of seven New Zealand soldiers, the rebels were soon overcome.

This is not a report from a newly created war zone; it is the story of a month-long New Zealand military exercise that attracted a barrage of criticism from peace activists and the trade union movement.

The exercise scenario was that an imaginary Pacific island state, Kolkis, was under the control of a 'rebel government' supported by 'Mursion' forces. The 'official' Kolkis 'government' requested New Zealand assistance to restore order. NZ troops were mobilised, and the battleground drama was played out in the remote central North Island forestry town of Minginui (population 200). The town's unofficial mayor, George McMillan, praised the operation, saying "this will help our troops if they are ever needed in the Pacific Islands."

While Operation Golden Fleece was

in line with policy laid down in the 1987 White Paper on defence, it became a public battleground. The NZ military high command chalked up the February operation as a victory — but while in military terms it was a success, it was a setback on the political front. The unscripted appearance on the scene of two groups attempting to intervene in the imaginary conflict threw a spanner in the works. Observers said the sudden obstacle had, however, created a more realistic situation in the context of military and constitutional crisis in the Pacific.

Proclaiming "mediation not militarisation", one group tried to intervene as mediators between the rebels of Kolkis and the NZ forces during the exercise. The group announced to the media that "a political settlement is possible and necessary rather than a military victory or defeat . . . the defence forces of many countries are turning to political solutions for political problems".

The other group, styling itself the "People's Front of Kolkis", attempted a more direct style of intervention and claimed to have 'infiltrated' the military. Publicity of the groups' activities embarrassed the military and sparked a debate about the nature of New Zealand involvement in the South Pacific at times of political upheaval.

"It is important that people in the Pacific know what is happening," said Alan Marston, a spokesman for one of the mediation groups. "Our troops are being trained to invade Pacific countries — we should be preparing for mediation and peacekeeping roles."

The President of the Council of Trade Unions, Ken Douglas, 'ambushed' the military with a press statement that gained widespread front page coverage. The army, complained Douglas, was preparing to fight on the "wrong side" in countries where armed conflict was likely. "The parallels between the mythical island of Kolkis and our Pacific neighbours are most disturbing," he said, particularly suggesting comparisons with Fiji and New Caledonia.

Many unions had protested that the military was practising to suppress a popular movement rather than to keep the peace or to defend New Zealand. "The army should be practising for a peacekeeping, disaster relief or emergency assistance role in other countries rather than stepping in on behalf of unpopular government trying to settle their problems by military force," Douglas said. "Foreign invasions and military campaigns to kill rebels do not solve the problems of poverty, unemployment and exploitation that lead to such unrest."

Military and government officials fired back their own salvos. "It's only an exercise," said Defence Ministry spokesman Major Peter Fry. Defence Minister Bob Tizard complained that the unions had misinterpreted the basis for the exercise. As Mr Tizard explained it, the New Zealand Government had merely responded to a plea from the 'government' or a friendly Pacific island state. □

Waiting for the skies to open

The villagers of Sulphur Bay, Vanuatu, gather to hasten the return of John Frum and his magical cargo. Text and photographs by Matthew McKee

EACH year around the middle of February, the people of Sulphur Bay, headquarters of the John Frum Custom Movement, gather to celebrate the anticipated return of their prophet.

The day begins with prayers in a small house on one side of the open common that forms the village centre. With prayers completed, the celebration shifts to the open for a short flag-raising ceremony and military style parade of men bearing bamboo 'rifles'. Next comes custom (traditional) dancing, followed by a concert of contemporary songs and dances performed by villagers from many parts of the island of Tanna.

The village lies on the northwest of Tanna, only five kilometres from the smoking 312 metre peak of Yassur Volcano. Life has been hard within ash-range of Yassur since the volcano began a cycle of activity shortly after Cyclone Uma struck Vanuatu in February 1987. Clouds of acrid ash fell on flattened houses, storm-damaged crops and waterways. It foiled attempts at replanting, contaminated drinking water and killed many of the remaining coconut trees. Villagers survived on tinned fish and rice for most of 1987 and well into the following year.

So who was John Frum? One theory is that an American pilot (*John from America* . . .) unloaded supplies in Tanna, then flew away. The villagers came to consider John Frum as some

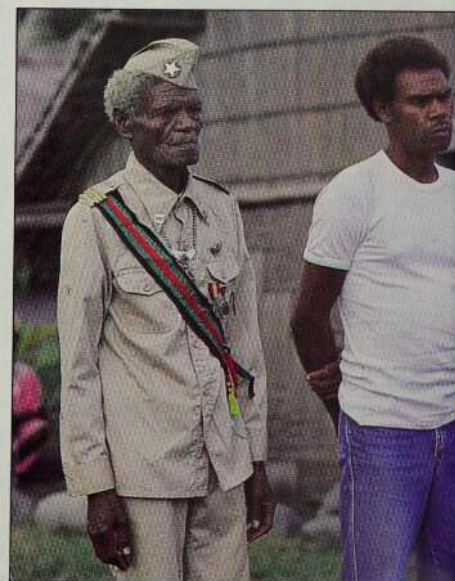
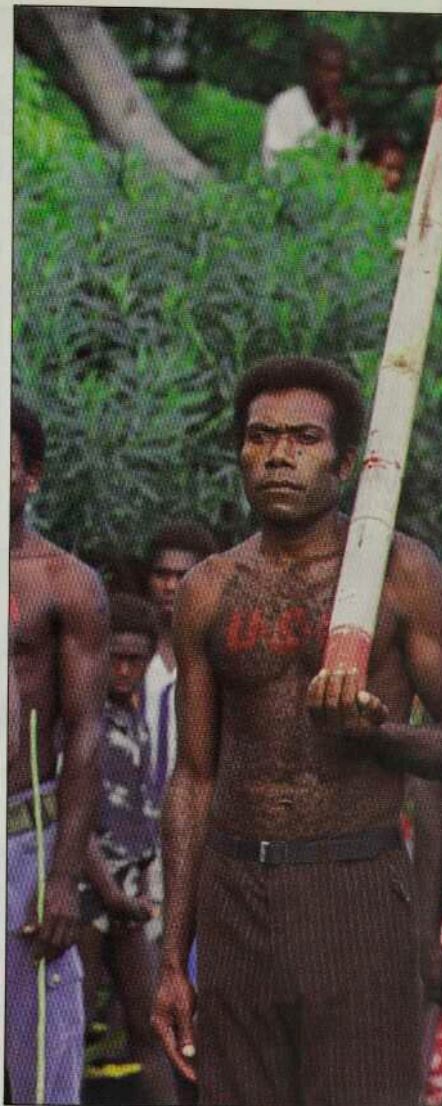
kind of millennial deity who would return one day in a plane loaded with enough goods to cater for the peoples' earthly needs for ever more.

John Frum, known on occasions as 'John Broom', is also described as a "funny little man with bleached hair, high-pitched voice and clad in a coat with shining buttons" who first appeared during a kava ceremony.

In Vanuatu there are many theories about the origin of the movement — which inevitably has been labelled a 'cargo cult'. While its roots go back to the 1930s, the movement flowered during World War II. The 'cult' began as a reaction to the culturally damaging effects of Christian missionary activities and Western influence. Early John Frum leaders advocated a return to traditional practices that had been frowned on or actively discouraged by the colonial administration.

Polygamy, kava drinking in the nakamal, custom dancing and communal gardening must have been perceived as a threat to European control.

Clockwise from top: John Frum's 'soldiers' parade with bamboo rifles. Following prayers, a flag-raising ceremony that commemorates the prophet's American origins. The 'Custom Movement' headquarters contains icons of the prophet, his Red Cross symbol and an honour roll of office-holders. Chief Tom Meles, exiled by the British for 18 years, oversees the ceremonies.





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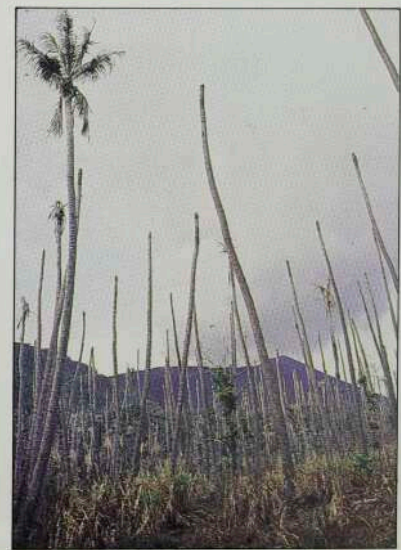
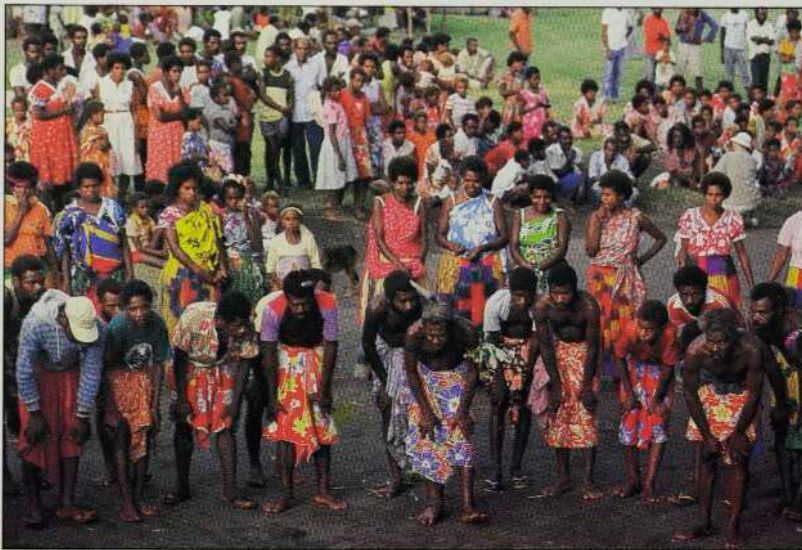
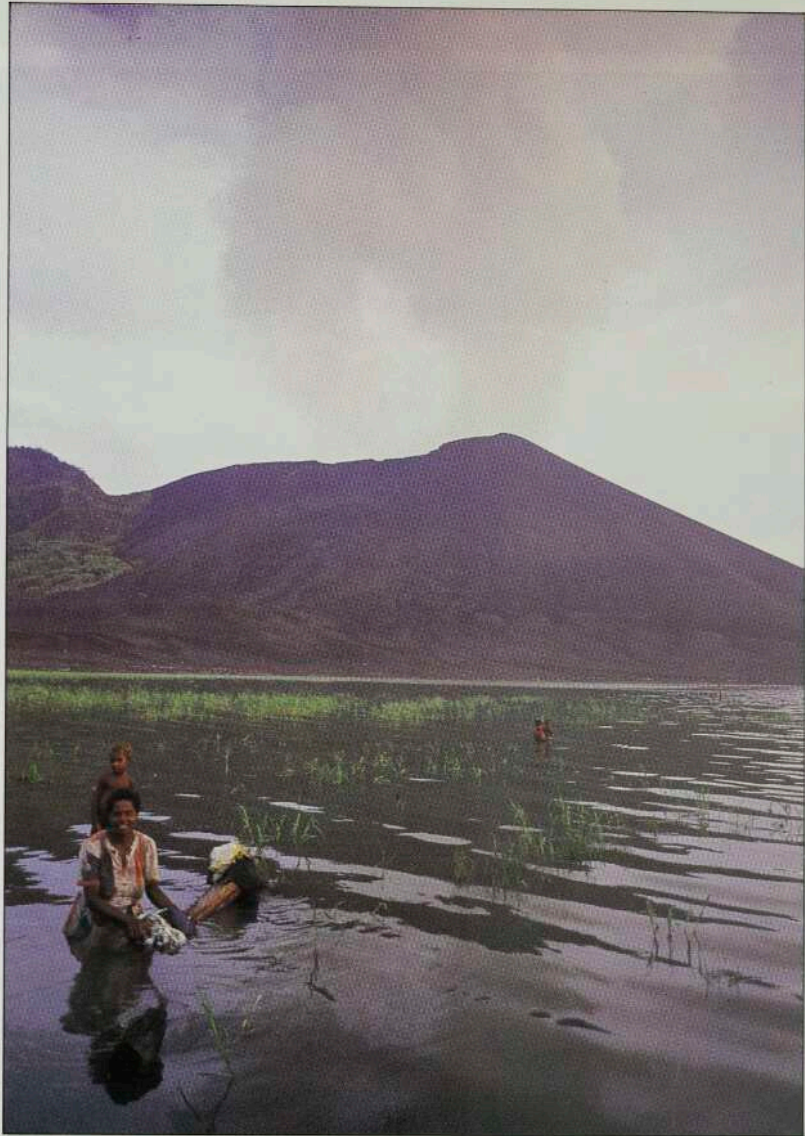
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because the British administration's response was to attempt to quash the movement. From 1941 to 1943, adherents were arrested, large fines imposed and leaders exiled to outer islands of the group. Many of these people arrested were put to work on US Air Force bases at Vila and Santo which meant they were able to 'spread the good word' throughout the country. Meanwhile, back at the bases, Frum followers were exposed to the sight of black American airmen apparently in charge of huge quantities of war material and spending large amounts of money. It seemed to them that the missionaries had been lying and that in truth it was black men such as these who were really running the world. The administration's policy was, in reality, greatly to the advantage of the John Frum movement and the opposite of what the British had intended: John Cleese as John Bull versus John Frum.

Arrests and banishments continued even after the Americans departed at the end of the war. The movement was very discreet in its activities, if not quite underground, during the 1950s and '60s, but reappeared as a political force during the shaky period prior to independence in July 1980.

John Frum did not return to his followers at Sulphur Bay this year... but as one villager explained, "the people had been waiting a long time for Jesus, too". □

Right: Yassur Volcano still rumbles, reminding the villagers of Sulphur Bay of its destructive power. Below: 'Custom' dancing is an important and serious part of the annual celebrations. Below right: Yassur's most recent eruption followed hard on the heels of Cyclone Uma, destroying crops and imperilling villagers' lives.



NEW ZEALAND

Maori activists convicted

An Auckland jury finds five radical Maori health activists guilty of assaulting a patient. David Robie reports.

FIVE RADICAL Maori activists accused of 'hijacking' a controversial project for psychiatric care were convicted on March 14 of assaulting a patient in a case likely to have far-reaching implications for New Zealand race relations.

Ending a 12-day trial in the Auckland District Court, a jury of nine women and three men took more than six hours to find the five defendants guilty on a total of 10 charges. All were remanded on bail for sentencing on April 11.

"It isn't any surprise. What do you expect with a political trial like this?" Titewhai Harawira declared as she left the court building. "This is just one more step to the revolution," she added before hugging and kissing her family and supporters.

"Don't cry; we have stayed strong for 12 days," said the 56-year-old suspended head of the Carrington Hospital Maori health unit, Whare Paia ('Place of Sanctuary'). "We'll move forward for an independent budget for Maori health in Auckland. That includes taking back our land in Aotearoa [New Zealand] because health is tied to our land."

In a statement, she said: "If they were still burning women at the stake, then that would have been done to me as well." Trial by media had meant that every "crank in the community" had taken it upon themselves to judge her group — "slashing car tyres, abusive phone calls, threatening the lives of ourselves and our children".

Harawira, a key leader of the radical Maori group Te Ahi Kaa, was found guilty of assaulting Maori psychiatric patient Charles Matthews in April 1988. She was also found guilty of threatening to kill him. Harawira's daughter Hinewhare, 35; her son Arthur, 33; his wife, Tui Pere, 26; and Otere Halkyard, 27, were also convicted on assault and injuring charges. All five had denied the allegations and it was not immediately clear whether they would appeal.

Judge Denis Pain told the jury its decision typified the "true spirit" of NZ's justice system: Matthews had alleged in court that he had been punched, kicked and grabbed by the genitals at the Whare Paia during two meetings, as punishment for his alleged sexual assault on a staff nurse.

Judge Pain told the jury there were

major conflicts in the evidence of virtually every witness called: "Although I have ruled [Matthews] was legally competent to give evidence, the credibility of his testimony is entirely a matter for you to decide... Is he making it up? Or is he just confused?"

Defence lawyer Dr Rodney Harrison, a renowned civil liberties barrister, told the court that a "seething bed of politics" lay behind the allegations. "You may have wondered who was on trial — but it was not the Maori health unit," he added, accusing the New Zealand news media of depicting Harawira as a "bogey".

After the trial, Television New Zealand's *Eyewitness News* programme cited several other allegations of assaults by Harawira, including one with a stiletto heel. It said affidavits had been filed with evidence of the alleged assaults and featured an interview with NZ-born Samoan work trust organiser Poumau Papali'i, who alleged an assault at a hui (meeting) of the Corso development and aid agency in Auckland last September.

"This was an assault on the dignity of my family and ancestors," he said, appealing to New Zealanders to speak

out against the violence. "The legal remedy isn't enough."

Last October, the then Auckland Hospital Board ordered the closure of the Whare Paia clinic after a damning report by former race relations conciliator Hiwi Tauroa, following accusations of assaults, threats and misuse of public funds. Tauroa's report detailed what he termed the "mechanics of manipulation" for personal and ideological gain.

He also warned that in future recognised Maori leaders would need to be prepared to stand up and challenge false "Maori views".

Meanwhile, a controversial Australian television documentary about New Zealand race relations has been blocked from being screened in this country because of the request of three unidentified people featured in Channel 10's *Page One* programme. PM David Lange condemned remarks by Syd Jackson, a trade unionist and Te Ahi Kaa activist, saying that armed struggle between the races was inevitable. TVNZ news and current affairs director Paul Norris said such "protection" was usually reserved for extreme cases such as Soviet dissidents. □

Land rights or coalmines?

Confusion lands Government in hot water. By Robin Bromby

WELLINGTON IS discovering that its own Maori land rights policy is thwarting several major policy initiatives. The latest such development is the plan by the Tainui Maori Trust Board to seek an injunction against the sale of the state-owned coal mines in the Waikato region, south of Auckland.

The Coal Corporation of New Zealand (Coalcorp), which produces 75 per cent of the nation's coal, is one of several state-owned enterprises up for sale, and the Government is expecting about \$NZ100 million from the sale.

Its mines are clustered in three areas, one of which, around Huntly in the Waikato, produces 920,000 tonnes of Coalcorp's total annual output of 1.5 million tonnes for power stations, firing the NZ Steel plant and for industrial users in the north. It is the key asset of Coalcorp.

The Tainui people have filed in-

junction papers with the High Court in Wellington, based on the fact that land they are claiming includes the five mines at Huntly and untapped reserves. The tribe is interested in both retrospective and future royalties.

Figures suggest that the Tainui people may claim as much as 47,000 hectares in the Waikato, including the coal mines, Crown land and farmland valued at \$NZ74 million.

Both the High Court hearing and the Tainui claim before the Waitangi Tribunal could delay the sale of Coalcorp for months, if not years. For its part, the Government is anxious to sell Coalcorp as part of its strategy of raising funds to help pay off the country's massive foreign debt. However, the Tainui tribe has hinted that it may be prepared to negotiate directly with the Government rather waiting for it to be heard as part of the Waitangi Tribunal claim.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Reefs under threat from pollution

AUSTRALIA'S TOURISM boom has sparked nationwide hotel and resort development worth many billions of dollars, much of it planned for the Great Barrier Reef region. Development proposals worth more than one hundred million dollars are being considered for this still largely unspoiled area, which attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year. But development to accommodate those tourists may be killing off the very natural wonder they came to see.

The reef is part of a 345,000 hectare marine park, and in 1981 became the first area of Australia to achieve World Heritage listing. But it seems this protected status provides no protection from pollution.

A partially completed study by marine biologists at the University of Sydney indicates that large areas of the reef may be threatened by effluent wastes discharged from Great Barrier Reef island resorts. Dr Tony Larkum and Dr Judi Hansen are halfway through a three year study on the reef to determine the levels of nutrients that can be tolerated by coral.

The two researchers have found waste disposal facilities associated with the rapidly growing number of resorts are "cause for real concern".

Sewage is reportedly discharged directly into the marine park from resorts on Hamilton, Bedarra, Lindeman, South Molle and Great Keppel islands, and from the Aboriginal settlement at Palm Island. At Hamilton, the Water Quality Council imposed a licence condition in 1985 that the resort construct a sewage treatment plant. It remains unfinished despite a completion order last year, and raw sewage is still pumped into the sea.

"Coral lives on very low nutrient levels, particularly nitrogen," Dr Larkum says. "Even one person urinating in the water can cause a tenfold increase in nitrogen levels." Sewage effluent contains high levels of nutrients that are quickly absorbed by marine organisms. Floating and attached algae quickly develop and smother the coral, which dies over a number of years.

The damage does not occur overnight and is thus easily dismissed by developers and their advocates. But Dr Larkum cites the case of Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii, where thousands of hectares of coral were killed during the 1970s by sewage effluent.



Environmentalists say untreated effluent has caused similar damage across the Pacific.

Conservationists argue that the new development proposals must be considered alongside the existing resorts' potential for environmental damage. They accuse the Australian Government of reluctance to intervene and regulate development. Developers have plans for some of the 600 continental and 300 reef islands included in the World Heritage listing. The World Heritage (Properties Conservation) Act gives the Government power to intervene, but conservationists say it will not act for fear of antagonising

the conservative Queensland State Government.

The Federal Government is also responsible for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, but has no jurisdiction over land above the low water mark. The Marine Park Authority has only limited regulatory powers when land-based development affects the marine environment.

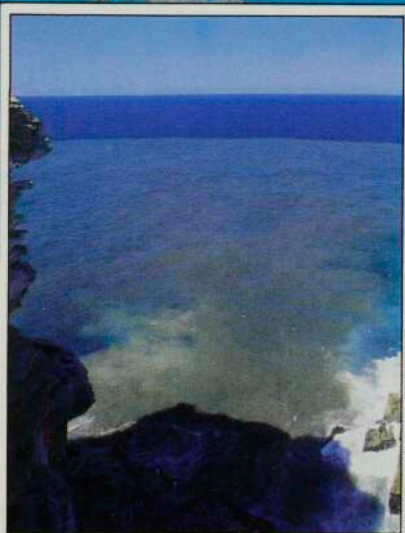
The Queensland Cabinet recently approved the development of a golf course on 60 hectares of national parkland on Lindeman Island in the Whitsundays. Earthworks have begun on Dent Island for a golf course to service the nearby resort at Hamilton

Sewage effluent threatens large areas of coral on the Great Barrier Reef, and World Heritage listing is not enough to stop the rot. By Richard Dinnen



Island. Other projects planned or under way in the area include a \$10 million redevelopment of the Great Keppel Island resort, a \$100 million dollar hotel and resort development on Magnetic Island off Townsville (development that has met major environmental opposition) and a \$125 million dollar resort on Wild Duck Island that threatens one of the world's largest nesting colonies for the endangered flat-back turtle.

Other World Heritage-listed islands reportedly earmarked for development include Keswick, Long Hummock Hill, Daydream and St Bees. While an environmental impact study



Top: Reefs throughout the Pacific are threatened by resort developments. Above: Sewage pollution spells death to marine ecosystems.

has been ordered for the Magnetic Island project, conservationists and concerned residents say such studies are token gestures and have little real effect on the eventual outcome.

In the face of growing concern and protest, the Federal Government insists that World Heritage listing is "no bar to development" and the Queensland Government asserts that its controls over island development are "quite adequate". But environmentalists do not agree, and have called for close monitoring and development of effective sewage disposal methods. The University of Sydney study tends to justify their concern.

OLIVER STREWE / WILDLIGHT

COOK ISLANDS

Natural Heritage under threat

From Rarotonga, Cheryl Lilly reports on two major conservation issues — one the legacy of past ignorance, the other a bitter lesson in exploitation.

ONE OF THE world's rarest birds, the *kakerori* or Rarotongan flycatcher, is fighting for survival in the Cook Islands. Extensive searches in 1988 located 35 birds, but following the 1988/89 breeding season (which ended in February), only 28 birds remain.

This small, attractive bird (bright orange when young and developing grey or rust-coloured plumage as adults) is unique to Rarotonga and lives in less than two square kilometres of rugged inland bush on the southern side of the island. *Kakerori* are inquisitive, noisy birds that occupy distinct territories and, according to Gerald McCormack, the Cook Islands' director of Conservation Services, were widespread over the island prior to the middle of the last century. By the late 1800s, however, the birds were said to be rare and the initial reason for declining numbers was thought to be predation by cats (introduced in 1823) and a series of particularly harsh cyclones.

Recent observations have shown that the black rat is the probable cause of the *kakerori*'s breeding failure: last year only one young survived out of eleven nests under observation and there was strong evidence that the others were destroyed by rats, says McCormack.

In an attempt to save the *kakerori* from extinction, a recovery programme funded jointly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in New Zealand and the South Pacific Environmental Programme (SPREP) has been implemented. The plan involves a carefully monitored rat poisoning programme, research on the flycatcher's biology and a banding scheme that makes it possible to recognise individual birds, document their movements and how long they live.

"This season we poisoned extensively, using Talon, and banded trees where the *kakerori* were nesting to protect the eggs and the young from rats. Yet out of 13 breeding pairs, which built 20 nests — each with two eggs — we only gained four young," McCormack says.

"Realising now that we didn't do things intensively enough, next season we will have to escalate the poisonings well before the breeding season to ensure there are absolutely no rats. Once the season starts will band all the trees



Judith Künge

The kakerori (Rarotongan flycatcher): endangered by a combination of human ignorance, environmental destruction and natural catalysts.

around the nests with thin aluminium." (Aluminium bands make it impossible for rats to climb trees and rob nests.)

"We now have a borderline number of *kakerori*; if next season is as bad, the situation will be desperate."

Even if the 1989/90 breeding season is successful, the *kakerori* will never again breed independently. The recovery programme will continue indefinitely and the Cook Islands Conservation Service will also continue to assist the bird to breed in the hope that from the small area in which they now live, *kakerori* will spread out successfully to other areas.

Along with the recovery programme, the Conservation Service is looking to establish a *kakerori* nature re-

serve that would involve local landowners, whose consent and co-operation would be sought.

As McCormack says, "these birds belong to the nation: they are a unique part of our heritage. It is up to the people of the Cook Islands to decide whether to protect the *kakerori* or let it drift into extinction."

But while endangered birds are receiving assistance, continued gill netting of southern albacore tuna by Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean and American fishing boats is not only damaging the ecology of the South Pacific, it also seriously threatens attempts by the Cook Islands to become involved in industrial fisheries.

According to Colin Brown, director of Fisheries Management in Rarotonga,

ga, the Cook Islands has always wanted to participate in such an industry. "The Cook Islands are in fact the most practicable location for boats fishing this albacore stock," he says. "Ideally we would like to see a transhipping base set up on Rarotonga, but our most realistic option is a joint venture with United States boats fishing this albacore ground."

However, any hope of establishing industrial fisheries are likely to be overshadowed by the activities of the gill netters. "There are currently more than 150 boats, all with 15 to 20 nets, fishing this area," says Brown. "At this level the southern albacore stocks will be wiped out in two years."

Colin Brown's concern for the future of southern albacore stocks is shared by many South Pacific nations. Late last year representatives from the South Pacific Commission, Forum Fisheries Agency and regional organisations from the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Tahiti, American Samoa and New Zealand, met in Suva to discuss the implications and problems posed by the gill netters.

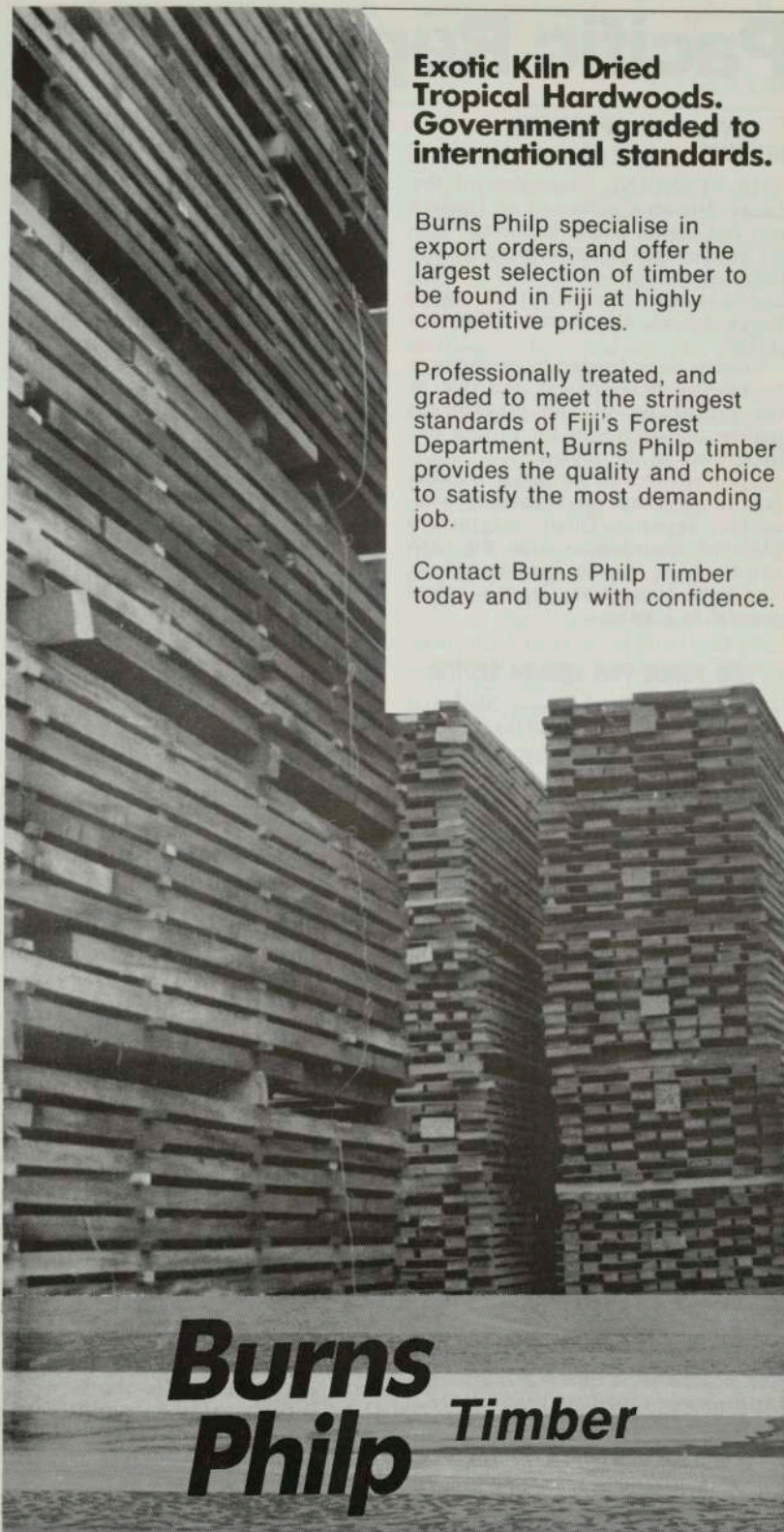
It was recognised that the region faced a major threat from the numbers of gill netters entering this fishery; and because the fishing is mainly in international waters, national fisheries laws cannot be applied to prevent the anticipated over-exploitation or ban the gill netters.

The consultative committee at the Suva meeting recommended that the use of gill nets for catching pelagic fish be condemned at all levels. Colin Brown explains: "Gill nets sweep the ocean floor, taking everything including marine mammals and sea turtles. They also represent a navigational hazard to other boats, and when they break or are lost, the nets drift and continue to catch fish, small whales and other marine animals."

The consultative group called for regional governments to ban albacore gill net boats from using port facilities, for regional canneries not to purchase gill netted albacore and for the implementation of a ban on the transshipment of gill netted albacore within the region. It was requested that the Australian and New Zealand Governments be approached to raise the gill net issue during southern bluefin tuna trilateral talks with Japan.

It was also recommended that those governments having bilateral access arrangements with Japan, Taiwan and Korea stress their countries' concern regarding gill netting activities in the South Pacific.

For its part, the Cook Islands gives high priority to the conservation of albacore stocks and hopes regional co-operation will achieve sound management measures to protect this economically vital fishery. □



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Pacific Report

DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REVIEWED

THE STANDING Committee of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders met last month at the East-West Center in Honolulu to begin plans for the third conference of leaders in 1990 and to review the work of the Center's Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP).

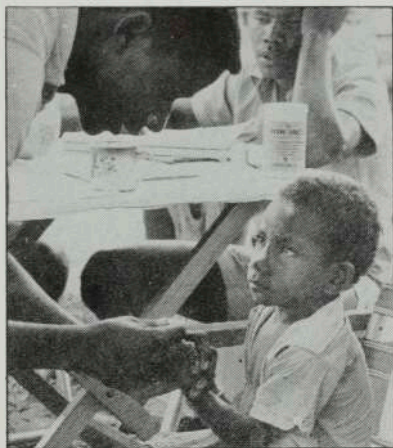
Leaders were briefed by researchers on tourism development, the role of the private sector, and government policies and strategies for private sector growth in the region.

The President of Kiribati and chairman of the Conference standing committee, Ieremia Tabai, accepted a \$100,000 contribution from the Government of Japan, presented by Tadayuki Nonoyama, Japan's consul general in Hawaii.

ADB FUNDS PNG HEALTH SECTOR

THE ASIAN Development Bank has agreed to provide \$US360,000 in technical assistance for a Health Sector Financing Study in Papua New Guinea. The grant will be financed by the Japan Special Fund.

The objective of the assistance is to help the PNG Government find alternative ways to supplement financing of the recurrent health expenditure, a predominant part of the total



ADB funds to upgrade PNG health care.

expenditure of PNG's health services.

The study will be conducted in two phases. Phase one will assess and quantify the needs of additional recurrent funding in the sector while the second phase will review additional financing methods and recommended ways of implementing options.

A team of consultants will support the study, due to begin in April.

US MAPS ON PACIFIC TOUR

UNITED STATES MPs last month toured Pacific island jurisdictions for which they have legislative responsibilities. The legislators are members of the House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Rights. Their itinerary included visits to Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and American Samoa.

Despite declining health, 66-year-old Committee chairman, Representative Morris' Udall led the tour. Delegates were expected to find that political status is a uniform concern throughout the islands. Guam wants Commonwealth status while the Northern Marianas has Commonwealth but wants to be released from the Interior's jurisdiction. Palau remains undecided and American Samoa shows signs of wanting to reassess its status, with conservative Governor Peter Coleman suggesting a re-examination of ties, albeit within the US framework.

NZ-NAURU DEAL ENDS

THE strained civil aviation agreement between Nauru and New Zealand has been terminated. The five-year-old agreement, under which New Zealand officials advised on Air Nauru operations and airworthiness, has lapsed and was not renewed, said NZ Associate Foreign Minister Fran Wilde.

The move followed the grounding of the airline when its operating certificate was withdrawn twice last year. The Minister said New Zealand had tried hard to keep Air Nauru flying while ensuring standards were maintained and had offered advice intended to achieve those aims.

"Unfortunately, Air Nauru has not always found it possible to accept this advice, and the New Zealand Government regrets that the arrangement did not work out more satisfactorily for both parties," he said.

Australia's High Commissioner to Nauru, Beris Gwynne, had earlier been recalled after it became known she had gathered information on Air Nauru's safety record. That information was passed on to the New Zealand Department of Foreign Affairs as a matter of course. But Nauru's President Hammer deRoburt cited Ms Gwynne for "unsatisfactory behaviour" and requested her withdrawal.

YAMAMOTO PLANE ROW

AN AGREEMENT to return to Japan the wing of the aircraft in which Admiral Yamamoto died had angered the provincial government in North



Row erupts over Yamamoto relic.

Solomons, Papua New Guinea.

The wreckage of the aircraft has remained at Buin since it was shot down during World War II. The PNG and Japanese governments have signed an agreement for the return of wreckage from the aircraft for display in Japan. A Japanese delegation was due to collect a wing from the aircraft in late February. The agreement was made without the knowledge of the North Solomons Government and has drawn angry reactions from local leaders.

North Solomons Premier Joseph Kabui said his government should have been consulted because the wreckage is in its area and is a tourist attraction. "There is no guarantee that this wreckage will be safe. The agreement does not stipulate or guarantee the safety and return of the wreckage to the province. We find this difficult to understand," he said.

The agreement provides for the construction of a road to the wreckage site, the establishment of a trust fund starting with K9500 for Buin landowners. The wing will be displayed in the Japanese city of Nagoka, and the money raised will be used to maintain the road to Buin for continuous visits by Japanese tourists. It also provides for construction of a medical care project at Buin and the election of two-village leaders to the Association overseeing the Ngoka project.

TAHITI NEWSPAPER CHANGES

FRENCH PUBLISHING magnate Robert Hersant, owner of the conservative *Le Figaro*, *Paris-Match*; and a chain of other publications in France, has added another daily news-

paper to his growing Pacific interests. The Hersant group, Pacific-Presse Communication, last month took over control of *Les Nouvelles de Tahiti*, one of Tahiti's two biggest newspapers. Announcing the takeover in a front page statement, former publisher Julien Siu, a Tahitian-Chinese businessman, and Pacific-Presse group publisher Henri Mornay promised readers the paper would be given an editorial facelift and a more commercial structure.

Media commentators suggested the paper would be given a more professional, more lively presentation with the use of four-colour pictures like its sister-paper in Noumea, *Les Nouvelles Caledoniennes*. Once regarded as a reasonably liberal paper and frequently criticised for giving too much space to pro-independence parties, it is now expected to move further to the right than its rival, *La Depeche*.

Louis Bresson was named as new editor-in-chief and it was announced he would head a "solid and dynamic" team of journalists. "His mission is clear," said the publishers in their joint statement. "He must offer every morning to our readers a modern newspaper, complete, independent, objective, attuned to the preoccupations of the territory's leaders and its population, while at the same time being open to the aspirations of youth ... on whom our future depends."

Ironically, just two days after the takeover of *Les Nouvelles*, one of the region's previously independent and locally owned newspapers, commentator Daniel Tardieu criticised the curbs in news media and the proposed licensing of newspapers in Fiji.

"In all countries respecting civil liberties," he wrote in *La Depeche*, "those of the press are the foundation stones of democracy. One crucial factor is the right of citizens to free expression. But the press embarrasses governments and those who do not like freedom of expression".

□ LANDOWNERS IN SYDNEY TALKS

LANDOWNERS IN the Special Mining Lease (SML) area of Porgera in Papua New Guinea are dissatisfied with the handling of their affairs by the local representatives of the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) company.

So the landowners decided to go straight to the top, last month sending a 10-member delegation to Sydney for talks with the overseas managers of the company. A chief of the SML area, Pakitu Pundi, led the delegation to discuss problems with the people landowners feel are the "real" managers of the venture.

The delegation reportedly sought an assurance of 10 per cent free share participation in the mine, construction

of a permanent township before mining begins, upgrading of the local health centre, the awarding of contracts to Porgerans, and training and employment.

□ COOKS AID TO INCREASE

US aid to the Cook Islands is likely to increase by \$100,000 to around \$US500,000 a year, according to outgoing US Ambassador to New Zealand, Paul Cleveland. After a recent visit to Rarotonga, Mr Cleveland gave assurances aid would be continued to the newly elected government of Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry.

Mr Cleveland said his country is paying more attention to the Pacific in response to demands from the region and increased awareness in the US. Talks between Mr Cleveland and Mr Henry centred on future US aid programs, in particular possible assistance to develop the black pearl industry in the northern Cook Islands.

Meanwhile, a New Zealand Audit Office team has examined the management of NZ's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Cook Islands. An Audit Office team spent a week in the Islands and observers say their response to ODA projects was generally favourable. It is not known if the

team's report will be made public: the decision to publish rests with a select committee of the NZ Parliament.

— Cheryl Lilly

□ CENTRE FOR NORFOLK

THE American Society for Environmental Education (ASEE) has proposed the development of an environmental research centre on Norfolk Island. A site for the proposed South Pacific Centre for the Environment has yet to be found, but preliminary meetings indicate considerable enthusiasm for the project.

ASEE president Dr William Mayo says the centre will provide a focus for scientific research of relevance to the region and establish a centre to host regional South Pacific conferences on environmental and scientific topics. The project, Dr Mayo hopes, will be funded by donations from individuals, corporations and governments. The ASEE has so far sought the involvement of the Norfolk Island Government, the University of Auckland (NZ) and the Macquarie University, Sydney.

If approved, the centre would open in 1991, with its first research project already listed as a study of monitoring of Norfolk Island rainfall using high



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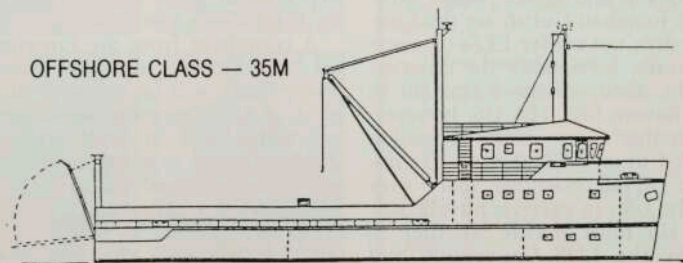
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The study would provide a data base for water budget investigations and help assessment of soil erosion, forestry management and botanical research, Dr Mayo said.

□ FRUIT WILL NOT FLY

AN indefinite ban on the exportation of fruit to New Zealand by travellers has been imposed by the Cook Islands Ministry of Agriculture in a bid to stop the spread of fruit fly. The move follows the discovery of live fruit fly larvae in a private shipment of papaya.

Officials say the ban is aimed at operators who attempt to sneak fruit out of the Cook Islands without following quarantine regulations.

Smuggling of unfumigated fruit threatens an export industry that generates around \$NZ7 million each year for the Cook Islands.

□ EEZS NOT EASY

THE Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), extending 200 nautical miles from shore, has given unprecedented economic power to many Pacific nations. But US and Pacific policymakers now are grappling with the thorny legal question of whether an uninhabited island can generate an EEZ.

Research by the Hawaii-based East-West Centre finds the US in a dilemma over EEZs for the Northwestern Hawaiian islands. The problem stems from the ambiguous language of the UN Law of the Sea (LOS) Convention that established the EEZ concept. Researchers Jon and Dyke, Joseph Morgan and Jonathan Gurish say the Convention does not confer EEZs on some small insular formations, the criterion being the ability of the formation to sustain human life. The US, however, contends that every insular formation is entitled to an EEZ, thereby extending the overall maritime space over which the US can exercise jurisdiction.

The US must decide whether to abide by the LOS Convention and thereby limit its EEZ claims to perhaps only three of the Northwestern

Hawaiian islands. The East-West researchers say that decision would restrict US interests in the short term but provide for greater long-term benefits and the development of a common Pacific heritage.

□ ARTS GRANTS

THE London-based Commonwealth Institute has invited applications for an arts and crafts fellowship for the South Pacific region. Five fellowships will be granted, one for each of five regions of the Commonwealth.

Artists and craftspeople aged under 35 and residing in Commonwealth countries are eligible. Institute spokeswoman Gloria Maddy says preference will be given to talented individuals who have shown promise of artistic merit and achievement in their own countries but who have not had opportunity to gain exposure and experience overseas.

The fellowship is tenable for up to nine months and will cover return airfare, subsistence and exhibition costs. Applications close on October 1.

□ ADB VANUATU GRANT

VANUATU is to receive a \$US75,000 technical assistance grant from the Asian Development Bank. The grant is intended to assist the development of comprehensive legislation for environmental and natural resources planning and management.

Vanuatu's population is growing at about 3.2 per cent each year, and increased agriculture, mining and industry to meet local and export needs is expected to place considerable strain on the nation's environment.

A consultant from the Environmental Law Centre, much is based in Switzerland, will be engaged to study existing environmental legislation and provisions, and to draft appropriate guidelines and new legislation to support environmental concerns.

□ TUVALU UPGRADE ENDS

THE major phase of a \$A1.5 million upgrade of Tuvalu's Public Works Division (PWD) in Funafuti has been

completed. The project was the largest funded in Tuvalu by New Zealand aid. The new PWD complex, designed by Fijian architects Lee and Associates, is also the most ambitious project yet undertaken by a local building contractor.

The project was planned in 1985 after two New Zealand experts conducted a review of the PWD and recommended a number of radical changes. Work commenced in 1987 and the upgraded complex was officially opened last month.

Future NZ aid to the PWD will concentrate on improving technical and management skills through training programs. Designate Director of Works, Vete Sakaio, is due to depart for New Zealand for training in management techniques.

— Diana McManus

□ FSM BACKS INDEPENDENCE

FAILURE by many nations to recognise the independence of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) did not detract from the reality of that independence, according to FSM President John Haglelgam.

Mr Haglelgam told the Japanese media that disputes over recognition of FSM independence are "superpower games" and were of little concern to his administration. Only 11 nations presently recognise the FSM, but Mr Haglelgam said recognition is expected shortly from China and many of FSM's Pacific neighbours. The President denied Soviet allegations that a referendum result in favour of free association with the United States was against the will of islanders.

□ EC TURNS FIJI ON

FIJI will receive a \$F5 million special loan from the Commission of the European Community for a rural electrification program. Under the program, 28 rural electrification schemes will be constructed to extend the national grid. A new power station will be constructed to extend the national grid. A new power station will be built at Korovou.

The program will be implemented by the Fiji Electricity Authority. Funds will be available in the form of a special loan from the resources of the European Development Fund, with a maturity period of 40 years at 1 per cent interest per year.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$US90,000 technical assistance grant to the Cook Islands for a feasibility study of power generation, transmission and distribution on Rarotonga. The study will be used as the basis for a power expansion project with possible ADB funding. □

Pacific Stamp Box

Edited by John Hunter

IT SEEMS New Zealand Post has successfully defended its postal services monopoly against private mail contractors. The Document Exchange Service initiated by the Coast Community Society near Hamilton (see *Pacific Islands Monthly*, January and February) has closed following a High Court ruling that the operation and the stamps it issued were illegal.

Attention has once again been focused on Australia Post and its cost-cutting measures. A leaked document proposes the closure of 590 post offices Australia-wide (350 country and 240 metropolitan) and their replacement by private contractors, agencies or vending machines. The *Australian* newspaper has encountered a stone wall of secrecy in its attempts to confirm which offices will close. Likely victims will be post offices with less than four staff members, or offices that cannot pay at least 80 per cent of their running costs. Closures are also mooted in towns with populations less than 3000.

Federal Minister for Telecommunications Gary Punch has warned Australia Post that it is inappropriate for a government instrumentality to develop a reputation for "ruthlessness and an obsession with profit". Mr Punch said the Government might have to accept a lower financial return if the alternative meant cutting much-needed services.

The philatelic subsidiaries of the Crown Agents, Caphco Limited and CAPC Inc, have been taken over by Westwood Rogers Marketing Group. Caphco is responsible for arranging the production and marketing of postage stamps on behalf of 50 or so clients, nine of whom are Pacific island agencies. Westwood Rogers is best known in the stamp world as the licensing agent of both Australia Post and New Zealand Post. Westwood Rogers has recently acquired the services of two Australia Post staffers credited with swinging that organisation into its present aggressive market profile.

The implications of the takeover are yet to be realised. However, I am confident we will see a more aggressive Caphco emerge.

Plans are underway for a Regional Philatelic Marketing Workshop, being organised by the Forum Secretariat for June in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The workshop aims to provide information on all aspects of marketing stamps. I applaud the planned workshop, having long held the view that Pacific nations need to create a region-

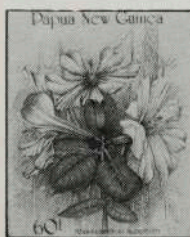
al philatelic organisation that can share problems, give advice, promote sales and formulate marketing and issue policies. Such a group could adopt an annual stamp theme to be used by member nations on their stamps as done by European Community members.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA is about to enter the Frama scene with a first issue of Frama labels on September 6. Frama label collecting has proved popular around the world, especially in Europe. The first labels reportedly will appear without a design due to a late adoption of the Frama design. The button set will feature values of 20t, 35t, 45t, 70t. Other new issues: January 25, flowers — 3t, 20t, 60t, 70t, members of the *Rhododendron* genus. PNG has over more than 100 species unique to the island.

TUVALU — December 5, Christmas. 15, 40c, 60c and souvenir sheet depicting the nativity scene. 1989 program — February, dancing skirts. May, Fungi Part 2. July, Living Reef part 3. September, flowers. November, Christmas.

FRENCH POLYNESIA — January 12, post office, 30f, 40f, featuring the modernisation of the post office.

AUSTRALIA — January 25, Australia Day, 39c, Sir Henry Parkes. 1989 program — April, gardens part one, Queen's Birthday. May, colonial collection. June, Nolan landscapes. July, stage and screen. August, Australian impressionists. September, youth hostels, gardens part two. October, trams. November, Christmas, Radio Australia 50th anniversary. □



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PACIFIC ARTS

Cannibal Feast on Tanna: art records history

Artist Gordon Frazer chanced on a cannibal feast on the island of Tanna, and the resulting canvas was a masterwork that intrigued artists and audiences. Nicolas Rothwell looks closely at the painter and his major work.

HIS EYES wide with wonder, his heart stuttering with excitement and fear, Charles Gordon Frazer stared through the long grass as the tribesmen of Ianekahi performed their ritual.

He was one of the only white men ever to witness a cannibal ceremony, and certainly the only artist of his time to penetrate so deep into the magic realm of the New Hebrides; the result is Gordon Frazer's masterpiece, the extraordinary *Cannibal Feast on the Island of Tanna*, one of the most important anthropological paintings of the 19th century and a work of startling power and immediacy even today.

Cannibal Feast was the object of great attention and controversy when it was first exhibited in Melbourne in 1891, after it was painted, and provoked such interest when shown in Liverpool in 1895 that the artist even wrote a vivid paper describing how he came to paint his canvas. Lost from view for decades, this invocation of a vanished world resurfaced briefly a couple of years ago at an obscure British country auction; it appeared once more at a London sale last November, but was not recognised for the masterpiece of Pacific art it so obviously is and failed to make the reserve price. Moves are now underway for the painting to be displayed in a major regional museum, where its central importance as a document of the encounter between Western and indigenous Pacific cultures can be fully appreciated.

Behind *Cannibal Feast* lurks an intriguing tale. The artist's own life seems to be an apt metaphor for the spirit of his age; the circumstances surrounding the painting itself are the stuff of penny romances — indeed, one such breathless novel has been written about Gordon Frazer, inevitably bearing the title *Cannibal Feast*. The tale of the twists and turns the painting took in its journey from Australia in the 1890s to the British auc-

tion market of the 1980s is worthy of an attractive detective story, the painting itself is both an artful masterwork and a crucial piece of evidence for the customs for Tannese natives in the last years of the 19th century.

Frazer's career had a fanciful beginning. The young artist — as can be seen from contemporary photographs, a handsome, sensually faced individual sporting a fine moustache — went to a lecture by the great African explorer, Sir Henry Morton Stanley.

Stanley advised the young man against exploring in Africa: the Pacific, he explained, was the new frontier for adventure and knowledge. In June 1885, Frazer, fresh from studies at London's St John's Wood School of Art and the Royal Academy, embarked for New Zealand; his studies and his experiences sketching in Paris and Italy had decided him — he determined to become a topographical painter.

A number of his canvases from New Zealand survive; they show an artist still seeking self-definition in his work, possessed of a keen eye and surprisingly lush sense of colour (one has the feeling he would have been at home in Technicolor). Frazer settled in Melbourne, where he cut a swathe through smart society, establishing himself as a portraitist of note . . . and breaking a few hearts. The National Gallery in Melbourne still holds a number of his works.

But Frazer had not forgotten his larger mission; over the following two years he travelled extensively through Australasia, visited the New Hebrides (today's Republic of Vanuatu) and New Caledonia, as well as New Guinea and the Gulf of Carpentaria in Australia's far north. Throughout his journeys he combined, in the fashion of the time, artistic and scientific preoccupations, photographing and collecting ethnographic samples while also making preliminary sketches for a series of oil paintings.

During one of his visits to the New Hebrides Frazer — whose reflective nature was oddly matched by a reckless adventurer's streak — made a foray to the southern islands of the group, far from the well-trodden ports of Santo and Efate. In Tanna, the volcanic island that still preserves a vivid sense of ritual, he was following in the steps of none other than Captain James Cook, who landed on the island in 1774, at a site he named Port Resolution to honour one of his vessels on the expedition.

Just inland from this spot, Il'po, is Ianekahi — the village site where Frazer half-surreptitiously observed his cannibal feast.

Research is now underway on Tanna to establish the precise details of the ceremony recorded in the painting, but Frazer's claim that he depicted exactly what he saw with his own eyes has been largely borne out by preliminary investigations, reported to *Pacific Islands Monthly* by the curator of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Kirk Huffman. There is a certain pride on the island of Tanna that this elaborate ritual should have been preserved in such exact detail by the visiting artist; many families from the region of the island visited by Frazer are keen to trace the part played by their own ancestors in the ceremony.

The painting itself is a swirl of colour, composed with fluid ease. Beneath a thick jungle canopy, a feast is being prepared; figures throng the background while smoke rises beside a giant pile of yams. In a clearing, men in ceremonial costumes are bearing on poles two bound figures — the still-living sacrificial victims of the feast. The detail is painstakingly rendered the musculature and stance of the fi-

Frazer's keen eye captured the scene but often horrified audiences disputed his claim the painting was a faithful depiction — a claim supported by an increasing body of research.

figures will be instantly recognisable to anyone who has visited the island. A figure bearing a sacrificial club and spear-stick gestures; all around, seated tribesmen look on.

In the middle distance stands a slender figure of haunting grace, his back to the viewer, lit by a shaft of sunshine. Each of the chief players in the sacrificial drama is shown with a keen, unsentimental fidelity; the contrast between the bound limbs of the victims and the bunched frames of their bearers is poignantly captured, and is the sense of motion and turbulent, holy energy mantling the whole tableau. In short, this is the work in which all Frazer's artistic strengths found their fullest flowering in precise observation or detail combined with his sense of awe and wonder at the scale of nature; the artifice of his composition is matched only by the immediacy of his recollection.

The painting was intensely controversial in its time, provoking when exhibited in Melbourne some memorably parochial reviews — one critic described the scene as a 'walkabout by a load of washed-out niggers'. A century later, it has emerged as an anthropological treasure.

Frazer's sure eye is confirmed by an examination of the ritual he records. At present, it has been established that the ceremony he observed is of a type called *Niel*, and it can indeed be localised to the precise area he claimed as the site for his 'feast', for only in that part of the island are the unusual giant yams he includes in his canvas encountered. Since only 28

lineages on Tanna had the right to consume human flesh, such a ceremony must have been a comparatively rare event. The only anthropological solecisms Frazer commits come in the depiction of his celebrants' decorations: some of the men wear curved pig's tusk waist-bands and earrings, which he could not have seen on Tanna itself, but otherwise his depiction of the elaborate hairstyles of the men, the rare banana-leaf hats of the watching women and the strange dresses that leave the sides of their legs uncovered was scientifically correct.

His record is all the more valuable because of the paucity of our knowledge of customs of this period on Tanna, one of the most fascinating of the rich cultures of the archipelago. Many of our sources for the late 19th century are missionary, and so tinged with a certain moral slant that tends to demonise 'godless' native customs; one standard 1930s history, Langridge's *Conquest of Cannibal Tanna — a Brief Record of Christian Persistence in the New Hebrides Islands* is peopled by unappealing 'witch-doctors and warmongers'. Though missionaries were already established on Tanna at the time of Frazer's visit, their activity was centred on the southwest coast of the island; a recent earthquake had made the harbour at Port Resolution all but impassable.

After Frazer had completed his painting, he was evidently aware he had produced a masterwork. Then as now, the eating of human flesh provoked an exotic frisson; the subject was shocking, as was Frazer's

approach in an accompanying lecture. He steers well clear of moralising and seems rather awed by the religious atmosphere he encountered, and while the customary weight of Victorian ideology hangs heavy in his mind he conceals with difficulty his own fascination with the spectacle that produced his greatest canvass: "In choosing this subject", he wrote, "it was not from any desire for sensation, nor from any sense of morbidness, but from the fact of having witnessed by accident a scene of superstition so ancient, a custom that must soon become extinct all over the world before the great march of civilisation, that I considered it my duty to illustrate this dark and terrible phase in the history of man — this strange custom of disappearing races, which embraces in its origins the belief that in eating the flesh of the enemy, they imbibed the strength of their tribes." Frazer continued by expressing the hope that "if the work affords interest to the ethnologist and student of human nature, and shows how links with the animal humanity can exist without any form of civilising influence, and from what civilisation may have had its source, my picture becomes historical, and my object and reward are gained."

After the *success de scandale* of the painting's debut, Frazer's "thrilling adventures" (as a biographical note of the day gushed) continued at break-neck pace. There is a record of his once having sailed by open boat from New Caledonia to the New Hebrides — he all but drowned. After his Pacific sojourn he headed for South ►



◀ America and was on hand in Rio during the city's bombardment in the 1890s. His final journey took him to the kingdom of Siam, where he was commissioned to prepare a series of portraits of the royal family . . . and it was there that he died, still in his early 30s, of blackwater fever in 1899.

The new century was not kind to Frazer's reputation. The pale-faced dandy who stares out of surviving portraits wearing a polka-dotted waistcoat was out of kilter with his own time, though he adopted its ideology of progress with obligatory enthusiasm. His sudden distant death was forgotten in the swirl of historic upheavals; war and social change had drowned out the European taste for Pacific visions.

Then, in 1937, a lightly fictionalised account of his experiences on Tanna appeared in London. *Cannibal Feast* by Joy Langton (apparently a relative of the artist) gives a lurid rendition of the events Frazer's own public lectures in Liverpool described. Chapter 29 of the tale which traces the career of one "Charles Gordon", even offers a mythological interpretation of the 'feast' and its significance. Experts feel the author must have had access to Frazer's private papers or some close personal connection to the New Hebrides, for the transportation of local

language is often mysteriously accurate.

The Frazer family appears to have kept the painting with an archive of the artist's other Pacific works. *Cannibal Feast* never fetched the 500 pounds asked for it in London while Frazer was still alive, so the assumption was made that the painting was of purely private value. All the canvases were handed down the generations within the family; their movements were sometimes eventful, as when they were consigned to the last boat that evacuated the Channel island of Jersey before the advancing Germans in World War II.

Eventually, in the mid-80s, the Frazer paintings were taken to a prominent British auction house. "It was as if there was a taboo upon them; no-one would handle them," recalls one dealer who became involved in the transaction. A small regional house put them up for sale and they were purchased on behalf of a pair of venture-some London collectors.

The untimely death of these two purchasers resulted in the re-emergence of *Cannibal Feast* from the murk of the art-dealing world, and its presence in last year's Christies sale. Here, despite the failure of the painting to make its reserve, *Cannibal Feast* attracted press attention — though once again British eyes were quite un-

sure what to make of this vivid, highly-worked image from a distant world. The fate of a masterpiece of sympathetic vision now hangs in the balance as a new home is sought for the canvas that became Frazer's testament.

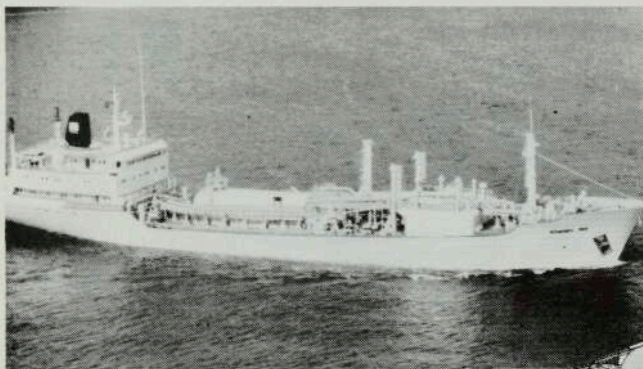
Let us leave the last word to the young artist himself, one of the rare men of his time drawn to the islands of the New Hebrides not by profit or proselytisation, but by an open spirit of inquiry. *Cannibal Feast* is a painting that could only have been painted at such a time and by such a man; subject and artist seem clasped together in a single, complicit gaze.

"If it were not for their superstitious rites, these black people are no more cruel than white men. If a boat lands and treats the natives brutally it is not unnatural the next white man who lands will be revenged upon," wrote Frazer with sad knowledge of the harsh life of the islands in those days.

"There is much that is beautiful in these black savages. Never had I fully realised the subtle charm of movement and grace of the human figure, till I lived amongst these dark-skinned children of the forest . . . for the heathen are very happy they come under the power of the white man."

The time has surely come to rescue this man's record of New Hebridean custom from oblivion. □

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Trade Winds

Facing the 'wall of death'

Robin Bromby reports on the latest — and most horrifying — threat to the viability of the region's fisheries.

THE FORUM Fisheries Agency (FFA) is hopeful it will get Japan to the negotiating table within the next few months, but is less optimistic about the outcome of such talks. Two main issues will be discussed: the gill net fishing Japanese boats undertake both in the Tasman and in the Pacific east of New Zealand, and a multilateral treaty with FFA countries for the right to fish in their exclusive economic zones.

Along with the Taiwanese and South Koreans, Japanese fishing fleets are using gill nets — dubbed the 'Wall of Death' — to catch large numbers of mostly juvenile albacore tuna, a practice that has serious implications for the Pacific albacore fishery.

But, in the matter of reaching a fishing agreement with Forum countries, the Japanese have been a good deal more intransigent than their Asian counterparts. They broke off their deal with Papua New Guinea when the Government in Port Moresby wanted an increase in the fee (an increase to which the Taiwanese and South Koreans had agreed, but one the Japanese would not countenance). Similarly, boats from Japan withdrew from the Tuvalu economic zone; they had agreed to pay the price required by Funafuti, but the Tuvalu Government, in order to balance its budget for the year, asked for payment in advance. For Japan, one of the richest nations in the world, the request from a micro-state of fewer than 9000 people could hardly have been a major issue . . . but refuse they did.

Tuna caught legally in the Pacific — either by approved methods in international waters or under a fee arrangement in economic zones — amounts to 600,000 tonnes a year: 375,000 by purse seine, 75,000 by pole and line and 150,000 by longline. Then there is gill netting.

Between the latitudes of 38 and 41 degrees in the South Pacific, juvenile albacore tuna come to the surface as part of their annual migration to the warmer tropical waters. They are on their way north to spawn. But vast numbers are being caught by Asian boats before they have a chance to reproduce — and as a consequence the portents for the future are grim.

The culprit is the gill net, which is suspended about 15 metres below the

"The gill nets are up to 55 kilometres long ... and for the fish there is simply no way around."

surface and has holes just large enough to catch tuna by their gills. The nets are up to 55 kilometres long and for the fish there is simply no way around.

Gill nets catch not only tuna, but dolphins, small whales, sea birds and turtles as well — and represent an ecological disaster that threatens not just Tonga and the Solomon Islands but, ironically, the Asian fishing industries themselves.

For while one group of boats clears the oceans with its gill nets, they will deprive Japanese and Taiwanese longline boats (which catch the adults after spawning) of a future. The longliners generally operate in territorial economic zones and pay the island governments for the right: gill-netters, in contrast, operate in international waters and pay nothing.

The Honiara-based Forum Fishing Agency estimates that within five years the numbers of albacore tuna could be down to 10 per cent of present levels.

It has been estimated that Asian fishermen are catching about 40,000 tonnes a year with gill nets, of which 30,000 tonnes are juvenile fish. The sustainable yield is reckoned at about 10,000 tonnes, with a maximum 5000 tonnes of juveniles. About 162 boats are now involved in gill netting; 130 Taiwanese, 30 Japanese and two South Koreans.

The FFA's researchers have evidence that the length and width of the gill nets, which are made of nylon, appear to have increased in the past year. Most of the catch is being sent to Taiwan, with some going to canneries in Thailand.

Canneries in Fiji and American Samoa have refused to buy fish caught with gill nets: French Polynesia and Vanuatu have refused gill net boats servicing or refuelling in their ports; and the Cook Islands turned down a Taiwanese proposal to build a cold store in that country.

Only New Caledonia and New Zealand have allowed Japanese boats to trans-ship tuna caught by gill netting, but now the New Zealand Government is lobbying the three Asian countries to phase out the method.

However, the first to feel the effect of such huge numbers of fish being caught will be the longline vessels, which seek adult fish in the deeper reaches of the tropical oceans.

Fiji has 17 longline vessels, which provide jobs both on the ships and at the cannery at Levuka. Vanuatu has a considerable investment in longlining, with a cold store and trans-shipment base and licences to 40 Taiwanese boats crewed partly by local men.

The Cook Islands earns licence fees from 53 South Korean longline boats, while American Samoa has two canneries and about 100 Taiwanese boats landing their catches there. French Polynesia has licensed Japanese and Korean longliners.

Other countries also count fishing as part of their future: the Solomon Islands is investing in its own fishing fleet, while Papua New Guinea has estimated that the present harvest of 2000 tonnes could be expanded to 180,000 tonnes of tuna a year without depleting the stock.

While the South Koreans and the Taiwanese have — the gill net issue aside — been prepared to strike deals by which they can fish in the economic zones of the small Pacific island states, the Japanese have been reluctant to sign agreements unless they get all the conditions they seek. Both Tuvalu and PNG have cancelled agreements and the Marshall Islands has now given notice that it wants the Japanese out of its waters.

The annual catch of all types of tuna in the central and western Pacific has been estimated to be more than 600,000 tonnes a year, with a value of about \$US600 million. The island states cannot afford fleets of boats; just one boat the size of the average US tuna vessel would cost \$US11 million to build and \$3 million a year to operate, so these countries are reliant on what the big fishing nations do. If they persist in over-fishing the resource, and resisting reasonable payments, the hopes the small Pacific States have for economic development will be dashed. □

Trade Winds

☐ SPARES NOT SHORT

UK aircraft manufacturer Short Brothers has expanded its spare parts inventory in Australia following successful sales campaigns there and in Southeast Asia. Spares for Shorts aircraft operating in Australia and the Pacific will now be supplied from their Sydney office.

Short's general manager in Australia John Burleigh says the expansion, backed by the company's major avionics suppliers, is worth \$A2 million over the past three months.

☐ COLUMBUS DISCOVERS TONGA

COLUMBUS Line will commence a direct shipping service between Tonga in the US west coast. The container vessel *Columbus Canada*, which flies the Tongan flag and is crewed by Tongan rating seamen and cadets, will operate the service. A second vessel may operate the route at a later stage.

Loading on the west coast for the first service was due in early March and the vessel is due in Nuku'alofa by April 10.

☐ PAC-DUNLOP CONTRACT

PACIFIC Dunlop will share in \$A60

million contract to produce super-sized batteries for the Australian Submarine Corporation (ASC).

The contract was awarded to a joint venture company owned by Pacific Dunlop and German manufacturer, Varta Batteries AC.

The joint venture will invest \$A6.5 million in a new manufacturing plant in Adelaide, South Australia, where the ASC has its submarine building facility. ASC received the contract to build six submarines from the Australian Navy. Each battery has a mass of 230 tonnes and consists of 448 cells.

Pacific Dunlop managing director Philip Brass says the technology transfer involved in the project could open up export opportunities and new developments in the supply of electrical power to remote areas.

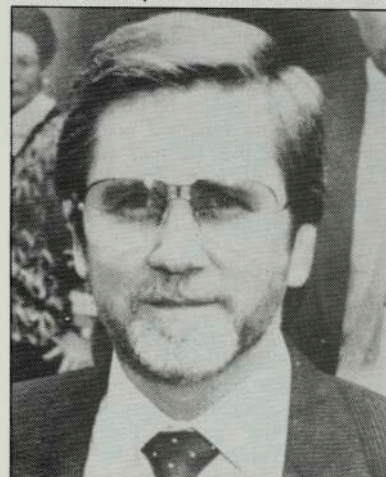
☐ LANDOWNERS IN SYDNEY TALKS

LANDOWNERS IN the Special Mining Lease (SML) area of Porgera in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea are dissatisfied with the handling of their affairs by the local representatives of the Porgera Joint Venture (PJV) company.

So the landowners decided to go straight to the top, last month sending

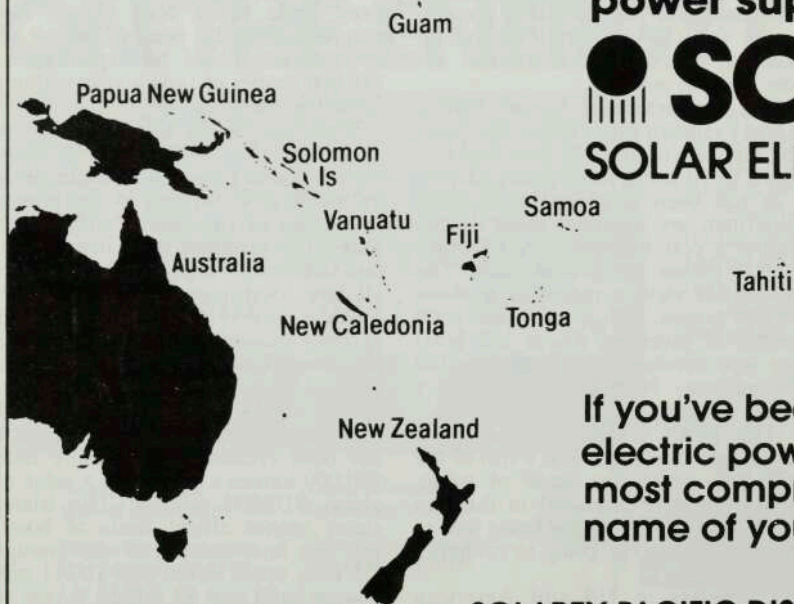
a 10-member delegation to Sydney for talks with the overseas managers of the company. A chief of the SML area, Pakitu Pundi, led the delegation to discuss problems with the people landowners feel are the "real" managers of the venture.

The delegation dismissed claims by mine developers that there was no



Peter Walker — entrepreneur now facing criminal charges.

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problem with the landowners and warned the national government not to rush negotiations.

The delegation reportedly sought an assurance of 10 per cent free share participation in the mine, construction of a permanent township before mining begins, upgrading of the local health centre, the awarding of contracts to Porgerans, and training and employment.

PNG Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu later warned foreign investors against deceiving landowners after it was revealed the delegation received counter-offers from an Australian businessman. Peter Walker, the former managing director of the Private Blood Bank of Australia Ltd reportedly told the landowners he could offer a better deal on Porgera than the joint ventures. Mr Walker currently faces serious criminal charges in Australia.

□ INTELSAT FOR PACIFIC

PACIFIC nations will gain economic access to international satellite links through a special arrangement with Australia's OTC International. The Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) system is the basis for the Pacific Area Co-operative Telecommunications (PACT) network for which OTCI has gained endorsement by the South Pacific Forum.

DAMA will allow shared use of the Intelsat satellite network to small nations that could not afford full-time access. Representatives of 25 Pacific nations met in Sydney in late February to discuss implementation of the scheme. Some nations will have satellite telephone links with each other, the rest of the world — and, more importantly, some of their own remote islands — by early 1990.

As the scheme develops, facsimile services will become available, then data links and eventually broadcast facilities, making local television services a possibility.

□ BLUE LAGOON UPGRADE

FIJI'S Blue Lagoon Cruises has adjusted its passenger services to better meet customer demands. Passenger services manager Peter Kerr says the

firm has introduced procedures to "take Blue Lagoon into the 1990s".

New staff and crew training programmes have been introduced to upgrade standards, with improvements planned to menus and wine lists. Blue Lagoon operates daily sailings on various schedules, and plans to introduce a new vessel as part of the modernisation of its cruise fleet.

□ AUSTRADE MISSION

AUSTRADE Suva is to mount a major selling mission in the Pacific and is calling for expressions of interest from Australian companies interested in establishing or expanding a Pacific market. Delegates led by Trade Commissioner Clare McMahon and Austrade marketing officer Fred Thomas

Blue Lagoon Cruises — upgrading service with new staff programmes, new menus and cruises.

will charter an aircraft to cover the region in a vigorous two-week mission at the end of May.

The mission will spend time in Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga and American Samoa. Participation in the mission will offer companies the opportunity to develop or expand potential market opportunities for their products and services. Austrade suggests products that offer best potential in the Pacific include processed foods, fresh fruit and vegetables, beverages, medicines, building materials and hardware, electrical and electronic equipment, consultancy and construction services and office equipment. □



FORUM SECRETARIAT

(Formerly South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation [SPEC])

REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING COORDINATOR

Applications are invited from nationals of ACP/EC countries for the position of Region Telecommunications Training Coordinator with the Forum Secretariat. The Secretariat, based in Suva, was established to encourage co-operation in the South Pacific not only between member states in the region, but also between island member states and more industrialised countries on all aspects of economic development, trade, transport, tourism, telecommunications and energy.

The appointee will be responsible for the coordination of telecommunications training in the South Pacific Regional Telecommunications Committee (SPECTEL) member countries in accordance with SPECTEL Regional Telecommunications Training Policy as established from time to time.

The successful applicant will have had at least 10 years experience in telecommunications with five years experience in technical training. He must demonstrate proven ability in planning and directing telecommunications technical training both as a teacher and an administrator.

This appointment will carry an attractive remuneration package, payable in Fiji dollars. For non-Fiji citizens this is tax free and includes housing or housing allowance, education and child allowances. Other benefits for all employees include superannuation payments and medical, life and travel insurance coverage. The appointee will be based at the Secretariat's Headquarters in Suva, Fiji, but will be required to undertake periodic duty travel. Appointment would be for three years initially, renewable by mutual agreement.

Applications close on 30 April 1989. As it is intended to make the appointment as soon as possible, the successful applicant must be able to take up the position shortly afterwards. Applications should contain full information on education and career background and should list names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated in a professional capacity.

Applications should be addressed to:

**The Secretary General
Forum Secretariat
GPO Box 856, Suva, Fiji
Telephone: 312600; Telex 2229 FJ; Fax: 302204**

All enquiries should be made to Mr Lynn Holloway, Telecommunications Programme Controller on 312600 Ext 232.

*ACP/EC member countries are: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

The Island Press

Reports from the papers, compiled by John Carter

THE FAMILY of Huon Gulf MP Ben Garry yesterday strongly demanded he return to the Government benches immediately.

They also want him to fly home to his Gabsongkeg village near Nadzab airport this weekend for an urgent meeting.

Mr Garry's younger brother Ankog and cousins Solomon and Giling Ferea warned that he would face the full consequences of his decision to defect to the Paia Wingti-led Opposition.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

HUON GULF MP Ben Garry is back in the Government less than a week after defecting to the Opposition.

His decision to return follows strong objections from his family and close supporters who did not want him to associate with an Opposition that included Morobe MP, Utula Samana.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

"WHY MAKE Jesus look like a sandy-haired Englishman or a weepy Italian?" People ask the question about pictures in publications or hanging in homes.

In a new book, made in Fiji, Robert Park, an American church volunteer, with Father Winston Halapua of the Anglican St John's Training Centre in Suva, has portrayed in bold black and white a Christ who belongs in Fiji and Tonga. The full-page pictures face a text in five languages, including Hindi.

— From *The Fiji Times*, Suva

A SURVEY was conducted last year on the lime (kambang) preferences of betelnut chewers . . .

The aim of the survey — based on a statistically sound sample — was to determine the kambang preference of experienced chewers (ie kids and adults with at least two years' mastication experience). The results will be used to establish the priority ratings of the kambangs in the subsequent investigation into their heavy metal content.

— From *The Reporter*, PNG University of Technology, Lae

FOUR PARTIALLY blind Papua New Guineans yesterday regained full sight when they had their corneas replaced with ones from dead Americans — thanks to Project Orbis.

This is history for PNG as it is the first time that such an operation has been done in the country, and moreover, done on board a DC8 jet, converted into a state-of-the-art eye hospital at Port Moresby's Jackson's International Airport.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

FIJI NOW has one of the highest drowning ratios in the world, says the Fiji Red Cross Society.

A record number of 36 people drowned last year, resulting in a drowning ratio of 5.0 (five drownings per 100,000 population) — rated among the five highest in the world.

— From *The Fiji Times*, Suva

SOME 40 tons of copra are on the wharf reportedly because the Bank Line vessel that was supposed to take it was required to leave early to allow a cement ship to come in.

Informed sources told the *Samoa Times* the copra vessel left three hours early on instructions from the Ministry of Transport and Shipping.

The same sources said that the cement ship is handled by a stevedoring company for which the Minister of Shipping, Jack Netzler, worked some years back.

— From *The Samoa Times*, Apia

THE CHANCES of very ill patients leaving Lae's Angau Memorial Hospital alive are "minimal", Health Minister Robert Suckling heard yesterday.

During a visit to the hospital he was told that people who suffer heart attacks cannot be saved because equipment in the casualty department's resuscitation unit is outdated.

He heard also that basic medical equipment in almost all of the hospital's major clinical departments was broken down, posing a serious threat to patients' lives.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

STUDENTS ARE now allowed to borrow video tapes from the library . . . but some popular titles, like *Rocky I* and *Rambo*, are to be withdrawn.

There are 38 withdrawn tapes, mainly feature films, which Ms Margaret Gault, the audiovisual librarian, says have nothing to do with the courses offered at the University.

— From the *Uni Tavar*, University of Papua New Guinea

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COMMUNICATIONS

Media under the microscope

A Pacific seminar will look at the alienating affect of 'media imperialism' on Pacific communities. By Eileen Tugum

THE IMPACT of modern communication technologies on Pacific cultures is causing grave concern among church leaders and communicators in the region.

At a seminar titled "Faith, Culture and Communication", sponsored by the World Association for Christian Communication Pacific (WACC-PAC) in Goroka last month, 18 participants from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, New Zealand and Australia expressed concern that rapid growth in satellite communication and increasing commercial communication monopolies have made it increasingly difficult for small (or large) island states to control the flow of information, much of which has been found to be culturally alienating.

Graham Thomas, an Australian broadcaster with many years of experience in Pacific communications, told the seminar that one of the major challenges facing the region is "finding ways to use communication tech-

nologies without letting them destroy cultural integrity and identity."

The video and television revolution, participants agreed, has had a dramatic impact on the pattern of daily life, rivalled only by the impact of education and the removal of young people from agriculture, fishing and housework to the classroom. Video and television place the entire village in front of the screen for up to eight hours (in American Samoa, research shows up to 14) out of every 24, replacing activities vital to cultural continuity.

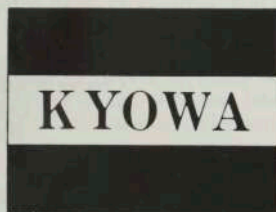
However, Mr Thomas warned that it must be recognised that cultures are not static; while they are continually evolving, very rapid change can be destructive. As Sister Maria Burke of the Melanesian Institute of PNG said of television at the 1986 Waigani Seminar, "education for awareness building and general entertainment the media can provide, but only if the material fits the people and if the means are available to the majority of

people. However, if the content of programming is totally foreign we will have cultural alienation."

The impact of satellite-delivered television, for example — over which recipients have little or no control — has been cause for concern in a number of traditional societies. But island nations are researching ways of allowing communities local control over incoming satellite services and the establishment of a direct input and production facility in both video and audio.

As a step in this direction, the Pacific region has opted to look at the WACC-sponsored Manila Congress from a cultural perspective.

The seminar, to be held from October 15-19 this year, involves discussion highlighting the impact of modern communications technology on Pacific cultures, addressing the question of how those technologies could be used to the advantage of the community, and how the island nations could control the flow of information. □



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**SPECIAL
OFFER**

TO

Pacific Islands Monthly

READERS

Pacific Press announces the publication of **LAST FRONTIERS: THE EXPLORATIONS OF IVAN CHAMPION OF PAPUA** by James Sinclair

Each copy of this limited and numbered edition of 1000 copies includes a commemorative bookplate signed by Ivan Champion, OBE, and James Sinclair. Published by Pacific Press, 17 Park Avenue, Broadbeach Waters, Queensland Australia 4128.

LAST FRONTIERS is available to PIM readers at a special reduced price until 31 January 1989. Instead of the regular price of \$A85 (\$US72), PIM readers who enclose the review on Page 48 with their payment can purchase Last Frontiers for the pre-publication price of \$A69 (\$US58) plus postage and handling (Australia \$A5; Asia/Oceania \$A8 or \$US7; other countries \$A10 or \$US9).

Tropicalities

"MISCARRIAGE" IN VILA?

WRITE to put on record the following responses in respect to comments made by Mr Stuart Littlemore concerning the recent trials of the former President of Vanuatu, Mr Ati George Sokomanu and members of his illegal interim Government.

Mr Littlemore's comments were broadcast by Radio Australia on March 8, 1989.

The Government of Vanuatu challenges the statement that the trial harboured a "miscarriage of justice" and that the trial result is not a fair result".

As an appeal was considered almost certain to be lodged — a process which has since been confirmed — the Judges consider it is unfortunate that Mr Littlemore chose to comment on the law itself.

The Judges are surprised that Mr Littlemore saw fit to comment on the actual result of the trial when he was only in Port Vila for five out of 10 days of the trial.

Mr Littlemore was not in court to hear the evidence of the three accused who were acquitted. The assessors who made that decision were entitled to do so on the basis of their interpretation of the evidence as it related to the *mens res* of the defendants.

Our courts in Vanuatu are open and public. Mr Littlemore's report should have been limited to the way in which the trial was conducted rather than [containing] an expression of his personal views on the evidence.

Mr Littlemore has chosen to speak to the press giving his own personal interpretation of the evidence he was not in as good as a position as the assessors to do that, as they had heard the entire evidence.

Donald Kalpokas
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Judicial Services
Port Vila, Vanuatu

MR Kalapoka's letter, which refers to radio comments by Sydney barrister and International Commission of Jurists (Australian Section) sedition trial observer Mr Stuart Littlemore, demands a response.

Pacific Islands Monthly has obtained a copy of the media release prepared by the ICJ, which sets out in skeletal terms the objections it has made to the conduct of the trial. However, there are further objections not referred to in the media release which must be given proper attention by the Government and judiciary of the Republic of Vanuatu — among them that the issue

of the aborted Chinese arms deal (see our report on Page 10 of this issue) was utterly irrelevant to the charges on which Mr Sope was being cross-examined (and that the deal had been in fact instigated by Mr Sope under instructions from Father Lini); that the defendants' counsel failed to draw the court's attention to such irrelevant questioning; and that the direction of the trial did not adhere to established guidelines. It is expected these aspects will form part of the grounds on which the defendants will appeal against their convictions.

Reproduced below is the media release distributed by the ICJ:

THE Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists, Australian Section, has adopted the report of its observer at the Vanuatu sedition trial, in which the trial is described as a miscarriage of justice.

The former President of the Republic of Vanuatu, Ati George Sokomanu, and three leading political figures — Barak Sope, Maxim Carlot and Willie Jimmy — were convicted . . . on counts of conspiracy to overthrow the Lini Government, incitement to mutiny and unlawful oath-taking. They were sentenced to prison terms from six to two years.

The report, made by member of the Council of the Australian Section of the ICJ [and] Sydney barrister Stuart Littlemore, says in attacking the outcome of [the] Port Vila trial that: "Whatever convicted the four men, it certainly not was the evidence tendered against them."

Three men, two of whom were not politicians and the third of whom was a minor figure in Vanuatu politics, were acquitted on the same charges.

The ICJ report says that the convictions, where the evidence was the same as that against the acquitted men, "defy logical analysis" and that the evidence against all [the] accused was "identical — and identically inadequate."

The report calls the convictions "perverse" and adds that there was, at the close of the case brought by Vanuatu's Public Prosecutor, no case for any of the accused to answer. "Irrespective of the final outcome of the trial," the report says, "the judge was in error (when he declined to stop the trial and direct verdicts of not guilty on all counts) and the result was a miscarriage of justice."

An appeal against [the] convictions has been set down for the first week in April, at which the four men will be represented by Sydney QC Mr Barry

Toomey. The Australian Section of the ICJ expects to make a further report once the [outcome of the] appeal has been determined.

US VISAS IN SOLOMONS

WOULD like to point out an error in your December 1988 issue. David North wrote in his article "US Islanders overcome passport tribulations" that "the US Department of State issues visas in the former Trust Territories and in Suva and Port Moresby, but nowhere else in the Pacific".

I would like to point out that the American Embassy in Honiara, Solomon Islands, has been issuing visas for over a year to citizens and residents of Solomon Islands. In addition, citizens and residents of Vanuatu are able to apply by mail to the Embassy in Honiara, with most receiving their visas by return mail (or pouched to their travel agent) in little over a week. Applicants from Vanuatu who require an in-person interview are able to meet the consular officer on one of his regular consular visits to Port Vila.

This is perhaps not an earth-shaking change, but Mr North should be aware that another or what he calls "barriers" to travel to the United States has been lowered.

Bill Warren
Charge d'Affaires,
US Embassy
Honiara

TREUE FREUNDE AUS SAMOA?

I AM a 27-year-old female student from Germany in search of an English-speaking penfriend from Western Samoa. Would you please publish my name and address so that someone interested may write to me.

Alexandra Dittmar
Trebauer Str 24
6000 Frankfurt 71
West Germany

VANUATU PIONEER SOUGHT

WOULD ANY of your readers have any information on a captain Ronald McLeod, an ancestor of mine who settled in the Vanuatu group during the 1860s, originally as a planter on the island of Tanna.

Capt McLeod was born in Nova Scotia and came to New Zealand with his

family about 1844. They settled as farmers but he was later ostracised by his relatives for supposedly dabbling in the slave-trade. Other information suggests that though he did recruit labour for his own use, he was well respected and liked by the natives whose "side he often took in matters of ill usage by the whites".

It seems likely Capt McLeod settled on Tanna and grew maize, cotton and copra with mostly imported labour. As he is reported to have sailed to these islands aboard the vessel *Woodstock*, it is possible that he shipped his produce in the same vessel to Auckland and Noumea.

It was reported that he later set up a trading post on Efate and built a large home. He was bought out by the New Hebrides Company and later died of fever at Noumea. Available dates indicate this would have been in 1894 when the Captain was aged 50.

Any further information would be much appreciated.

R Jenkins
Kanuka Rd
Sandspit
Warkworth
North Auckland, NZ

PACIFIC STICKERS SOUGHT

THE WESTERN Australian Sticker Collectors' Association is a non-profit group that exists to serve sticker collectors everywhere. We currently have more than 100 members in Australia, New Zealand and the US. We are all keen sticker collectors trying to collect as many stickers (also known as self-adhesive labels) as possible to add to our collections.

As we are a non-profit association we don't buy stickers; our funds are used to pay our running costs. But as well as writing to companies and organisations all over the world requesting stickers, I also write back and thank everyone that does send stickers to us, and I send one of our stickers to them, too.

If readers of *Pacific Islands Monthly* use stickers to advertise, have stickers for public relations purposes or just to label things, that's what we're after. Naturally the more stickers the better, but even if they could only send us one sticker, this would be greatly appreciated. Of course, when we receive more stickers than we have members, spares are stockpiled for future members.

I look forward to hearing from *PIM* readers and hope 1989 is shaping up to be a good year for all of them.

John Cohen, WASCA
PO Box 77
Brunswick Junction WA 6224

FIJIANS OR NOT FIJIANS ...

AN OPINION page in your January issue included a summary of recent political events in Fiji.

This said: "... the Melanesian population sought to throw off what is perceived as the shackles of a colonial imbalance in opportunity."

In view of the fact that Fiji became wholly independent some 17 years previously, I am puzzled by the use of the word 'colonial' in describing the situation at the time of the 1987 coup.

But what particularly grieves me is to find *Pacific Islands Monthly*, with nearly 60 years of experience of the Pacific behind it, using 'Melanesian' instead of 'Fijian' to describe the indigenous people of Fiji.

I know that this has recently become common practice along a number of overseas journalists.

There may be an excuse for some of them on the grounds of ignorance, but surely *PIM* should be well aware of the strong Polynesian admixture among the Fijian people, and that Melanesians' is neither a comprehensive nor adequate synonym for 'Fijians'.

Why should there be this sudden and unnecessary change? The word 'Fijian' is straightforwardly descriptive, is enshrined in law and has the authority of more than a century of regular use.

One group of people in Fiji who can certainly be classified properly as Melanesians are the members of the not inconsiderable Solomon Islands community. An illuminating feature of the draft Constitution now being discussed in Fiji is that people of Solomon Islands descent have been removed from the category of Fijians for voting purposes and are classified among the 'others' who are described as being neither Fijians nor Indians or Rotumans.

Sir Leonard Usher
Suva, Fiji

MAKING CONTACT ...

THANK YOU very much for publishing my address, which I sent in seeking penpals. With your help I have received letters from throughout the Pacific islands countries and I passed some of them on to my friends. We are now receiving letters from our penpals and we are pleased to know all about their countries and to tell them about Papua New Guinea.

On behalf of my mates I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help.

Herman Huafe
Lae, PNG

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Shipping Schedules

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — HAWAII — NORTH AMERICA

PAGE Line (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised service every 17 days from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. The vessels continue on to the North coast of America, calling at Hawaii at frequent intervals.

Details from ACTA Pty Ltd, Sydney (266 0633); Tlx AA121369; Fax 267 1148; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Rodwell Road, Suva (311 777); Tlx FJ2168; Fax 301 127; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Lautoka (60 777); Sato SA, Avenue James Cook BPC 2, Noumea, Cedex (281 122); Tlx 3163 NM GATO. Fax 276 532.

AUSTRALIA — SAMOAS — TONGA

Warner Pacific Lines operates a regular container service from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Apia and Vava'u with transhipment to Rarotonga.

Details from Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — SAMOAS TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Sydney. Cargo centralised from Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 796 Auckland; Union Bulkships, 333 George St, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne; Union Co, Lautoka; Pacific Forum Line, Suva, Nuku'alofa; Pacific Forum Line, Apia; Polynesia Shipping, Pago Pago.

AUSTRALIA — KIRIBATI

K. Asia Pacific operates a 5/6 weekly service from Melbourne and Sydney to Kiribati (Tarawa). Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 122143.

KAP New Guinea Lines calls Tarawa after PNG ports on a 35-day basis from Melbourne and Sydney/Brisbane.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 122143.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

K. Asia Pacific operates a direct service every second voyage to Tuvalu (Funafuti).

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 122143.

AUSTRALIA — NORFOLK ISLAND — LORD HOWE ISLAND

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates a direct service every 5/6 weeks ex-Sydney.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd as managing agents for NISL, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates a direct service every 5/6 weeks ex-Sydney.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd as managing agents for NISL, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277). Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and

Brisbane to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break-bulk cargo.

Details from Compagnie Generale Maritime 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (231 3700).

AUSTRALIA — NAURU

Nauru Pacific Line operates a regular cargo service from Melbourne to Nauru, passenger service to Nauru only.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line (Aust) Pty Ltd, Nauru House, 80 Collins St, Melbourne (653 5709), Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St Sydney, (20 522).

AUSTRALIA — SOLOMON ISLANDS — VANUATU

NGAL/PNGL joint service operates a monthly service.

Details from Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, 6 Spring St, Sydney (20 522).

AUSTRALIA — NEW ZEALAND

The Australian National Line and the New Zealand Line operate a 10-day container service (TRANZTAS) between Sydney and Melbourne to Auckland, Wellington, Lyttleton and Port Chalmers.

Details from Australian National Shipping Agencies, 131-137 York St, Sydney (225 7333) and Australian National Shipping Agencies, "World Trade Centre", cnr Flinders and Spencer Sts, Melbourne (611 2323) or New Zealand Line, Pastoral House, 96 Lambion Quay, Wellington (72 2245).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA — SOLOMONS — NEW GUINEA

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise program from Sydney to include the better-known ports in the above countries plus a number of unspoilt, and largely unknown, island paradises.

Details from Sitmar Cruises, 39 Martin Place, Sydney (239 9000) for NSW; reservations and inquiries (008 42 2277); rest of Australia, reservations and enquiries (088 22 2277).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — TONGA — VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA — 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, Vava'u and Vila on cruises from Australia. Details from P&O Booking Centre, Thomas Cook Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh St, Sydney (237 0333).

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS — VANUATU

A consortium of NGAL/PNG and CONPAC/NEL has four vessels operating a joint service from east coast Australian ports to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Madang, Wewak, Rabaul, Kavieng-Kimbe, Kieta, Honiara, Vila, Santo. Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd, PO Box R124, Royal Exchange, Sydney (20 547); Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20 522); New Guinea Express Lines, 37 Pitt St, Sydney (241 3991); Vila Agents PO Box 27, Port Vila (2456), Tlx NH1011.

New Guinea Express Lines operates a weekly container service from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta, Honiara, Kavieng, Madang, Wewak, Santo, Vila.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange Sydney (241 3991); 127 Creek St, Brisbane (221 9333); 84 William St, Melbourne (602 5544); Port Moresby (21 4572); Steamships Trading (agent), Rabaul (92 1400); Bougainville Agencies Pty Ltd Kieta, (95 6089); Steamships Trading Co, Madang (82 2446); Graumut Enterprises, Wewak (86 2106); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, Kavieng (94 2133); Alotau Stevedoring and Transport, Alotau (61 1318); Ngatia Wholesalers Pty Ltd, Kimbe (93 5102) and Tradco Shipping, Mandana Avenue, Honiara (22 588); Vila Agents Ltd, PO Box 971, Vila, Vanuatu (2490); John Lum & Associates, PO Box 65, Santo, Vanuatu (329).

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Port Vila and Santo.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete, Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

EUROPE — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from 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 St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24066, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44171; or lines' local agents.

EUROPE — W. SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44111; or lines' local agents.

SINGAPORE — HONG KONG — FIJI ISLANDS PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co Ltd operates a monthly containerised and break-bulk cargo service from Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and then to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, GPO Suva, Fiji (31 2244); Fax: (679) 301 572. Tlx FJ2199.

FAR EAST — FIJI — NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (NZUE) operates a monthly service accepting containerised and break-bulk cargo from Manila, Keelung, Kaohsiung and Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and thence to New Zealand ports.

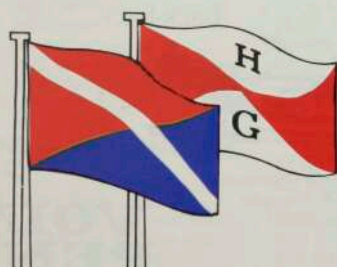
Details from Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, GPO Suva, Fiji (312 2244), Fax: (679) 311 572; Tlx FJ2199; Burns Philp, Suva (311 777); New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customhouse Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington (727 865), Cables ENZUEMAN WELLINGTON, Tlx NZ31340, NEDLNZ, or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney (20 522).

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Details from Steamships Shipping, PO Box 634, Port Moresby (220 283 or 220 289).

Kyowa Shipping Ltd operates monthly services from Japan to Guam, Saipan, Solomons, New Caledonia, Fiji, Western and American Samoa, Tahiti, Cook Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Details from Hetherington Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (312 244), Tlx FJ2199.

GUAM — NORTHERN MARIANAS

Saipan Shipping Co operates a weekly service via barge carrying containers and conventional cargo between Guam and Saipan and Tinian.

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, Inc, PO Box 8, Saipan CM 96950 (322 9706 or 322 9707), Tlx 783619, Fax (670) 322 3183; Guam agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

HAWAII — SAMOAS — TONGA — COOK ISLANDS

Hawaii-Pacific Lines operates a monthly container service between Honolulu, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa and Avatiu (Rarotonga).

Details from Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc., PO Box 3264, Honolulu HI (9680)-32641 (808 531 4841).

Details from Morris Hedstrom Samoa Ltd, PO Box 189, Apia, Western Samoa (21 355, 22 722),

Tlx 224 MORISHED SX), Fax 24 279; Union Citco Travel Ltd, Rarotonga, Cook Islands (682 21 780); Tlx 62024 (UTRAV G); Fax (682) 20 859; Kneubuhl Maritime Services, PO Box 39, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, (684 633 5121); Tlx 782505; Fax (684) 633 5100; Union Maritime Services Ltd, PO Box 4 Nuku'alofa, Tonga (21 644/5); Tlx 6627, Fax (676) 21 645.

JAPAN — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co-operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (31 2244), Fax (679) 301 572 Tlx FJ2199.

JAPAN — MICRONESIA

The NYK Shipping Line operates a monthly cargo service from Japan to Micronesia, calling at Yoko, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yoko, Nagoya and Kobe.

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd., 51 Pitt St, Sydney (259 1000).

Saipan Shipping Co operates a monthly service from Japan to Saipan, Guam, Truk, Ponape, Majuro (Kosrae and Ebeye on inducement).

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, PO Box 8, Saipan, CM 96960 (322 9706 or 322 9707), Tlx 783619, Fax (670) 322 3183.

Japan agents Kyowa Shipping Company Ltd; Guam Agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG — PARADISE SERVICE

Mitsui OSK Lines operates a monthly service from main ports in Japan, Wewak, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta, Port Moresby.

Details from Robert Laurie Company (PNG) Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae (42 3642, 42 3811).

Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG — PARADISE SERVICE

Mitsui OSK Lines in joint service with NYK Lines operates a monthly service from main ports in Japan and Busan in Korea to PNG — ports of Wewak, Rabaul, Kieta, Lae, Port Moresby, Kavieng, Kimbe, Madang and Oro Bay.

Details from Robert Laurie Company Pty Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae (direct: 423 642 or a switch: 423 811). Contact W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager & Marketing; Tlx NE 42508 Fax 423 801.

JAPAN — KOREA — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Bali Hai Service operates a monthly and general cargo and vehicle service from main Japanese ports and Korea to Suva, Lautoka, Apia, Pago Pago, Papeete, Nuku'alofa, Noumea, Vila, Santo and Honiara.

Details from John Swire and Sons (Japan) Ltd, 14 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (03) 230 9220; Tlx J22248, Fax (03) 230 9288.

PNG — INTER-MAINPORT

Papua New Guinea Lines offers scheduled 10-20 day coastal liner services linking all PNG major ports with containerisation, reefer, heavy lift and trans-shipment facilities.

Details from PNG Line, Box 543, Port Moresby (211 174), Tlx 22269.

PNG — TAIWAN — HONG KONG — SINGAPORE — INDONESIA

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operates a regular joint cargo service from PNG Ports to Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta & Surabaya.

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Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

PNG — UK / CONTINENT

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint 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 St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

SOLOMONS — UK / CONTINENT

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Honiara to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

SOLOMONS — UK / CONTINENT

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Honiara to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx NE44171; Tradco Shipping Ltd., Honiara (22 588); Tlx 66 313.

NEW ZEALAND — AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMON ISLANDS

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro service from Lyttleton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then to New Zealand.

Details from Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae Sullivan Ltd, Honiara; Seabridge, Wellington.

NEW ZEALAND — COOK ISLANDS — TAHITI

New Zealand Line operates cargo services based on pallets and similar units from Auckland to Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Details from NZ Shipping Agencies International Ltd, PO Box 3420, Auckland (392 650), Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Rarotonga, Cook Islands; Shipping Office, Govt of Niue, PO Box 107, Niue Island; Compagnie Maritime Polynésienne, PO Box 36, Papeete, Tahiti.

NEW ZEALAND — FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18-day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Also passenger accommodation.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies, PO Box 3382, Auckland (771 2213); Tlx 60633; MV Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd, Private Bag, Suva (311 056).

Pacific Line with one ship operates a three-weekly ro-ro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva. No passengers.

Details Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs St, Auckland (773 279); PO Box 3614, Tlx NZ2313, Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (25 141); Tlx FJ2199.

NEW ZEALAND — 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 (311 777); Tlx FJ2168 Burnship.

NEW ZEALAND — FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro 21 day service from Auckland to Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago and Nuku'alofa.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, Auckland, Christchurch, Suva and Apia, Union Maritime, Lautoka, and Nuku'alofa, Polynesian Shipping, Pago Pago.

NEW ZEALAND — TONGA — SAMOAS

Warner Pacific Line Services from Auckland to Nuku'alofa, Vava'u, Apia, Pago Pago monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes and FCL Dry Freezer.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St., Auckland PO Box 3 (390 229). Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554f; Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Mealelele (Western Samoa Ltd) Private Bag, Apia, Western Samoa; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, PO Box 129, Pago Pago, American Samoa (633 2709), Burnsouth SB.

NZ — COOK ISLANDS — AITUTAKI — NIUE

Cook Islands Line services Auckland, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Niue monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St., Auckland/PO Box 3, Auckland (390 229). Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554; Fax 32 931.

SOUTH EAST ASIA — FIJI

Nedlloyd Lines (NZEAS) Service operates regular fast cargo service from Surabaya, Jakarta, Port Kelang, Bangkok and Singapore via New Zealand to Suva and Lautoka. Details from Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St., Walu Bay, Suva (312 244). Fax: (679) 301 572. Tlx: FJ2199.

TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU — SOLOMON ISLANDS — NEW ZEALAND — PNG — SINGAPORE — EUROPE

Polish Ocean Lines operates semi-container type vessels to the following ports: from Papeete, Noumea, Santo, Vila, Yandina, Honiara, Auckland, Singapore, Port Kielang, Penang then to Mediterranean ports and Europe via the Suez Canal (other New Zealand ports subject to inducement).

Details from Universal Shipping Agencies Ltd, 7th Floor, 14 Emily Pl, Auckland 1 (390 931, 390 727, 32 104), Tlx 21 517.

TAIWAN — HONG KONG — SINGAPORE — INDONESIA — PNG

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Surabaya to Papua New Guinea Ports.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688); Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx: NE 44171; or lines' local agents.

EUROPE — TAHITI — W SAMOA — FIJI — 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 from Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (231 3700).

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — NEW ZEALAND — VANUATU — SOLOMONS — PNG — EUROPE

Polish Ocean Lines offers regular monthly sailings for containerised and break-bulk cargo, also conventional reefer space and reefer containers from Hamburg, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Auckland, Santo, Honiara, Rabaul, Lae, Singapore, returning to Europe via Suez. Other ports in the South Pacific can be served directly with inducement or otherwise via transshipment.

Details from Sotama, BP 9170, Papeete (42 7805), Tlx Sotama 373FP; SATO, BP, 02 Noumea Cedex (27 2094), Tlx 163NM; Universal Shipping Agencies, PO Box 2282 Auckland (30 930), Tlx 21517; Vanua Navigation, PO Box 44, Vila (2027), Tlx 1033; Melan Chine Shipping Co, PO Box 71, Honiara (21 678). Tlx 66335; Steamships Trading Co Ltd, PO Box 85, Lae (42 4666), Tlx 4243; Union Steamship Co NZ Ltd, PO Box 50, Apia (21 781); Tlx 226; Warner Pacific Line, PO Box 93, Nuku'alofa (22 088), Tlx 66219; Fiji Agents TBA.

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA

Nedlloyd offers regular cargo services from Continental ports to Papeete, Apia, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Details Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, Spring St., Sydney (27 3801); Carpenters Shipping, 1st Floor, Harbour Centre Bldg, 100 Thomson St., Suva (31 2244), Tlx 2199FJ and Vetari St., Lautoka (63 988), Tlx 5215FJ.

UK — W SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd., 51 Pitt St., Sydney (251 6688); Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx: NE 44171; or lines local agents.

UK — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull 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 St., Sydney (251 6688); Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466); Tlx: NE44171; or lines' local agents.

UK — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Papeete, Noumea, Port-Vila and Santo.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St., Sydney (251 6688); Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx: NE 44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

US — HAWAII — MICRONESIA — PNG

PM&O Lines operate two fully self-contained container vessels on a sailing frequency of every 30 days between the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Majuro, Ebeye, Kosrae, Ponape, Truk, Saipan, Yap, Palau, Cebu, Davao, Manila, Lae, Kieta and Rabaul. Details from PM&O Lines, 353 Sacramento St., San Francisco, California 94111 (415 421 5400); Tlx: 278016 PMO UR; Owner's Representative, PO Box 803, Saipan, NMI 96950 (234 8819); Tlx 783605 CMCAA.

OUT OF THE PAST

Tonga's message in a bottle

Stuart Inder digs into Tonga's little-known Spanish past

PACIFIC EXPLORER Alejandro Malaspina didn't approve of the European practice of his day of claiming land merely because one of their navigators happened to be the first white man to see it, but he was under instructions to claim Vavau for Spain; so in May 1793, Tonga's green and attractive northern group became a Spanish possession.

The basis for Malaspina's little-known annexation was that 12 years earlier, Spain's Francisco Antonio Mourelle had made the first recorded sighting of the group. Mourelle named Vavau the Martin de Mayorga Islands, after the viceroy of Mexico, to whom he happened to be carrying official dispatches from the Philippines. During two weeks spent in Vavau in February 1781, Mourelle got on well with the Tongans and was impressed with the excellent state of their roads and plantations.

It was one of those curious fortunes of history that James Cook, who visited Tonga no less than three times between 1773 and 1777, had not beaten Mourelle to Vavau. On his last voyage, Cook spent almost a fortnight in northern Ha'apai, little more than 100 kilometres south of Vavau, where he heard of the group and expressed interest in visiting it. But the Vavau high chief Finau, who was in Ha'apai at the time, put him off with a cock 'n' bull story of there being neither harbour nor anchorage there and Cook never did see Vavau. The group's fjord-like harbours are in fact the best in Tonga.

Malaspina, an Italian in the service of Spain, spent much of his time in a harbour Mourelle had named Port of Refuge. His instructions were to make a thorough examination of the group and to claim it in a public ceremony. His two ships, *Descubierta* and *Atrevida*, had already been on a long voyage of exploration and with scientists, surveyors and even artists on board, were well equipped for the task.

The day before the expedition finished its work, Malaspina prepared a document of possession and buried it in a bottle beneath a tent the scientists were using as an observatory. Translated from the Spanish, the document read:

"The corvettes *Descubertia* and

Atrevida of His Catholic Majesty, under the orders of Captains Don Alejandro Malaspina and Don Jose Bustamente y Guerra, were in this port in the month of May of the year 1793, and having reconnoitered the whole archipelago around Vavau, they took possession of it in the name of His Catholic Majesty, raising the flag at the site of the observatory and accompanying this solemn act with seven cries of Long Live the King", as did the natives presided over by their chief Buna. The natives repeated *Vavao foxa Espana* the same number of times. This means "Vavau, son of Spain".

Malaspina's men were the last European visitors to Tonga prior to the arrival of the first European settlers — but the newcomers were ships' deserters and missionaries and none were Spanish. Nor was anything more heard of Spain's annexation. Malaspina fell out of Court favour not long after he returned to Spain, and was imprisoned for more than seven years — and the voluminous papers of his expedition were ordered to be withheld from publication.

Malaspina died in Italy in 1809, a few years after being released. Incredibly, it was 1885 before an edited version of Malaspina's journal together with accounts of some of his officers was published in Madrid. This volume, and an officer's account, published in Uruguay in 1849, have never been translated into English.

The Tonga Government itself was unaware that the Vavauans had, almost two centuries ago, declared themselves to be "sons of Spain" until 1962, when Robert Langdon (a *Pacific Islands Monthly* contributor and later assistant editor) passed on the details to Queen Salote Tupou III while she was visiting Sydney. Langdon, a Spanish history scholar who went on to spend 18 years as executive officer of the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau of the Australian National University, Canberra, had uncovered this unusual piece of Tongan history while researching in Sydney's Mitchell Library.

Queen Salote, who died in 1965 after 47 years on the throne, was reportedly intrigued by the news but showed no interest in having anybody search for Malaspina's buried historic-

al treasure. In 1978 her elder son, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, was himself inspired to organise a search for the bottle.

By that time, inspection of a drawing by an expedition artist, in the possession of the National Library in Canberra, had unexpectedly revealed the probable site of the observatory tent. It had been erected on a small coral islet close to the foreshore of the Port of Refuge, after the top of the island had been levelled to provide sufficient working place for the scientific party.

Access was by steps cut into the coral, and the site had been selected to give the party privacy from the Tongans — who, as Mourelle had reported, were inclined to be light-fingered.

First, however, the islet had to be firmly identified. This task was accomplished in early 1973 by a small group of enthusiasts led by long-time Vavau citizen and writer Patrick Matheson (whose books include a short history of Tonga, *The Tongan Past*), in Ross and Minnie Norgrove's schooner, *White Squall*. It took some detective work before likely sites were narrowed down to one islet, on which the party found evidence of steps. But the top was overgrown with heavy vegetation, including some substantial trees.

That September, King Taufa'ahau personally directed a large working party in clearing the site. They uncovered holes in the coral, which the King judged to have held the tent pegs, and a central hole — filled with rubble like the others — that may have held the centre pole. Malaspina was believed to have used this to also hold the flagpole.

When the holes were cleared, however, there was no historic bottle to be found.

King Taufa'ahau was satisfied that the site on which Malaspina claimed Vavau for Spain had been identified. But he suspected the unfortunate navigator's document of 'annexation' had not long survived the curiosity of his friendly hosts.

"If I know anything of my ancestors, they probably had the bottle up and were inspecting its contents before Malaspina's sails disappeared over the horizon," he chuckled. □

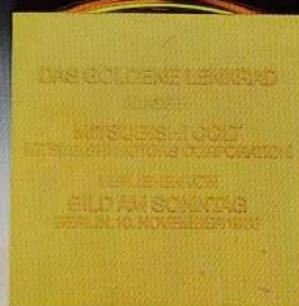
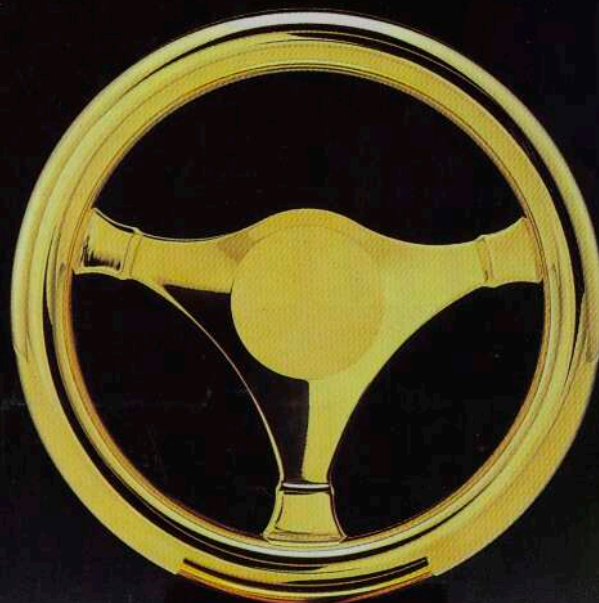
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