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JULY 1990

PACIFIC ISLANDS

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PARADISE IN PERIL

The environment becomes
a key issue which the
South Pacific Forum
must address in Port Vila

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol. 60, No. 7

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

July 1990

THE NEW FOCUS

COVER WHEN leaders of the Pacific meet in Port Vila for the 21st South Pacific Forum next month their attention will focus on the environment and their decisions will shape the region's environmental policies for the 90s. There is urgency in the move to set up regulations — before Paradise is Lost.

Cover photo: Waste dump on Western Samoa's main island of Upolu; by Lesley Stone, Greenpeace.

The Region

Western Samoa: As the country goes through a rehabilitation programme after Cyclone Ofa, politicians debate the right of commoners to vote. **Page 15.**

Micronesia: an innocent move to bring some United States islands under the jurisdiction of Hawaii and Guam has revived an accident claim. **Page 19.**

Tonga: Commoners continue their battle to bring accountability to the noble-dominated government. **Page 39.**

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Business

Papua New Guinea: Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu tries out a strategy to arrest his country's diving economy, mostly the result of the unrest on the island of Bougainville. **Page 23.**

Fiji: The Asian Development Bank reports that the prospects for the Fiji economy look optimistic but warns of lack of growth in some sectors. **Page 26.**

Shipping: A crocodile hunter's yacht is found. But there is a missing link. **Page 33.**

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LETTERS

Quaker opposition

THE Fiji Action Committee of Quaker Peace and Service hopes that the New Zealand Government will not resume top level political ties with the present regime in Fiji and that it will not consider any military assistance to it.

The regime was established through military action by one section of the Melanesian people against a democratically elected Government, in which all the people of Fiji had expressed their wishes in a constitutional way.

Apparent acceptance of this military action, whatever the pretext, signals acceptance of violence and can set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the Pacific and for New Zealand, too.

MARY WOODWARD

Fiji Action Committee
QPSNZ, Auckland

Bounty debate, Part III

NO wonder Norman Douglas is eager to close the "Bounty debate" (PIM, Letters, May 1990). Despite his profuse and grossly sarcastic verbiage (which evidently is his idea of humour) he is still unable to point out one single substantial inaccuracy or error (or even unlikely-

hood) in my book *Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas: A Companion to the Bounty Adventure*.

On the other hand, how can one debate meaningfully with someone who doesn't have his facts straight (e.g.), it was the Government of Fiji who used the phrase "principal discoverer of Fiji" to describe Bligh, who prefers sarcasm to constructive criticism, and who claims that his sense of adventure is proved by his passport and (oh dear, to use Mr Douglas' phrase) his sense of romance by his ex-wives?

SVEN WAHLROOS, Ph.D.

California

Forum airline

WHILST I was pleased to see you quoting from my contribution to Chris Kissling's book, *Communications and Transport for Pacific Micro-States*, (USP 1984), I very much regret the situation that is developing in scheduled airline service within the South Pacific. Only Air Pacific has the critical mass necessary for sustainable self-sufficiency and yet, countries suffering from under-provision of air service by major metropolitan carriers continue to launch brave, but

under resourced, new airline ventures.

Whilst some six or seven years ago I was of the view that a liberalisation of the inappropriate traffic rights regime would be of great advantage to the South Pacific carriers, I believe that the markets and capacity have changed to such an extent that the only way for aviation to be put on a sound footing within the South Pacific is the formation of a co-operative regional carrier.

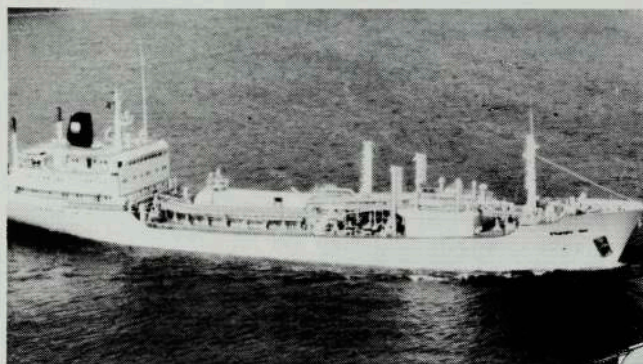
The island states of the Pacific have established a now successful Forum shipping line and the Forum could be an ideal launching vehicle for such an airline. Of course, non Forum countries must be invited to participate and hopefully, New Zealand and Fiji, whilst retaining the identities of their widebody operating carriers, will be willing to explore a basis of their future contribution as well.

The situation requires an initiative: as a former airline executive and now as a consultant with extensive awareness of Pacific aviation, I can see no other solution to the ongoing losses which no investor can afford, whether that investor be private or public.

JM KING

Melbourne

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL.

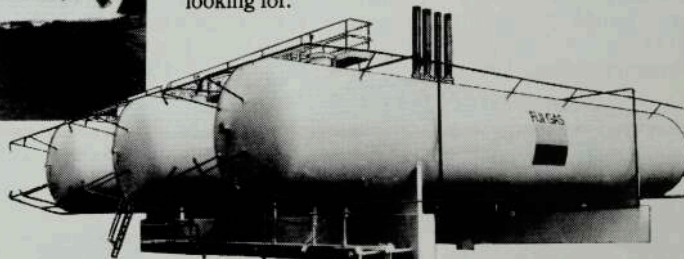


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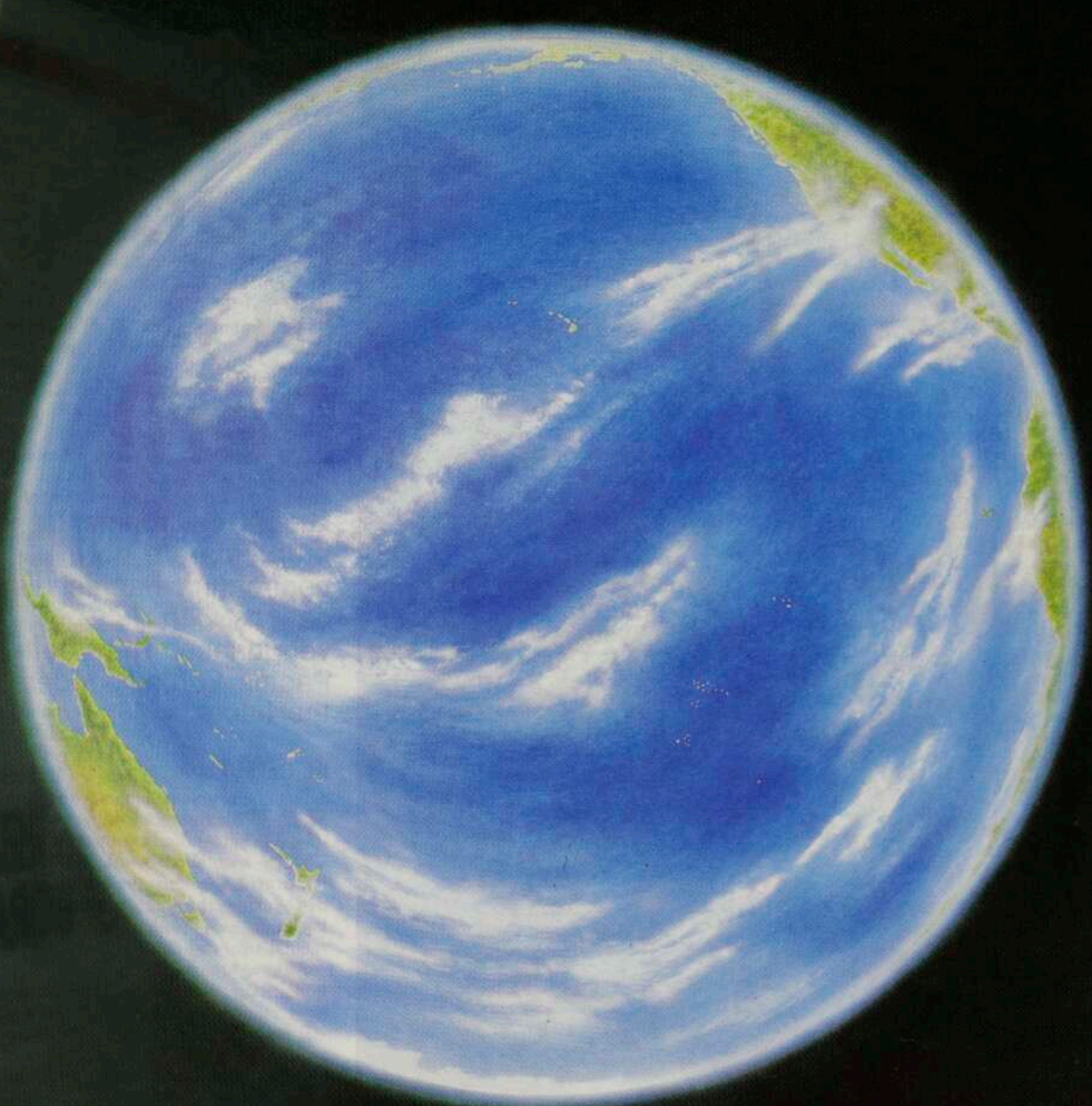
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COVER STORIES

LESLEY STONE/GREENPEACE



Paradise in Peril

Global environmental problems are now confronting Pacific nations with a vengeance. The South Pacific Forum ponders the future.

By David Robie

WHILE much of the world debates the mounting environmental crisis with growing pleas for urgent solutions, the South Pacific is discovering the region isn't immune. Pacific nations also have thorny environmental issues to confront.

Although global problems such as the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion have mainly been caused by the industrial world, it is the low-lying atoll nations and other territories in the Pacific that face the worst consequences. It is a question of survival.

Industrial neo-colonialism has undermined and harmed the harmony traditional Pacific communities have enjoyed with nature. But now paradise is in peril. The region is a mosaic of serious actual or potential environmental problems — hazardous waste dumping, driftnet fishing, ocean dumping, greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, nuclear tests, deforestation, nerve gas burn-offs, coral reef damage, mining devastation and pollution. And the list is growing.

Some of these issues will be discussed when the region's heads of government

Lost beach: what might have been a hideaway for tourists is now a polluted waterfront on Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

COVER STORIES

gather at the 21st South Pacific Forum in Port Vila from July 23 to August 5, but there are unlikely to be many easy or instant solutions. And it is debatable whether some of the more contentious issues will even be discussed frankly.

Australian and New Zealand officials are cautious. Although the environmental debate looms large in both countries, they don't want to be seen as pushing their concerns onto island leaders too forcibly or too quickly. "It has taken three decades for the environmental debate to get where it is New Zealand," said one senior External Affairs official. "But it is only just beginning in many Pacific nations."

Few observers believe the Pacific environment has been managed on a sustainable basis over the past two decades, let alone been improved. The region's few ecology specialists, such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) coordinator Dr Vili Fuava, are concerned about the future.

"As you'd expect, most of our environmental problems are related to marine resources," he says. "The absence of a 'fallback' option for small Pacific countries increases their vulnerability and susceptibility of our region to environmental disasters".

Roy Ferguson, director of New Zealand's MERT environment division, believes environmental issues are likely to be among major domestic challenges for South Pacific governments over the coming decade — as well as continuing to be a major part of regional politics.

"And we shouldn't overlook population pressures among the environmental challenges the region faces," he says. "The total population of the region at about five million appears low. But not only is the population density very high by world standards in some parts of the Pacific — for example Tarawa in Kiribati has a density of 2190 people per square kilometre — but the growth rates are

high."

Among politicians with a high profile in the region is French Polynesia's Health and Environment Minister Jacqui Drollet, who is pushing for a "local consultation" among Tahitians over the future of nuclear testing at Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls. Long an advocate of environmental concerns, Drollet is now concerned about the social and economic implications for Tahiti if France "pulls the plug".

Opposition to nuclear testing in the region was an issue that unified nations when the South Pacific Forum was founded in 1971, and eventually led to the signing of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty in 1985.

Twelve years of United States atmospheric testing in the Marshall Islands atolls of Bikini and Enewetak and its legacy of radiation-linked illnesses and dislocated people, followed by French testing in the atmosphere from 1966 to 1974 and underground since then, have helped make Pacific governments and people sensitive to environmental abuse by outside powers.

Environmental pressure groups are now lobbying for greater priority and resources to be given to environmental issues in the Pacific — but they too are treading warily.

Blaming industrialised nations for the problems now facing the Pacific, Greenpeace Pacific campaigns coordinator Bunny McDiarmid says: "It's hardly fair to us to turn around to the developing world and tell them they cannot have refrigerators, they cannot have cars, they cannot have what we have because it is destroying our environment.

"This means that information, resources and clean technology have to be made accessible to the developing world so that its peoples can choose development options which are informed and environmentally-sustainable. Up-to-date information, especially on recent tech-

nological developments, is especially important and often hard to obtain within a developing region like the Pacific Islands. Greenpeace can often contribute information to balance and strengthen the debate on a certain issue."

But Greenpeace is playing a low-key role. And Pacific islanders are taking an increasingly crucial responsibility in the New Zealand branch of an international movement that has five million supporters in 25 countries and turns over more than US\$50 million a year.

For the past three years the organisation has been establishing and building contacts in the region at government and grassroots level, and learning the most appropriate ways to address regional issues such as the waste trade, climate change, driftnets and ocean dumping.

Unlike its gung-ho style of direct action protests elsewhere in the world, Greenpeace's new Pacific flagship *Rainbow Warrior* has been deployed on a relatively modest campaigns in the past few months. It has targetted driftnet fishing boats in the South Pacific, visited Tahiti on an education mission, teamed up with Vaomatua environmental action group in American Samoa to protect coral reefs, delivered building supplies and solar panels to the Rongelap Islanders on Mejato, protested against Star Wars and missile testing on Kwajalein Atoll, demonstrated offshore against the nerve gas burn-off plans on Johnston Atoll, and protested against a geothermal power plant on Hawaii's Island which threatens the last significant lowland rainforest in the US. Now the ship is seeking out Japanese, Taiwanese and South Korean driftnet fleets in the North Pacific.

Environmentalists, church leaders and politicians, fearing the risk of "another Bhopal or Chernobyl" — as some critics claim — have stepped up a campaign to block the US military plans to store and destroy a huge stockpile of chemical

BRIAN COFFEY/GREENPEACE



ASAELI LAVE



Modern graveyards: dolphin trapped in driftnet; dump in Suva, Fiji.

COVER STORIES

Pushing the new image

GREENPEACE has been a popular name across the Pacific ever since 1972 when Canadian David McTaggart sailed the *Vega* to protest against French nuclear tests. But for most of the past two decades the international environmental movement has been seen as just a *palagi* group, and perhaps rather patronising.

This image began to change in the 1980s. By the middle of the decade, Greenpeace offices were opening in Third World countries such as Argentina and Costa Rica.

In 1985 the original *Rainbow Warrior* helped the irradiated islanders of Rongelap Atoll move to a new home. And then it took on board a ni-Vanuatu crewman, Charles Rara (an official in the Prime Minister's Office), before being bombed by French secret agents in Auckland harbour.

Now the Pacific "tokenism" is being pushed aside. A Fijian, Adi Asenaca

DAVID ROBIE



Adi Asenaca: new Fijian board member of Greenpeace.

weapons from West Germany on Johnston Atoll.

The Pacific Conference of Churches recently condemned the plan, saying it would continue the misuse of the Pacific as a dumping site for nuclear and chemical wastes. Fijian Rev Akuila Yabaki, secretary-general of the conference, said the US proposal was a political decision to appease American allies. "The churches want to stand in the way of this plan," he added.

President John Haglegam of the Federated States of Micronesia has challenged the US\$3.1 billion plan because of the potential poisoning of tuna by residual waste from the burn-off. American Samoa governor Peter Tali Coleman and Cook Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry are among other Pacific leaders who have gone on record opposing the plan. NZ Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer called for a cabinet report.

A resolution of the Honolulu-based World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP-Hawaii) has declared that "burning nerve gases on Kalama [Johnston Atoll] threatens the purity of the Pacific skies" and poses an "unreasonable risk to the life, health and general welfare of Pacific peoples".

Greenpeace issued a report in February claiming the burn-off plan was likely to produce highly toxic emissions and was seriously deficient in health and safety standards. It warned that the problem of destroying chemical weapons

could become a "perpetual environmental plague".

Last month the US Army hit back with a final environmental impact report which claimed the hazards from the burn-off plan on Johnston Atoll were "minimal". A US\$150 million four-barrelled, high-tech incinerator, was completed on the atoll last year but so-called "operations verification testing" has been delayed for months while the military have completed preparations.

The most convincing case for allowing the US Army to destroy the nerve gases on the atoll has been made by Trevor Findlay, editor of the Australian government-financed *Peace Research* Centre's magazine *Peace Research*. An article in the May issue, entitled "Green vs Peace? The Johnston Atoll Controversy", has stirred a bitter row among environmentalists and disarmament campaigners in the Pacific.

Findlay argues that the US Army is making a major gesture towards world peace and disarmament by burning off the chemical munitions, something which should not be opposed by Greenpeace and other environmentalists.

"There are several fundamental political and environmental problems with Greenpeace's chemical weapons policy," he writes. "The first is that it ignores the problem of what should ultimately be done with the European stockpile. Clearly, the weapons can no longer be left in storage in Germany. Further, it would

clearly be adding insult to injury to expect heavily populated Germany to host a destruction process for the American weapons, especially if they are as dangerous as Greenpeace claims . . .

"Greenpeace and other environmentalists should weigh carefully the benefits both to world peace and the environment that will flow from the total destruction of chemical weapons and a perpetual ban on their acquisition and use, as against temporary and perhaps marginal gains to be made from the disruption of the destructive process [in the Pacific]."

But other commentators and researchers strongly disagree. In a scathing attack on Findlay's views in the July issue of New Zealand's *Peacelink* magazine, former Stockholm International Peace Institute researcher Owen Wilkes says the article "appears to be a sophisticated bit of propaganda" in support of the US military.

"Burning the Red Hot munitions on Johnston Atoll does not reduce the total stockpile of chemical weaponry. Similarly with the West German stockpile," says Wilkes. "It is being shifted out of Germany because Chancellor Kohl wants it shifted to improve his December election chances. These weapons are obsolete, and likely to be replaced by modern 'binary' chemical weapons.."

"Burning may be safe. The point is we don't know, and we will not be able to

COVER STORIES

Uluiviti, has recently been selected to the five-member policy-making board of Greenpeace NZ Inc and several other Pacific Islanders have been involved with environmental campaigns by the new *Rainbow Warrior*.

Adi Asenaca, a 31-year-old postgraduate scholar in politics and law at Auckland University, believes it won't be long before there are homegrown Greenpeace offices in Pacific countries.

"I'm facing a big challenge," she says, "Greenpeace has been seen to have a Eurocentric bias. The best way to get rid of the big brother image is for us to set up Greenpeace branches in countries like Fiji and Vanuatu. Well, perhaps not Fiji, because it has too big a share of regional offices already."

Long active in New Zealand student affairs and local politics — she was until recently Pacific affairs spokesperson for the New Labour Party — Adi Asenaca was approached by two Greenpeace Pacific campaigners to join the board. She is the first Pacific Islander to be elected and the organisation recently celebrated 100,000 members in New Zealand.

A Solomon Islander, Philip Rupuka, and Marshallese, Bake Anta have been

crewmembers on the new *Rainbow Warrior* during its Pacific campaigns this year. A Tahitian is expected to become a crewman shortly and a Western Samoan is joining Greenpeace as an atmosphere and energy campaigner.

The way Greenpeace operates in the Pacific is significantly different from how it works in Europe and North America. "There are fewer of the high-profile direct actions the organisation is known for internationally," says Pacific campaigns coordinator Bunny McDiarmid, one of the crewmembers on the *Rainbow Warrior* at the time of the bombing. "Instead, in the last three years our campaigners have been establishing and building contacts in the region at governmental and grassroots level — and learning the most appropriate ways to address regional issues such as the waste trade, climate change, driftnets and ocean dumping."

McDiarmid believes there is currently a "renaissance" of non-government organisations in the Pacific and, unlike elsewhere in the world, Greenpeace is directing a lot of its campaign work and information through such groups. NGOs such as the Wau Ecology Institute, in

Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands Development Trust and SPACHEE (South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and Education) at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, rate high among its contacts.

But Adi Asenaca isn't convinced this is enough. "Greenpeace does very good things in the Pacific and it provides excellent information. However, resources would be better used if Greenpeace is actually in island nations. And we need to do it ourselves. Greenpeace needs to listen to island people. We need to set up our own branches from the grassroots. It would be more effective politically with our own people talking to Pacific governments."

She believes that many environmental problems in the region are caused by the "economic and political weakness" of governments failing to stand up to political pressures. And she warns that Pacific governments need to treat the issues with urgency.

"Pacific people still depend on our environment and resources," she says. "If we're not able to curb our problems now — when there are only five million of us — then there isn't much hope." □

afford an environmental monitoring network in the Central Pacific to keep tabs on any little problems the army has in getting the kinks out of the system.

"If it is as safe as the US Army says it is then they should do it in Germany — in the Ruhr Valley perhaps where a little bit of extra pollution will hardly be noticed. Which is more important — getting Helmut Kohl re-elected, or keeping the Pacific safe for its inhabitants?"

Sebia Hawkins, Greenpeace's Washington-based Pacific campaign coordinator, said: "Of course Greenpeace applauds efforts to rid the world of chemical weapons, but incineration isn't the answer, more appropriate technology must be found. Greenpeace will not sit by and watch Johnston Atoll become a permanent mid-ocean toxic waste dump in the Pacific."

Greenpeace has opposed the Johnston Atoll plans since 1983. In its 101-page February report circulated among Pacific governments, the movement said that the military's three studies so far — in 1983, 1988 and 1990 — were obsolete and ignored recent scientific evidence on the creation of toxins in similar high-temperature incinerators. It cites scientific data showing that toxic polychlorinated dibenzo dioxins (PCDD) and polychlorinated dibenzo furans (PCDF) are always among the products of incomplete combustion generated by incinerators of the Johnston Atoll type.

It describes the military environmental

impact report as "inadequate to meet the criteria set down in the US National Environmental Policy Act and subsequent court interpretations".

Poka Laenui (Hayden Burgess), president of the WCIP-Hawaii, asked in a letter to Cook Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry: "If the army is so certain about the safety of the incineration of such gases, why not incinerate it in Germany where it is now? Why not ship it to the closest American port and incinerate it there? Why are they compounding the dangers of incineration with the dangers of shipping these gases halfway around the world?"

Five years ago, says Laenui, when the US Army proposed the transfer of nerve gases from Okinawa to Johnson Atoll, "a few of us insisted they conduct hearings in other Pacific Island nations. Their response was that those islands were beyond the required scope of the law and not part of the environmental consideration".

According to Wilkes, the US Army environmental impact statement on the West German munitions makes "even more scary reading" than the Greenpeace critiques of it. "The munitions will be brought in shipping containers, and the containers will be stacked on a narrow strip of land between the sea and the 3km runway which dominates Johnston Atoll," says Wilkes. "Numerous aircraft use that runway every day, and it only needs one aircraft to go off course

and plough through those stacked containers, and we will have thousands of nerve gas grenades and bombs bobbing around in the Pacific Ocean for decades."

The nearest Pacific nation to Johnston Atoll is the Marshall Islands and it is embroiled in its own controversy over plans by two American companies to export "non toxic" waste to the atolls. Last month Greenpeace handed the Marshallese government copies of a damning report about the waste traders, citing criminal records and alleged securities fraud involving several of the key men involved.

Greenpeace's report, hand delivered during the visit of the *Rainbow Warrior*, also claimed to expose the environmental flaws in the proposals of the two rival companies, Admiralty Pacific and Micromar.

"Their plans are thinly disguised attempts by waste traders to make money out of the waste crisis," says Greenpeace toxic wastes campaigner Lesley Stone. "They won't solve the US waste problems — nor will they benefit the Pacific. They will just dump the problems and the responsibility on the laps of the Marshallese people."

The Greenpeace report said Jim Thompson, president of Admiralty Pacific, spent four months in prison in 1975 after pleading guilty to a charge of securities fraud. Investigators had disco-

The watchdog

The Oceania action plan

BASED in Noumea, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, or SPREP, coordinates the "action plan" for Oceania. It works on behalf of the 22 island governments and administrations of the region in partnership with the South Pacific Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Forum Secretariat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

"Some people argue that economic development is foremost and must be achieved at all cost," says SPREP coordinator Dr Vili Fuavao. "Part of the resources are then diverted to 'mend' the environmental damages — an approach used by 'developed' countries to achieve economic independence. The situation in the Pacific doesn't allow that."

Established in 1978, SPREP's action plan was mapped out at the inaugural Conference of the Human Environment in the South Pacific at Rarotonga in 1982. The Plan is a regional strategy, identifying about 60 aspects of environmental assessment, management and law.

In 1986 the SPREP Convention and its protocols were signed. Besides prohibiting the dumping of radioactive waste in the marine environment of the region, its provisions cover other forms of marine pollution from land-based sources, from the atmosphere, mining and coastal erosion. The preamble recognises the need for cooperation to ensure sustainable Pacific resource management.

Six years ago the SPREP secretariat formed an Association of South Pacific Environmental Institutions (ASPEI) to coordinate their activities.

Among the agency's activities are:

- *Coastal water quality monitoring:* Studies are made of coastal water conditions and marine pollutants such as heavy metals and pesticides are monitored.

- *Natural resource management:* SPREP carried out the survey and monitoring of coastal ecosystems and the interaction of mangrove, seagrass and coral reef communities.

- *Environmental education and training:* The agency gives high priority to helping member governments through training courses, workshops and seminars, and distributes a variety of information.

- *Waste management and pollution control:* SPREP includes several projects in its action plan dealing with the occupational and environmental hazards of pesticide use, the development of effluent and waste disposal standards for governments of the region. □

Moruroa

When the disaster hits

RADIOACTIVE waste from French underground nuclear tests at Moruroa Atoll is seeping towards the surface faster than has been previously claimed, warns a leading New Zealand scientist.

Professor Manfred Hochstein, director of Auckland University's Geothermal Institute, believes the waste could come to the top of the atoll in about 30 years — not the thousands of years claimed by French authorities.

"It is not a matter of 2000 years, nor is it a matter of 100 years," he says. "In about 30 years the disaster will hit us."

Speaking in May at a conference of the New Zealand branch of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Professor Hochstein revealed that he had tried to present his findings to the NZ National Radiation Laboratory which has been accused by several environmental groups as being partisan in favour of French testing.

He has also sent data from his "reservoir model", a five-year computer study into the effects of radioactive contamination on Moruroa. The computer model has demonstrated that nuclear explosions have seriously cracked and weakened the hard basalt core of the atoll.

Hochstein's theory has been confirmed by analysis of data collected at Moruroa by French oceanographer Jacques Cousteau during a 1987 visit to the atoll. Although Cousteau declared testing safe at present, his data showed the presence of radioactive caesium 137 in lagoon water.

"The only objective data has been from the Cousteau report and that still showed a mild leakage of radioactive material equivalent to nuclear power station in Europe," he says.

Opponents of the nuclear tests were embarrassed in April when a French news agency report purported to cite a group of 22 French medical experts as saying the risks of radiation at Moruroa were "infinitesimal".

The report came out two days before the group's official Press statement was made public.

The doctors said in a statement published in the Tahiti newspaper *La Depeche* after a two-day visit: "Without prejudging the situation of Fangataufa and Hao atolls, the delegation considered that there is not a major radiological risk on Moruroa atoll at present.

"However, [we] are not convinced of the absence of medium and long-term risks because of the strong concentration of radioactive material in the sub-soil of the atoll." □

vered that "Thompson has a history of financial deception and other alleged illegal activities for which he has received criminal charges more than once," the report said. Several court records, letters from prosecutors and a prosecution affidavit are cited in support of the claims.

Admiralty Pacific has proposed schemes for garbage landfill on Ebeye, Kwajalein and other atolls and to dump used tires in lagoons, and Thompson reportedly tried to secretly negotiate a plan for nuclear waste dumping in the Marshalls.

Micromar's president Dan Fleming, who split with Thompson last year, is currently preparing an engineering study on the feasibility of exporting US garbage to create almost 100 hectares of landfill at Kwajalein Atoll. He promises no garbage will be dumped in lagoons or the ocean and no toxic waste will be shipped in to the Marshalls.

Fleming also claims "landfill will be protected by massive seawalls, dikes and will be sealed and leak proof". But, says Greenpeace in its detailed critique of the Micromar proposals, claims that there

will be no toxics and the surrounding environment would not be contaminated "are impossible to fulfill".

While most other Pacific nations have rejected waste dumping proposals or put them on hold, a California-based company has also come back into the reckoning. Global Telesis is trying to arrange a long-term deal that could send millions of tonnes of US hazardous waste to incinerators throughout Asia and the Pacific. The same company tried unsuccessfully to export US waste to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands in

COVER STORIES

Johnston

Old questions,
new threats

JOHNSTON Atoll, about 1300 kilometres southwest of Honolulu, is a bleak, treeless, uninhabited former bird sanctuary. From the air it looks like an oversized aircraft carrier — about half of the main island, Johnston, is taken up by a three-kilometre-long runway.

Originally there were just two tiny islands on the atoll — Johnston and Sand — but they have been expanded and two artificial islands created for the military installations. Johnston Island has been increased twelvefold to 260 hectares.

The United States Army's \$3.1 billion plan to destroy its aging chemical weapons arsenal has stirred fears of potentially disastrous consequences. Although the final military environmental impact report released last month claimed the hazards on Johnston Atoll were "minimal", Pacific anxiety remains strong.

Testing for the full-scale burn-off of nerve and mustard gas stockpiles removed from Okinawa and moved to the atoll in 1971 is due to start soon. Full operation is expected by next month. The chemical weapon destruction plant, called the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), has been built over several years.

The army plans to ship other chemical weapons from West Germany and destroy them in the four JACADS incinerators on Johnston Island. Among the US stockpile in Germany is an estimated 400 tonnes of lethal nerve gas — GB (Sarin) and VX — contained in about 100,000 8-inch and 155mm shells. Nerve gas causes convulsions and death — sometimes within 10 minutes of exposure. Mustard blistering agents H, HD and HT are also among the weapons.

Comprising about 1 per cent of the total US chemical weapons arsenal, the chemical weapons have been stockpiled in the past few years at Clausen in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, close to the French border. Under the army plan the shells would be transported in high-security convoys almost 50 km by road to Miesau, carried by train to the North Sea port of Nordenham, and then shipped to Johnston Atoll.

However, the weapons would not be destroyed until 1994 — after the Okinawa and Johnston arsenals have been burnt off.

If the Johnston Atoll weapons burn-offs are considered successful, chemical weapons stocks will be dismantled and destroyed on the mainland US in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Oregon and Utah. Within seven years about 30,000 tonnes of the weapons will be burned. □

Marshalls

Deception or
development?

TWO American companies have been trying to persuade the Marshall Islands government to give the green light to huge schemes for exporting waste to the low-lying atoll nation. But they have been accused by the international environmental organisation Greenpeace of being "skilled in deception — not waste development".

An investigation by Greenpeace made public last month has claimed that not only are the environmental claims by the companies indefensible, but the principle players have long records of financial deception and other alleged illegal activities.

The two companies are Seattle-based Admiralty Pacific, which launched the proposal almost two years ago, and the rival Micronesian Marine Development (known as Micromar) of Oakland. Last year Admiralty Pacific offered a plan to ship 17 million tonnes of "non toxic" municipal waste over five years to the atoll chain and to add topsoil from New Zealand, or possibly Australia. The company offered a fee of US\$140 million with an option to continue dumping for a further 10 years.

Admiralty offered this "garbage mountain" to counter the threat of flooding from rising sea levels caused by the so-called greenhouse effect. When that proposal collapsed, the company revamped its idea. Now Admiralty claims that it can enhance Marshallese fisheries resources while solving North America's tire disposal problem by exporting waste tyres to the Marshall Islands for dumping in lagoons to create artificial reefs.

As many as 250 million tires are discarded each year in the US — half of them being randomly dumped throughout the country. Enormous tyre fires have raged for weeks at many tyres dumps, spreading toxic fumes for many kilometres. Pressure is mounting to get rid of stockpiled scrap tyres.

However, Admiralty has not abandoned its plans to fill in the Marshallese lagoons with waste. "With the addition of solid waste to the artificial reefs and lagoons created by the tyres," the company proposal said, "new land could be created for agricultural use."

Micromar's plan is a variation on the original Admiralty proposal. Micromar wants to use millions of tonnes of US garbage to create landfill in the Marshall Islands. Although the company claims the garbage will not contain any toxics and will not contaminate the environment, critics say these claims are impossible to fill. □

1988.

Although Global Telesis has not yet followed US law by filing a notice of intent to export waste with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the company claims to have agreements with several Asian and Pacific countries. It already has an agreement with China to build a factory for the "processing of toxic and non-toxic chemical materials and wastes" at the Basuo Development Zone in Hainan province.

Also, Global Telesis claims to have a deal with Papua New Guinea to con-

struct an incinerator for hazardous wastes. However, Papua New Guinea is a signatory to the Lome Convention and consequently prohibits the import of foreign waste.

The company is also reported to be trying to build an incinerator in Vanuatu, another Lome convention signatory.

Meanwhile, Taiwan is reported to have low-level nuclear waste stored on a small Pacific island, reviving fears of ocean dumping after the Japanese plans in the 1970s were abandoned. According to a

report in *Radioactive Waste Management* magazine, the waste, mainly from nuclear power plants, has been regularly shipped to a storage site on Lan-Yu islet since 1982.

Among several alternatives to the final disposal of radioactive waste, in particular low-level radwaste, ocean dumping will probably prove the most feasible method," said the report. It added that 270 shipments of radioactive waste had been shipped to the island until the end of 1988. □

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FIJI

Chiefs dig in

By Iva Tora

A LETTER that would have caught many readers' eyes in *The Fiji Times* on June 29 was a two-paragraph Citizen's Declaration: "I have no intention of abiding by the racist laws of a racist constitution." Signed by Sudesh Prasad, of Lami, just outside the capital Suva, the letter referred to the new constitution of Fiji approved a week earlier by the Great Council of Chiefs, the ultimate decision-making body of the indigenous Fijians.

Prasad's letter underscored continuing Indian opposition to the constitution which gives the indigenous race numerical superiority in parliament plus some customary guarantees. The constitution's approval by the Great Council of Chiefs was expected and had the support of the army which overthrew an Indian-dominated government in 1987 and declared Fiji a republic.

While the Fijians may have reason to celebrate the approval of a new constitution weighted in their favour, there were warning bells that the new sense of power could, if abused, lead to some fragmentation. Speaking at the Great Council of Chiefs meeting, The President, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, whose chiefly title of *Tui Cakau* is the one of the most powerful symbols of Fijian politics, hit out at the emergence of several Taukei (indigenous) movements after the military coup. These movements, Ganilau said, had multiplied tenfold overnight and had degraded the meaning of the word *taukei* and distorted the essence of the Fijian identity. One chief, from the province of Naitasiri, said the speech "immediately diffused the situation and eased whatever tension we may have brought with us". In an effort to maintain unity the chiefs from throughout Fiji formed a new "Fijian political party".

In a three-page communique, the chiefs issued a brief summary outline of the new party whose primary objective was the safeguarding of Fijian interests. The party, the statement said, would "guarantee, promote and strengthen the indigenous rights, political aspirations and political future of the Fijian people; facilitate, promote and stimulate the accelerated participation of the Fijian in business, commerce and industry in the country. It would "facilitate, promote and stimulate the economic and social development of the Fijian people in their villages, districts and provinces and protect, strengthen and promote the unity of the Fijian people and the consolidation of their tradition and culture.

There may not have been anything novel in the preamble to differentiate it from the usual ultra-rightist Taukei platforms. But what did raise a few suspecting eye-brows were the provisions that the party would "accommodate association with other political/ethnic groups/parties" while "fully understanding that Fiji is a multi-racial country".

The mention of multi-racialism sent sirens ringing. For many it was a reminder of Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's Alliance Government which ruled Fiji for 17 years from independence until being unseated in the general elections of 1987. Mara's acceptance of the post-coup leadership and a self-appointed Cabinet mostly from within his old Alliance lineup had torpedoed hope by his party to mend its fences and revive the multi-racial image it successfully pushed for most of its existence. The new party, however, reminds critics of the Alliance and, especially, its organisational wing — the Fijian Association. Some warned the new party was giving the Alliance and the Fijian Association, presumed to have waned into antiquity after the coup, a chance of a new life and re-birth.

Reaction to the announcement poured in thick and fast. Said one former Alliance Cabinet Minister turned anti-Mara campaigner, Sakeasi Butadroka (now leader of the Fijian Christian Nationalist Party): "If this proposal did not have Mara's blessing, it would never have been initiated." Another former Alliance, Isireli Vuibau, said: "It is a resurrection of the Fijian Association under a new mask, new guise. Vuibau, now the leader of the Conservative Party of Fiji, added: "I don't believe the old chiefs are involved — it is most probably and highly likely just one or two groups from the Ministry of Fijian Affairs." The Fiji Labour Party, a partner in the deposed Coalition government, was also worried. Its vice-president, Simione Durutalo, a lecturer in sociology at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, said: "This is the last hurrah of the chiefs. It is an attempt to stem the tide and salvage their hold and support of the Fijian people. There has been a gradual erosion of their political influence, accelerated particularly in the urban areas and this is a last ditch attempt to contain that."

If the changes made to the distribution of Fijian seats was anything to go by, there may well have been some truth to the claim. The draft document, after three days of deliberations, reduced the number of urban seats for Fijian from

eight to five and increased the number of rural seats in three of the 14 provinces from two to three. Mara's province — Lau, Ganilau's area — Cakaudrove, and Tailevu, each received an extra seat. But the logic behind the increase in rural seats escaped some observers.

"There are 42,000 people from the Lau province but only 12,000 live there and yet they have been given three seats. In the urban areas where you have one-third of the Fijian population living there, there's only five seats," lamented a former Junior Vice-president of the Fijian Association, Ratu Timoci Vesikula, another former Alliance Cabinet Minister. "Does that sound like a fair distribution? I think it is absolutely unfair. Urban people are in many ways the foundation, the ones responsible for running the country. Most of the educated Fijians live in the urban areas and those who can best represent Fiji live in the urban areas."

But for others, such as Durutalo, the re-distribution of seats showed all the classic signs of those resorting to heavy gerimandering to achieve their ends in the real politik numbers game. "It's all about numbers and (the chiefs) will try to get as much support as they can — hence the heavy gerimandering and weight given to the rural areas," he said.

Responding to the attacks, Fiji's Minister for Fijian Affairs, Lieutenant-Colonel Vatilai Navunisaravi, lashed out at the critics as opponents who "were still wrapped up in past dominion thinking: 'We're now in the republic era — those critics ought to just come out from their shells and realise this is a different era. So what if this party is a revival of the Fijian Association? Isn't this party dealing with Fijian solidarity, with Fijian political aspirations?'"

Strongly refuting claims that the proposal was initiated by a core group of individuals, the Minister said only that "the chiefs had initiated the proposal", and did not elaborate. □

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THE REGION

• WESTERN SAMOA

Chance for Democracy

By Ulafala Aiavao

WESTERN Samoa plans to hold a referendum in October on the issue of allowing everyone on or over the age of 21 years to vote in general elections, currently a privilege only of the chiefs (*matai*). The referendum, if approved by the Matai-dominated Parliament, will, however, not question the right of chiefs only to stand in general elections. But the referendum will be open to everyone aged 21 years and over.

The 47-seat Western Samoa *Fono* (Parliament) consists of 45 seats reserved for *matai* who are elected by *matai*. The other two seats are for people of non-Samoan ancestry who are elected under universal suffrage by voters aged 21 years and over and registered under the Individual Voter's Roll.

The referendum "is a delicate issue", said Finance Minister and Cabinet spokesman Tuilaepa Sailele when announcing the plan last month. If accepted by Parliament, universal suffrage will completely transform Western Samoan politics and revolutionise an electoral system that currently allows only 11 per cent of the population to vote. In the 1988 general elections, for example, only 8.7 per cent of the population of 160,000 voted; 12,110 *matai* and 1955 Individual Voters. The debate for universal suffrage has been going on since the 1970s although there have been differences on the voting age, some wanting 21 years, some 25 and some 30.

Sailele acknowledged the problems created by the presence of *matai* with multi-

ple title holders. This year's count showed that 18,000 *matai* hold 24,000 titles. More titles are being created or bestowed. The rate is faster than that of population growth. In 1961, a year before independence, there was one *matai* title to every 24 people. In 1981 the ratio was 1:11, and for the 1988 general elections it was 1:8. The ratio drops to 1:4 if those below the age of 16 years are not counted.

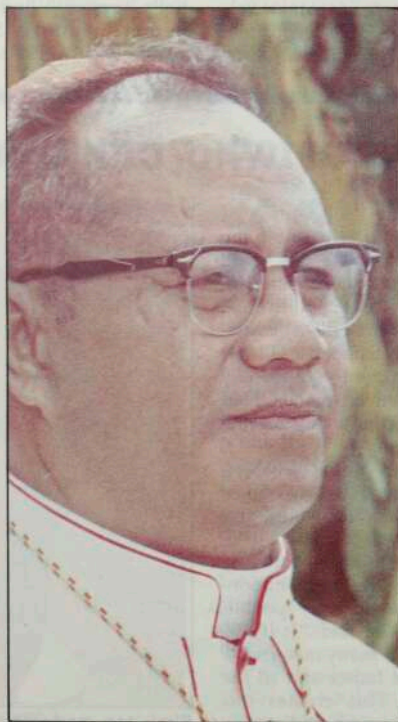
The current electoral system causes the abuse of the *matai* system. In Western Samoa, only *matai* can participate in elections for the 45 seats filled by the indigenous people. Only a *matai* can vote and only a *matai* can stand for elections. It is not a democracy of one man one vote, but it is a system of one *matai* title one vote. A man or woman with 10 *matai* titles, for example, can vote 10 times in one general election. The number of registered *matai* titles has increased from 4700 in 1961 to 20,600 for the 1988 general elections. Some chiefs hold seven titles, enabling them to vote

seven times.

The number of multiple title holders have increased dramatically in recent years, so has the number of people holding the same title. The Registrar of the Lands and Titles Court, Galumalemana Netina, said one recent case involved a *matai* who wanted to share his title with 117 other people. Another tried to give his title to 153 others. The record is held by a chief who tried to share his title with 200 people. This record attempt was challenged and the number of people was reduced.

As they run out of chiefly titles, the West Samoans simply create new ones. One new title being challenged by the Lands and Titles Court is *Ofa*, a name many Samoans remember as that of the killer cyclone which hit them last February. Other new titles being challenged are *Apaau Vaalele* (aeroplane wings), *Samala* (hammer), *Vaiaga* (cave pool), *Tatatuli* (knee tapping), *Tee* (defy), and *Luka* (Luke). Titles are being crosschecked with a 1955 register listing all ancient Samoan titles.

Cardinal with a view



Cardinal Pio: concerned

ONE of the influential groups which has pursued universal suffrage for Western Samoa is the country's Council of Churches, headed by Roman Catholic Cardinal, Pio Taofinu'u. The council began making formal approaches to government about electoral reform five years ago, although its concern over abuse of *matai* titles dates back well before then.

Cardinal Pio said there is no point in saying that only chiefs should vote when so many people are becoming chiefs. Universal suffrage will protect traditional values and customs. Cardinal Pio said the present system permits the creation of *matai* titles merely for political purposes; more chiefs mean more votes. He said abuse is destroying the foundations of Samoan traditions and way of life. Cardinal Pio wants the practise of making chiefs out of children stopped.

Cardinal Pio opposes party politics and suggests government appoints Cabinet Ministers from both sides of the House. Western Samoa's ruling Human Rights Protection Party is headed by Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana. The Opposition Samoa National Development Party is headed by former Prime Minister Tupuola Efi, now known as Tupua Tamasese Efi. □

Winning votes is not all that is behind the flood of titles in Western Samoa. In many cases titles are bestowed as reward for good deeds. For example, Samoans living overseas send back to their families at home WSS\$70 million a year, half the country's annual budget. To reward their family members abroad, those at home give them a chiefly title. While it is illegal to bestow title on someone living outside the country, ceremonies still take place and the titles continue to be exported. People in Western Samoa are also made chiefs as an acknowledgment of

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their services. They in turn are sought to help families during weddings, funerals and fundraising. There was even a case where a four-year-old boy was given a title.

The alarming increase in the number of *matai* is having an effect on traditional resources and village life. Take the sharing of land, for example, where *matai* have the first say. While in the past land and other property might be the responsibility of one *matai*, today the same property can be the subject of dispute among several people holding the same chiefly title. Village-level leadership has also been weakened by the presence of too many chiefs in one village. There are so many chiefs these days that when they meet in one village some remain outside the meeting house because all the customary seats have been taken up.

October's referendum will also seek opinion on an enlarged parliament, whether numerically, or from unicameral to bicameral. A bicameral system is likely to involve a lower House of Representatives and an Upper House of *Pule* and *Tumua* comprised of customary groupings of people.

An example of the weaknesses of Western Samoa's electoral system was the case involving Muliagatele Gina Moore, a woman who beat the system. She is the only person in Western Samoa to have legally voted in the Individual Voter's roll, while her husband, who holds a *matai* title, was voting in the separate roll for *matai*.

How did she do it? Using the name Gina Moore, she was listed on the Individual Voter's roll to help elect two MPs to represent people of non-Samoan ancestry. She was removed from that roll when her husband registered his *matai* title because no one can vote as an Individual Voter if they hold a registered *matai* title or are married to someone with a registered *matai* title.

So Moore was stripped of her right to vote.

She sued and lost in the Magistrate's Court in January 1982. She sued again, this time in the Supreme Court. In a landmark decision the Supreme Court not only overruled the lower court, it declared the electoral system unconstitutional because it discriminated against voters. A subsequent Court of Appeal decision in August 1982 reversed the Supreme Court ruling, but not before Gina Moore managed to vote on the Individual Voter's roll while her husband cast his vote as a *matai*.

Today Gina Moore holds the title *Muliagatele* which she hopes to use for the first time as a voter in the February election where she will vote as a chief.

"It's about time," she said, when she heard of the planned referendum. □

Samoa after Ofa

The rehabilitation begins

By Helen Fraser

WESTERN Samoa's initial phase of emergency and then short-term relief after Cyclone Ofa has ended and the long-term rehabilitation of the country is underway. National Disaster Council chairman Dr Leiataua Kilifoti Eteuati says.

Eteuati, who also heads the Prime Minister's Department of Western Samoa, was speaking to *Pacific Islands Monthly* on his country's progress since the devastation of Cyclone Ofa in early February. The assessment of damage at NZ\$300-million and the country being set back 20 years has been underlined, if not extended, by recent flooding which destroyed inland road on the main island of Upolu as well as hydro-electric power stations. Eteuati said the flooding was worsened by the lack of trees on mountains and hillsides after Cyclone Ofa, which has destroyed coastal roads, almost all food crops, villages and schools, and caused damage to harbour facilities.

The rehabilitation phase was moving ahead slowly, Eteuati said, and the Government was now awarding contracts for the major construction work involved.

"One of our main problems is that we

do not have sufficient companies that are locally based, so we have to bring in outside companies, for example Fletchers of New Zealand, to do the road building, and the Snowy Mountains Engineering Consultants company (of Australia) is also heavily involved.

"As well as we have had to go overseas to buy equipment, our Public Works Department is not equipped — so all these things combined to slow our rehabilitation, particularly the infrastructure — roads, electricity supply and water supply." Roads have to be realigned and in many cases moved away from the coast.

One of the first things the Government had requested after Ofa, was that specialist teams survey the harbour for damage. Australian and New Zealand teams reported that the harbour itself was fine, Eteuati said, although not as deep as previously, and some work was needed to the fuel pipeline but tanker deliveries had gone ahead.

Despite the destruction of almost all schools, all have been operating since February 19. Eteuati said this was due to villagers making available their church halls, pastors' homes or even family homes. Western Samoa has mostly village and district schools that are paid

The registrar who can't vote

WESTERN Samoa's Registrar of Electors and Voters, Tate Simi, has never voted. He will be 38 in October. As an indigenous Samoan, Simi does not qualify as an Individual Voter to elect two Members of Parliament to represent non-Samoans. He has no chiefly title so he cannot vote for any of the 45 seats reserved for *matai*. That has not stopped him from taking on major roles in government.

Since 1984 he has been Western Samoa's Commissioner of Labour. Since 1987 he has determined who votes, and in what electoral roll.

"Personally, I refuse to take a title just to vote because there are more important considerations as to why people should become *matai*," he said. "It is not too healthy to have too many *matai* in a family such as where a father and all his children are chiefs. This creates too many chiefs and not enough Indians."



Simi: too many chiefs

THE REGION

for by villagers, with only a few Government schools.

"The response from Samoans has been nothing short of amazing," Eteuati says, "villagers have got up by themselves and cleared up — the chiefs, *matais* and local government leaders have organised and coordinated all their activities.

"Good leadership and coordination is one very important reason we've been able to get people to work instead of moping," he said.

Assessments made by both overseas experts and the Agriculture Department have calculated that food crops in the ground are a mere 10 per cent of a normal May quantity, and Eteuati says, not much of this is any use for harvest. While a tremendous amount of replanting is well under way, a mature taro crop takes eight to nine months. He said one of the concerns of the Government was to ensure that villagers did not harvest their taro early because this would mean there was no mature taro suitable for export in several months time.

The Government had carried out a distribution of four days food supplies in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, and in mid-June had begun a distribution of four weeks supplies of foodstuffs such as flour, rice and canned food.

Eteuati strongly condemned reports in the New Zealand media which described Western Samoa as becoming aid dependent and "the Ethiopia of the South Pacific".

"The truth of the matter is that our

Council, where everything is coordinated, has really only given out one distribution and the formula we used would feed one person for four days. It's almost five months now I can't see how it is possible for anyone to say that Samoa is becoming aid dependent — it's absolutely incorrect," he said.

"It is true that there is other assistance coming from families (in New Zealand) but that's going direct. Three quarters of that first distribution was food bought by us and one quarter came direct."

Eteuati said the records of all donations — both material and cash — were open to inspection by the public and the press. The records show where the materials have gone to and all cash donations had gone into a special account which was established from the start.

"We've heard overseas complaints and virtually all of it is ignorance, and a deal of it is political," Eteuati said. Some members of the Samoan community in New Zealand had criticised the role of some local MPs in relief distribution on the grounds of favouritism and political patronage, allegations which have been firmly denied by Samoan authorities. A recent statement from the Australian High Commissioner to Apia, Basil Teasy, announcing A\$100,000 that would go to buying food, had also commended the Council and the International Committee for its work.

Western Samoa's National Disaster Plan was adopted by Cabinet in 1986. It established the National Disaster

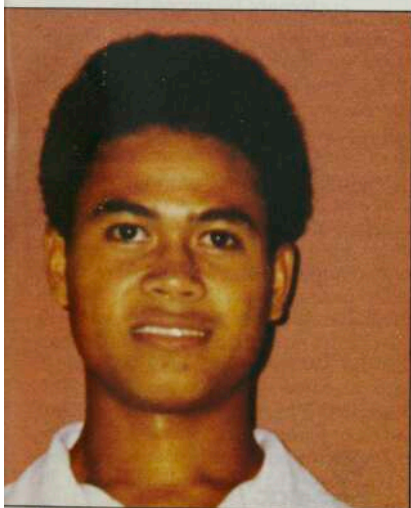
Council, comprising heads of Departments, Government organisations, Non Government Organisations, and the International Committee — made up of representatives of all diplomatic missions in Apia along with regional and international organisations and Government members.

Eteuati said the coordination of assistance had gone "exceedingly smoothly", with efficient and effective distribution. He said there had been no problems apart from one case of confusion in overseas reports going out from Apia, which had led to the cancellation of a flour shipment. The Samoan Cabinet had called in the missions involved, explained that the reports were not correct and the matter had been resolved, Eteuati said, and the flour shipment went ahead, although late.

As Chairman of the National Disaster Council Eteuati stressed immediately after Cyclone Ofa that Western Samoa wanted to coordinate the relief and nearly five months on he sums up:

"I'm extremely proud of our people, there's been no feeling of depression — if anything it's been a feeling of let's get out there and help ourselves. It's also demonstrated very strongly just how valuable the leadership and guidance, that we have in the organisation of the villages. The attitude in the country is very positive — one of cheer and helping others, although it's real tough times, because there is no money around and there's no food." □

What about dirty water and broken roads?



Asoau: is 21 old enough?

"A WASTE of time and a waste of money" is how Independent MP, Le Tagaloa Pita, described plans for a referendum on universal suffrage. "The most urgent problem now is to pull the country out of the shame of no electricity, of dirty water, of no water and of broken roads." (Daily power cuts have been in force for weeks after breakdowns in half the eight diesel generators run by the Electric Power Corporation and the writeoff of a hydro generator. The power went off again during the interview with Le Tagaloa).

"No Samoan is currently prevented from making his views known to his chief. All *suli* (heirs) have the right to dissent under the Samoan system. Why bring in a new system when the Samoan way is adequate? Plebiscite comes from plebian which effectively means commoner. There are no commoners in

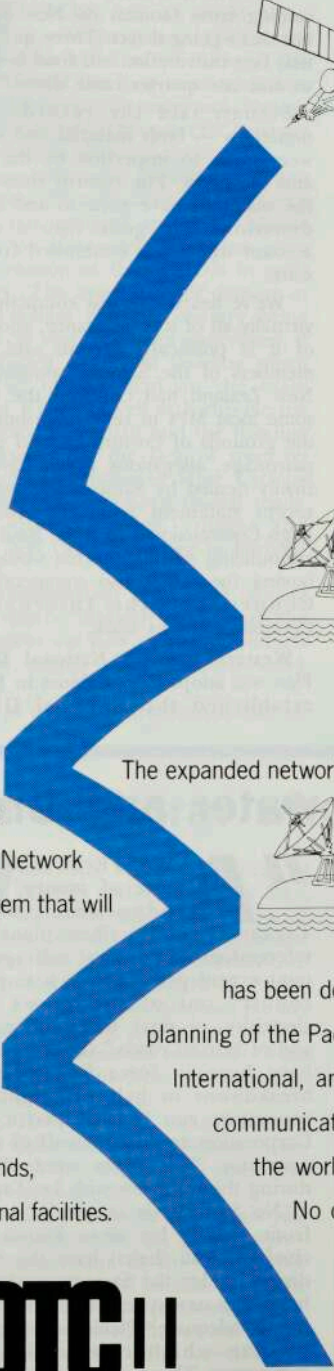
Samoa, only chiefs and their heirs. *Faamatai*, or the chiefly way, is the system of respect and consensus. That is the system of the future because foreign ways are basically a divisive process."

Pita's views are the same as those of Falemalu Asoau, an 18-year-old who opposes universal suffrage. He believes such a reform will affect the respect for decision-making elders that young people are supposed to have. Falemalu is unsure whether 21-year-olds are old enough.

For those of non-Samoan ancestry, universal suffrage could hasten the phasing out of their two Parliamentary seats reserved for Individual Voters.

"Individual Voter's representation, and the formula for determining that representation, will be made redundant through the introduction of universal suffrage," said Registrar of Electors and Voters, Tate Simi.

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THE REGION

The battle for Enenkio

An innocent proposition sparks a territorial row.

By David North

THE last time there was battle over Wake Island, the weapons were deadly, and after a few weeks the Japanese defeated the United States Marines. This time the weapons are words, the outcome is uncertain, and the antagonists are Amata Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Ben Blaz, the Republican Congressman from Guam.

It all started innocently enough when a Hawaii Congresswoman of Japanese descent, Pat Saiki (Republican), introduced a bill which would expand boundaries of her state to below the Equator, taking in six outlying island possessions of the United States.

Another provision in the legislation (which was co-sponsored by Blaz) would add Wake, locally known as Enenkio Atoll, a US Air Force base, to the territory of Guam.

The six new islands for Hawaii would be Midway, now occupied by the US Navy, three wild-life refugees (Howland, Baker and Jarvis), Kingman Reef, and Palmyra, which is privately owned and may also be a bone of contention. None of these six, except Midway, are routinely inhabited although one of the owners of Palmyra, Ainsley Fullard-Leo, coincidentally, was visiting that island group on the day that Saiki's proposal was announced.

Wake is some 1400 miles East-North-East of Guam but only a few hundred miles north of the northernmost islands of the Marshalls; Midway, some 1500 miles West-North-West of Honolulu, is an outlier in the Hawaiian chain; while the other five lie 900 to 1600 miles south and southwest of Hawaii, near the Equator, and near the waters of Kiribati.

The purpose of the legislation, according to the Congresswoman's statement, was to give the State of Hawaii "a stronger argument for environmental control of these islands' territorial waters". Her staff suggested that the six islands would be safer if controlled by the relatively nearby, and presumably concerned, state

Government rather than by the distant Washington-based Interior and Defence Departments.

Another consideration, not mentioned specifically in connection with her proposed Insular Areas Consolidation Act, presumably is the current activity on another US island in the general area — Johnston Atoll. It is here that the US Army plans to destroy nerve gas and other chemical weapons. Passage of the Saiki-Blaz bill would make it more difficult for the Department of Defence to use islands not now under its control for such purposes were they to become part of the State of Hawaii. Saiki's concerns



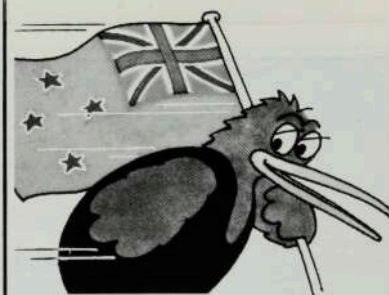
Kabua

on the use of Johnston to destroy weapons were reflected in a separate bill she introduced on the subject (see box, p21).

Still another factor behind the bill, particularly the inclusion of Wake into Guam, relates to possible fishing and underwater mineral rights. Guam has neither at the moment, but might acquire them from the US during the ongoing Commonwealth negotiations.

The proposed re-alignment of the boundaries, discussed by Saiki in terms of future concerns, and dealing with what are now largely uninhabited islands, was not expected to generate controversy, but it certainly has done so. In addition to setting off the Guam-Marshalls controversy, the bill has reminded observers of some grim historical events, and has rubbed salt into the wounds of the family which owns Palmyra.

Howland was the objective of Amelia Earhardt on the last leg of her ill-fated flight around the world. Wake Island was the scene of a World War II defeat



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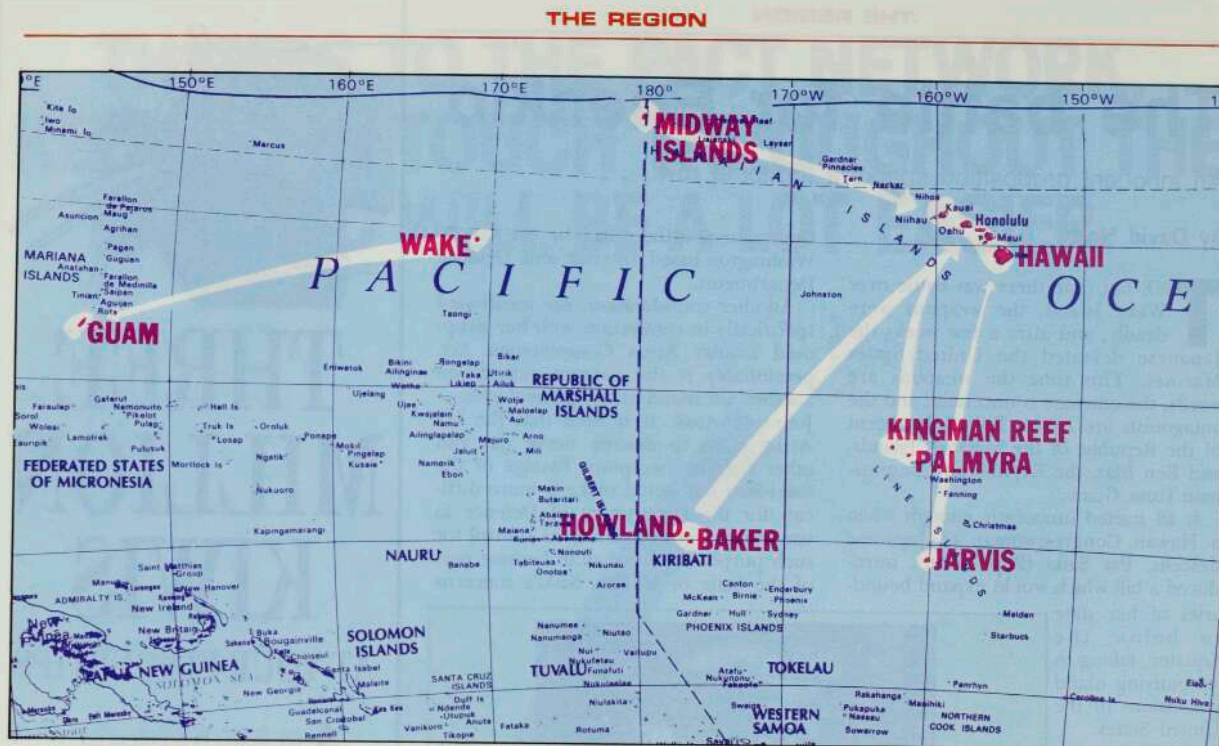
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for the US as Midway was the location of a major victory.

Howland and Baker, lying about 1500 miles southwest of Honolulu, and Jarvis, located just south of the Equator and about 1200 miles south of Hawaii, are low-lying islands once rich with guano. None had any indigenous human population, all were worked by American and/or British mining interests in the 19th Century, all were then uninhabited for decades but were colonised by a few Americans in the 1930s, and all were abandoned again right after Pearl Harbour. Now all three, still uninhabited, are controlled by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the US Department of the Interior. Blue-faced boobies abound, and presumably the supply of guano is being slowly restored.

Kingman Reef is probably the least significant of the islands, on the grounds that, according to *Pacific Islands Year Book* in heavy seas the whole island goes under water. It was used, nevertheless, by Pan American as a way station for flying boats on the Honolulu to Pago Pago run in the late 30s.

In his own understated way, President Kabua protested Guam's claims to Wake during his June visit to Washington: "Wake Island is part of our archipelago and it has been known to our people for centuries. We have not had an opportunity until now to lay claim to it; in the past we were not independent."

While the Saiki bill does not make Wake any more of a US possession than it has been, the proposal to add it to the territory of Guam stirred up the Marshalls' long quiescent interest in the island.

"You must remember that Wake was particularly important to the chiefs of the Marshalls," Kabua continued. "Traditionally all chiefs, and only chiefs, had facial tattoos, and they made the long sea voyage to Wake to get their tattoos."

It was on Wake where the bones of the frigate bird were used to make the tattoos, a practice, the President said, that was terminated by the missionaries "a couple of generations ago".

Kabua is not only the head of Government in the Marshalls' Westminster-style democracy, he is also a high chief, and presumably would have been a prime candidate for a Wake tattoo in the old days.

The controversy over Wake perhaps spilled over into the Pacific Islands social scene in Washington; while a prominent island politician like Blaz could be expected to attend a major gathering such as the welcoming party for President Kabua, he did not appear at the function in June, though he was in Washington at the time. (The party also marked the opening of the Marshalls' attractive new embassy in the heart of Washington's diplomatic neighbourhood along Mas-

sachusetts Avenue.)

Blaz, however, has written to Kabua in an effort to ease his criticism, saying, among other things, the bill "does not purport to provide for the disposition of conflicting international claims of sovereignty over Wake Atoll. Any such territorial claim to Wake Atoll by a sovereign other than the United States — including the Marshall Islands — must be taken up and resolved on a government-to-government basis. In contrast, HR 4905 is domestic legislation ..."

While the Marshalls laid a renewed claim to Wake as a result of the Saiki-Blaz bill, there was no such reaction from yet another chain of islands, the Marianas. Wake is a little closer to Saipan and some of the outer islands than it is to Guam, but the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Washington office has been silent on the matter.

As for Palmyra, its status has generated a number of disputes over the years, with the disputants being an arm of the US Government on one hand, and the Fullard-Leo family on the other.

Palmyra is a perfect name for a desert island; while named for the American ship that discovered it in 1802, the ship, in turn, was named for a Graeco-Roman cultural centre in what is now the Syrian desert. The island, or more precisely the atoll with a collection of islands, has 656

THE REGION

hectares or over 1400 acres of dry land. The total area of land and sheltered water is about 40,000 acres according to its owners. It is probably the largest privately-owned grouping of tropical islands under the US flag.

The US however, has not always had it. The Kingdom of Hawaii first laid claim to Palmyra in 1868. Britain did the same in 1889, and the Americans included it in Hawaii's boundaries when it took over the islands in 1898. A few years later a Judge Cooper, of Honolulu, acquired the title to the island group and used it to grow coconuts. Subsequently, the Judge, who died in 1929, sold virtually all of his holdings there to the late Leslie and Ellen Fullard-Leo, of Hawaii, keeping two islets, about one acre, for his heirs, who own that smidgin of land to this day.

The first really significant contact between the Fullard-Leos and the Government was a happy one according to Leslie Fullard-Leo, one of the three sons of the original owners.

"My mother was the only woman in the history of the United States to cause the annexation of an island to the US," Leslie Fullard-Leo told *PIM*. "She saw to it that Kingman Reef was acquired by the US Government," he explained. That happened in 1922. Kingman Reef is about 50 miles north-west of Palmyra.

After that relations between the family and the Government ran downhill. After the attack on Pearl Harbour the US armed services decided they needed Palmyra as a re-fuelling site for planes headed from Honolulu to the South Pacific. (Some of the alternative stopping points, such as Tarawa, having been captured by the Japanese). The family was willing, according to Fullard-Leo, and signed a lease prepared by the Navy, giving them full use of the Palmyra during the war. But although the Navy had prepared the lease, it did not sign it.

While no rent was ever paid, the military took over Palmyra in a big way. There had been three lagoons and 52 islands. The seabees merged two of the lagoons to create a protected landing area for seaplanes; similarly, the military strung together a number of the islands (there are now 39 of them) to build an 1800-metre-long landing strip for land-based planes. Roads were built, the harbour deepened, and a radio sending facility was constructed. At one point there were thousands of troops on Palmyra.

Although the US Air Force continued to use the landing strip as late as 1961, it is now unserviceable. "Too much vegetation, and too many birds' nests to use," according to a member of the family.

After the war the family sought compensation for the war-time use of the island. "All we got was \$100,000 for

Keeping Johnston Atoll in mind

ALTHOUGH Johnston Atoll, where the US Army plans to destroy tons of chemical weapons, is not included in the boundaries of Hawaii in Congresswoman Saiki's bill, it is not far from her mind.

Finding that the Department of Defense was adamantly opposed to the prospect of putting the island within Hawaii's boundaries, Saiki took a two-level approach.

On the long-term basis, her bill on

Hawaii's boundaries mandates that the US President should — at the end of 10 years — conduct a study "and submit to the Congress recommendations on the use, if any, of the Johnston Islands by the United States and the appropriateness of including the Johnston Islands in the State of Hawaii." By then, it is hoped, the island would no longer be needed for the storage and destruction of chemical weapons.

On a short-term basis, Saiki submitted another piece of legislation which would prevent the Department of Defense from shipping chemical munitions to Johnston after January 1, 1991. Of her two bills, this one, (HR 4838), is regarded as less likely to succeed than the Hawaii borders bill.

These bills, incidentally, remind observers that each of the principal units of the US military has its very own, restricted-access island in the Central Pacific. The Army has Johnston, the Navy has Midway and the Air Force has Wake. □



Pat Saiki

damages," according to Fullard-Leo.

Meanwhile, there was a long court struggle between the family and the US Government as to who owned the islands; eventually it went to the US Supreme Court, and eventually the family won. "And while this was going on the State of Hawaii, which had issued us our deed, never lifted a finger to help us. We do not have much aloha for the State of Hawaii," Fullard-Leo told *PIM*.

Saiki's bill could not have come at a worse moment for the owners, the three sons of the late Leslie and Ellen Fullard-Leo, Leslie, Dudley and Ainsley. They have been seeking to sell the islands for some time; the asking price, we gather, has risen from \$11,000,000 to \$36,000,000 over the last several years.

The family now has a prospective customer, willing to sign a lease-purchase arrangement. Leslie Fullard-Leo would not divulge the terms, the purchaser, or the prospective use of the islands but did allow that the pending bill might complicate matters. Meanwhile, the deal had not been signed at press time because when the document was ready brother Ainsley was visiting Palmyra — maybe for the last time as co-owner of the islands. □

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS

Time for a change

Namaliu looks for a way around his current economic dilemma

By Robin Bromby

GREATER foreign investment is to be encouraged by the Papua New Guinea Government as a way around its current and pressing economic problems. Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has announced sweeping changes, which will include administrative, economic, legal and social measures aimed at generating a growth rate of between seven and nine per cent by 1995. The foreign investment changes are particularly significant given the problems that foreign companies have had in the country with restrictive visa and work permit policies, calls for nationalisation and the very serious breakdown in law and order. But also important is the drastic extent of the Prime Minister's new initiatives — in one hit, he has promised to tackle all the various problems which have been identified as impeding economic progress, such as the often ridiculous compensation claims.

The Government in Port Moresby is confronted by developments which have been closing off the economic options, or threatening to create even worse problems. The huge gap left in its revenue by the closure of the Bougainville copper mine has resulted in the Namaliu administration working with one hand tied behind its back. Unemployment in the urban areas is growing rapidly — threatening law and

order in the towns — which makes the task of creating new jobs one of extreme urgency.

Namaliu said his Government would simply open up its economy to foreign investment and give it a free hand. His new proposals include a drastic reduction in the size of the public service; law and order measures; abolition of the National Investment and Development Agency; reclassification of foreign companies from ones having 75 per cent overseas ownership to those with 50 per cent foreign-held equity; increasing involvement of Papua New Guineans in business; a mortgage finance company providing long-term housing loans; disposal of all surplus Government land to the private sector; a committee to review regulations; rural diversification; eradication of compensation claims; allowing resident status to people investing more than K250,000 (US\$245,100); tax holidays for pioneer industries; removal of duty on materials needed by manufacturers and wage restraint.

Namaliu said the Government's role should be merely to create the right climate for investment and for real private sector growth. "That means smaller Government, more accountable for its spending and

Lack of economic growth will cause internal upheaval

more responsive to the changing needs of a young nation, rich in resources including human resources," he said. "It most certainly means less Government involvement

in business, not more."

The Prime Minister said the Government spending would not increase in real terms between 1990 and 1993 and this year it was planned to cut 7.5 per cent off the budget.

Recent statements by deputy Prime Minister Ted Diro show the extent of the Government's concern: he warned that lack of economic growth and development will cause internal upheaval and invite intrusion by outside powers. He said Papua New Guinea leaders must not pretend that all is well when the country cannot provide jobs for as many as 70,000 school leavers and undergraduates each year.

This matter is also of great concern in the private sector. Lae Chamber of Commerce president Cedric Holland said recently that increasing population growth was having a serious effect on job availability, particularly in urban areas. The private sector was becoming worried about the pressure being placed on it to give work to more people. "On the one hand we are receiving demands for pay increases and better conditions while on the other hand there is very little growth in the private sector," he said. "What it will do is put out of business companies which are operating on marginal lines."

Holland presented a research paper which showed that while Papua New Guinea's population as a whole was growing at about 2.3 per cent a year, the urban numbers were running at more than five per cent. In 1966 only five per cent of the population lived in urban areas — today, more than 13 per cent are in towns. At this rate more than 1 million people would live in urban centres by the year 2000, 2.3 million by 2015.

Holland said one of the main objectives should be to create import

BUSINESS

substitution industries, thereby creating more jobs for the growing population. Unemployment was a particular problem with the young, many of whom were displaced and disillusioned and turning to crime. About 48 per cent of all serious crime in the country is committed by youths aged between 17 and 25 years, and 11 per cent by those aged between 13 and 16. The report said that, with rapid population growth, the number of urban youths aged between 12 and 25 will increase from about 160,000 today to 270,000 by the year 2000, and 625,000 by 2015.

The problem of urban migration is, naturally, most acutely felt in Port Moresby.

Senior officials of the National Capital District Interim Commission (NCDIC) have now called for immediate controls on urban migration — they said the city authorities were no longer able to keep pace with the increasing population and its need for services. NCDIC commissioner Sir Hugo Berghuser said the biggest cause of urban drift lay outside the city and much of the blame lay with provincial governments. "These money-burning, ineffective, corrupt, totally useless bodies known as provincial governments ... have totally failed the people at all levels in most provinces, especially in Central and Gulf where most of Port Moresby's urban drift comes from," he said. The urban migrants came to Port Moresby in search of health, education and other services which the provincial governments had failed to provide.

A new report from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) shows that body is concerned about the future of Papua New Guinea. Its *Asian Development Outlook 1990* study said that events in 1989 highlighted the structural weaknesses in the country's economy.

There were weak linkages between the mining and non-mining sectors, but the lack of development in the latter was also a result of most of the state's income from mining being channelled through the Mineral Resource Stabilisation Fund (MRSF). This fund had been building up reserves on which the Government could draw to finance its budget.

The ADB said that with the projected mining and oil boom, the prospects for the country over the medium term would have been bright had it not been for the possible extended closure of the Bougainville copper mine. Therefore, the Government was likely to face severe resource constraints in the next two years, making sharp spending cuts necessary. The balance of payments situation was forecast to deteriorate sharply, most probably requiring more external assistance. The bank has

predicted inflation will reach nine per cent this year, 10.5 per cent in 1991 — way out of line with the Government's own allowance for a six per cent inflation rate in the current Budget.

Agriculture will have to be given priority as the main source of income and employment for the bulk of the population. But the ADB also urges the sort of changes in the foreign investment climate which Prime Minister Namaliu now seems ready to make. The report

said the Government had to reduce the high cost structure of the economy, costs which stem largely from a rigid labour market.

The bank has predicted the current account deficit in 1990 will increase from US\$720 million to US\$1.3 billion — equivalent to 35 per cent of gross domestic product. The country's debt-service ratio (interest charges on debt as a proportion of export income) will rise to 40 per cent. □

Hides contract awarded

AN Australian engineering firm, Kinhill Engineers, has won a contract to develop the Hides gas field in the Papua New Guinea Highlands which will supply power to the Porgera gold mine, 70 km away. Kinhill will build the plant to house a gas turbine power station, including the gas pipeline from the well-head to the station, roads and other infrastructure. The project will employ 240 people and the company had pledged to use as many local employees as possible.

Deal with Soviet Union

PAPUA New Guinea and the Soviet Union have, after an earlier signing was called off, finally put their signatures on a new fishing agreement. The Soviets will help the Papua New Guinean industry in the areas of harvesting resources and marketing, as well as research, training and technical assistance. Soviet trawlers will be able to start fishing in the country's exclusive economic zone by the end of this year. The Russians say they plan to use two purse seiners to fish for tuna, and may also look for mackerel.

Maoris win fishing rights

MAORI fishing right claims in New Zealand are on their way to being met with the transfer of part of the nation's catch quota to the recently-established Maori Fisheries Commission (MFC). By October 1992, 10 per cent of the quota of fish allowed to be caught within the country's exclusive economic zone must be passed to the MFC, which is charged with allocating its share among the various tribes. The first transfer involved 2.5 per cent of the national quota, or a quarter of what the MFC will eventually receive.

The commission was established after Maori groups claimed that the Treaty of Waitangi, under which the Maori ceded sovereignty to the British Crown in 1840, entitled them to retention of their fisheries as well as land. The fishing quotas are currently divided between private fishing companies. The Government will have to purchase some of that quota to meet its commitment. The reluctance of private operators to relinquish their allocations was shown by the fact that the Government was not able to present the first 2.5 per cent in full — instead it handed the MFC a package made up of 14,481 tonnes of various species plus NZ\$13 million (US\$7.67 million) in cash to compensate for the shortfall, although the MFC has stressed that it wants fish rather than money.

New Zealand Fisheries Minister Ken Shirley said he hoped the 10 per cent

settlement would enable many Maori to return to fishing for their livelihood.

The MFC allocates the quota it receives to Maori groups taking into account custom, social and economic considerations, and is required to consult with those people who have a traditional interest in sea fisheries. While the quota resources is accumulating to the final 10 per cent level, the MFC can lease fishing rights on a short-term basis.

The commission is also required to set up a commercial arm in the form of a public company, Aotearoa Fisheries Ltd, which will get at least half the Maori quota.

Some Maori groups have been unhappy with what they see as the slow progress toward receiving the full quota. A Maori Council leader, Maanu Paul, has threatened that Maori fishermen will start catching fish without quotas because of the delays over gaining their rights. "Fishermen are disillusioned by the non-action of the commission and are rapidly coming to the conclusion that they will have to go fishing regardless of the law," he said.

The New Zealand Government now has an opportunity to buy more quota. The country's largest corporation, Fletcher Challenge Ltd, has said it will sell off its fishing arm, which controls 18 per cent of the national quota, with the right to catch hoki, squid and orange roughy species. □

BUSINESS

Randall Pacific buys main hotels in Cooks

AN Australian company has announced it will buy the two largest hotels in the Cook Islands from the Government. The Gold Coast-based Randall Pacific Ltd will acquire the country's main hotel, the Rarotongan, and the Aitutaki Lagoon Resort.

Randall Pacific, which is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, has several hotel properties in Australia. The company plans to spend US\$5 million upgrading the Rarotongan, but its major spending will be at the Aitutaki resort

which will require about US\$22 million before refurbishment is finished. The resort now has 25 *bure*-style huts, and Randall Pacific plans to construct 120 new *bure* units on the lagoon edge. The local airport will be upgraded so that Air Rarotonga can fly larger aircraft into the island. The resort is located on an untouched part of Aitutaki — the lagoon is considered one of the more beautiful in the South Pacific and the waters are shark-free. The resort has had a short but chequered life: the accommodation has not been considered up to

international tourist standards, it was damaged by cyclone winds and financial problems led to the resort being placed in the hands of the Cook Islands Development Bank.

The Cook Islands agreement is Randall Pacific's first investment in the South Pacific islands. The company had been considering hotel acquisition in Fiji until the possibility of taking over the two Cook Island properties was raised.

The other main hotel project, the Sheraton, is now under way. The first group of workmen from the Italian construction firm Sichel SPA have arrived in Rarotonga. The timing of their arrival was planned to coincide with the berthing of a ship from Italy carrying construction materials and heavy machinery. Land clearing work is already under way on the site.

Meanwhile, business in the Cook Islands has been hit hard by the electricity generation problems which have hit Rarotonga after the country's main generator broke down. Old standby machines were used for several weeks to keep a basic power supply in operation, but most businesses (as well as residences) were subject to blackouts every second day while the crisis lasted.

The problem began when a 1.6 megawatt main generator, which had been installed in February, developed a fault and parts had to be sought in West Germany and Singapore. Rarotonga's power demand reaches 2.2 mW at peak times. The problem became most acute because one of the older 400 kW generators was in pieces as part of an overhaul when the new machine broke down. Then, after it had hastily been reassembled, another 500 kW developed problems.



The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort: \$22 million facelift

Taiwan wins more friends

SEVERAL Pacific states have been moving to forge closer links with Taiwan, apparently with a view to attracting greater investment from that growing economic power on the Pacific rim. Tonga and Solomon Islands already have full diplomatic relations with Taiwan and visitors to the recent inauguration of President Lee Teng-hui in Taipei included Fiji President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau and Nauru President Bernard Dowiyogo.

But the most outspoken friend of Taiwan is Tonga's King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV (who also was in Taipei for the inauguration), who has announced that the Kingdom will be opening a commercial office in the Taiwanese capital. In his recent speech at the opening of Parliament in Nuku'alofa, the King said Taiwanese business interests would be

playing a more prominent role in Tonga's economic development. Already several companies from the Republic of China had expressed interest in setting up operations there.

Indications are that the Tongan Government will be forging a close link with Tatung Electric Company, one of the biggest in Taiwan and with operations in the United States and Britain. Tatung manufactures a wide range of electrical goods, including television sets, microwave ovens, computers and fans. The King said the company runs training courses in electrical and electronic trades and this would mean Tongans would be able to take engineering and business courses to degree level with Tatung. Taiwanese officials have recommended to the Tongan Government that a Tatung official be appointed as Taiwan's

consul-general in Nuku'alofa.

The King said a wealthy Taiwanese businessman had offered to put up US\$1 million to pay for a Tonga commercial office in Taipei, and that two companies from Taiwan had already decided to open factories in Tonga — one to manufacture shoes, the other luggage and travel goods.

There is also the prospect of Friendly Island Airways acquiring a DC-8 jet aircraft with financing from Taiwan.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has announced it has signed a three-year technical co-operation agreement with Fiji. Taiwan will send a six-man agricultural mission to Fiji to assist in farm development there, including the use of farm machinery, maintenance of fishing boats and new techniques for the cultivation of vegetables. □

BUSINESS

Fiji's economic prospect remains optimistic: report

MEDIUM-term prospects for the Fiji economy will hinge largely on the deepening of current market liberalisation, as well as on re-establishing business confidence by devising an acceptable long-term solution to the political uncertainties of the country, according to the *Asian Development Outlook 1990* issued by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The report said the Fiji economy staged a sharp recovery in 1989 and its prospects over the short term remained optimistic. The recovery stemmed partly from rapid policy responses to the near collapse of the economy following the political instability of 1987.

Despite the efforts which have gone into developing a light manufacturing base and one aimed at the export market, the report said that the sugar and tourism industries remained the backbone of the economy. "Over the medium term, both industries could face some difficulties," it said. "The expansion of the sugar industry is seriously limited by the possibility of both yield and planted area increases." In addition, the recent high prices on the world market which sugar has been receiving are unlikely to be sustained (and since the report was compiled, world sugar prices have declined from more than US\$16 a pound to just over US\$13 a pound). The ADB said the contribution of the sugar industry cannot be expected to be so vital as it has been in recent years. As for tourism, that industry could face constraints because of limited airline seat capacity and availability of skilled personnel.

There would also be problems for export-oriented manufacturing sector: this would face major adjustment problems resulting from the loss of privileged market access by the

mid-1990s. The ADB believes that the future of the Fiji garments industry is clouded by the prospect of losing preferential market access to Australia by 1995. It also notes: "A worrisome evolution has been slow growth in industrial investment in the rest of the economy, reflecting the lack of business confidence in spite of recent achievements."

On the agricultural front, the report expects that sugar production will rise as better extraction methods are brought into operation, while copra, coconut oil and cocoa production should continue to recover from drought and cyclone damage in previous years. The forestry sector is expected to perform well in 1990 and 1991 as pine harvesting and processing are stepped up. But the industry will suffer significant competition from other softwood producers, including Chile, New Zealand and Australia.

Despite the longer term outlook, export manufacturing — stimulated by foreign investment will grow by 8.5 per cent in 1990 and 7 per cent in 1991, with garment, furniture and footwear companies continuing to be attracted to Fiji by low wages and investment. But there could soon be shortages of skilled labour and factory space — the ADB said the construction of new industrial facilities has been slow while the investment climate remained very uncertain.

Meanwhile, the Fiji Government is seeking F\$266 million (US\$173.85 million) in capital investment from aid donors and international financial organisations in order to fund 41 projects — of which 16 are in the economic sector, 17 infrastructure and utilities, with others being for social welfare and human resources. □

Banking

CONTROL of banking in the South Pacific continues to become increasingly concentrated in the hands of Australian companies, with ANZ bidding for Niugini-Lloyd's International Bank, of Papua New Guinea, and the Bank of New Zealand selling out of the Bank of Tonga with Westpac picking up part of its share.

ANZ is offering K4.5 million (US\$4.59 million) for Niugini-Lloyd, a company owned by Lloyds Bank Plc of Britain (49 per cent), the Papua New Guinea Government (35 per cent) and local shareholders (16 per cent). It was one of two largely foreign-owned banks granted licences in the early 1980s, but one which never looked like becoming a major figure in the Papua New Guinea banking scene. Niugini-Lloyd has 80 staff and three branches — Port Moresby, Arawa and Lae. The bid is supported by the Bank of Papua New Guinea and the Government, but conditional on 90 per cent shareholder acceptance.

ANZ chief executive Will Bailey said ANZ's presence in Papua New Guinea dated back to 1910, and the bank has eight branches in the country and employs 300 people. "Expansion in the Pacific Islands is also a key part of our Asia-Pacific strategy," said Bailey. This strategy was built around projected trade flows. ANZ believed 50 per cent of Australian and New Zealand trade would be with the Asia-Pacific region by the year 2000.

ANZ Bank recently acquired the Fiji and Western Samoan interests of the Bank of New Zealand, but BNZ's 20 per cent stake in the Bank of Tonga has gone elsewhere: Split between Westpac and the Bank of Hawaii. They will now each hold 30 per cent of the Bank of Tonga, with the remaining 40 per cent staying in the Tongan Government's hands. BNZ bought the 20 per cent stake in 1972. □

PNG puts 2-year ban on new logging leases

NO new logging permits will be issued by the Papua New Guinea Government for two years in an effort to conserve the forest resources in the country — a move which will cost K30 million in lost government revenue. Forests Minister Karl Stack has appealed to major nations and environmental organisations for up to K60 million to back his plan to set aside between 15 and 20 per cent of Papua New Guinea's 46 million hectares of land as World Heritage areas or national parks.

Twenty-eight new applications for logging rights have now been put on hold and when the moratorium is lifted in 1992 there will be no permits issued for the export of logs, although firms now exporting will be able to work out the balance of their permit time. Stack said the Government was taking a political and economic risk and its success depended entirely on international aid to compensate landowners and to make up the shortfall in government revenue.

The announcement was made at an international conference on forestry and

the environment held in Port Moresby. Donor organisations at the conference committed K15 million toward the World Heritage project, and other forestry improvement projects. The Asian Development Bank has made available K20 million as a soft loan if the Government cannot raise all it needs by way of aid contributions.

Six companies which are already in advanced stages of negotiations with the Government will be exempted from the ban. □

BUSINESS

Exports hit by cocoa slump

COCOA exports from Papua New Guinea are expected to drop dramatically in the next year due to the rebellion on the island of Bougainville. Government sources in Port Moresby are now estimating the country's total exports will come in at about 35,000 tonnes, against the 46,000 tonnes for the 1989-90 year. This news compounds an increasingly dismal commodity outlook, with copra prices languishing and concerns about the future of the coffee industry after support funds ran out.

With about 45 per cent of Papua New Guinea's cocoa crop produced on Bougainville, the civil dislocation there will have a serious effect on both production and exports. While the uprising centred around the large Panguna copper mine, the violence spread throughout the island and many plantation workers who had been brought from the Papua New Guinea mainland bore the brunt of rebel attacks — as, eventually, did the plantation managers which led to their also leaving the island with their families. The smallholders remaining on the island are generally unsympathetic to the uprising, but have been hit by the government's blockade.

The island, at the time of writing, is now virtually cut off. However, some shipments have made it to the port of Rabaul, but authorities are suspicious that much of that cocoa is stolen from plantations by Bougainvillians who have helped themselves. A good harvest was expected due to substantial amounts having been spent in recent years by companies to expand and maintain plantations. Certainly, smallholder growers will try and keep production going even with the troubles, but it seems likely that the plantations will fall into disrepair in the coming months. There is no sign of the government re-establishing its writ over the island in the short-term.

Traders in other parts of Papua New Guinea have felt some relief as world cocoa prices headed upwards, with receipts rising 49 per cent per tonne in the first five months of 1990. But the Cocoa Stabilisation Fund, even with greatly reduced pay-outs as a result, is still being propped up by government loans and will certainly run out of money by the end of 1990.

But copra growers have little to be cheerful about.

Copra Marketing Board general manager Joseph Bae said recently that depressed world prices for the commodity and the Bougainville crisis had had a



Brook's team: Mill, Vuetivavalagi, McKenzie, Brook.

Brook's video

A FILM and video production company has opened in Fiji. South Pacific Production and Broadcasting Limited (trading as Videopac) is offering "state of the art" video production and editing equipment that is broadcasting standard, said chief executive Mike Brook.

Brook said Videopac has capabilities of

producing videos for training, entertainment, promotions, documentaries, television advertisements, and social and business events. Videopac personnel include two Australians, Conrad Mill and Catherine McKenzie, who between them have over 20 years experience as film/video producers/directors. The company's managing director-production is Leone Vuetivavalagi, who was co-director of the Fiji National Video Centre. □

Tax-free status revoked

FIJI has announced that 28 companies are to lose their tax-free zone factory concessions because they have failed to start exporting within the 12 months they were given as a deadline. Most of the companies concerned were in garment manufacture, with others involved in furniture, bathroom fittings, cosmetics, toys and fish.

Under the country's tax-free zone (TFZ) system, the companies which get tax holidays and exemption from duty on equipment and raw materials must export 95 per cent of what they produce. Manufacturers have recently been pressuring the Government in Suva to relax this requirement so that more can be sold within Fiji, but there is no sign of it being changed.

So far 93 companies are operating under TFZ conditions, with many more expected to begin operations in the near future. Most are garment manufacturers who have been able to grow through the absence of corporate tax (they have a 13-year holiday), the low wage structure

and tariff-free entry to the New Zealand and Australian domestic markets.

Fiji Trade and Investment Board director Surendra Sharma said the 28 companies were having their TFZ status withdrawn because they had failed to start establishment work on their projects within three months of approval and then had failed to begin commercial operations within the 12 month deadline. He said the revocations were a safety measure against possible abuse of the scheme — such as using it to obtain work permits for foreigners.

Meanwhile, seasonal changes and varying style preferences in Australia and New Zealand have resulted in a fall in Fiji's garment production. *The Fiji Times* has reported that some garment manufacturers in the Western Division had laid off staff. Some companies report that New Zealand and Australian buyers are still holding stocks of last year's garments — a sign of the economic recession which has hit both countries. □

A photograph of a yellow and black Toyota Hilux 4x4 truck parked on a grassy hill. The background is a tropical landscape with many palm trees under a clear blue sky. The truck's front end is visible, showing the headlight, grille with the Toyota logo, and a license plate that reads 'HIL 4W'.

The best-selling, 1

The Toyota Hilux is the world's most popular pick-up. And the Hilux 4×4 is the best-selling Hilux of them all. Which stands to reason. People around the world respect Toyota's attention to style. Hilux's car-like comfort. Rugged reliability. And as you might expect from Toyota, power. This, of course, is the most important asset for a truck. And happily, the Hilux 4×4 offers a choice of four powerful engines: 2.8 and 2.4-litre diesel engines. Plus 2.2 and 1.8-litre petrol engines. When it comes to power and good looks, nobody can beat Toyota. Nobody.

TOYOTA



BUSINESS

dramatic effect on copra production — output was declining rapidly. Bae said the recent kina devaluation had helped growers but not enough: the Papua New Guinea currency was still at a high level against other currencies. "The hard kina policy acts to keep the costs of imports down and restrains inflation," he said. "But it probably also penalises exporters of coconut products because copra and coconut oil prices fall and the US dollar weakens revenue in kina terms will be double depressed."

Copra and cocoa growers have now taken their battle into the political arena in an effort to further the desperate battle for survival which they see facing both copra and cocoa. The Planters Association of Papua New Guinea has launched a campaign for the removal of the Agriculture and Livestock Minister, Galeng Lang. They are demanding interest-free loans for cocoa and coconut research, rescheduling of development credit to the industry, a new industry corporation and grower appointments to the commodity boards. They complain all these decisions had been made by the government, but not implemented. The problem for the government is that its finances have been severely stretched by the Bougainville crisis, both in terms of lost earnings and the cost of the army actions there.

Planters Association executive director David Loh said both the cocoa and copra industries were experiencing their most difficult times ever and plantations were going up for sale all over the country, particularly in the islands off the mainland. The two industries now owe about 40 million kina (US\$39.2 million) in commercial bank loans and are having great difficulty meeting repayment schedules. Despite a Government assurance to reduce interest rates from 11 per cent to about six per cent, banks had gone ahead and increased these rates to 15 per cent — much to the industries' horror, he said. Loh has reported that many plantations are continuing to lay off staff and restricting work to three or four days a week.

The planters placed a large advertisement in newspapers calling for Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu to replace Lang with someone who would "assist and support the rural sector in its struggle for survival". The advertisement said that in a time of low commodity prices, high interest rates and lack of law and order in rural areas, the growers needed a minister who was "capable of fighting for the needs of rural industries".

Meanwhile on the coffee front, one company has come out and urged farmers to diversify away from that crop. The general manager of Kainantu Development Corporation (KDC), John Wilkinson, said the current low prices

for coffee should cause farmers to turn to other areas of agricultural and industrial development. KDC manages 45 coffee plantations, mostly in the Eastern Highlands Province. Wilkinson said that when the Coffee Stabilisation Fund ran out of money at the end of the year, coffee growers and the local economy would probably collapse with the growers being unable to repay bank loans; they might even lose their plantations, he said.

He argued that there was a great need for massive agricultural development of the country's rich soils and an even greater need for onshore manufacturing of many of the items now imported. "Instead of importing finished goods, we need to look at importing technology, management skills and equipment . . . and setting up our own manufacturing and processing industries," he said.

Meanwhile, the Government has been warned of widespread trouble in coffee growing provinces if the Coffee Development Agency (CDA) is abolished.

Former Agriculture and Livestock Minister Gai Duwabane said the agency had been established by the Wingti Government because it could better serve smallholder growers to get better yields from their coffee trees, and that since it had been set up coffee production had increased.

Telecom revival

NEARLY 85 per cent of Western Samoa's cyclone-damaged telecommunications services is back in action, according to Barry Bailey, Director, Operations for Telecom Networks and International. "Cyclone Ofa devastated Western Samoa's telecommunications facilities and networks," says Bailey.

Telecom New Zealand and the New Zealand Government responded by jointly funding a NZ\$1.4 million aid programme which has included technical services from 38 Telecom staff, and the provision of 12 vehicles, a tractor and over 40 tonnes of parts and supplies.

The cyclone damaged three exchanges beyond repair, and left 90 per cent of radio bearers and 85 per cent of external plant out of service. Salt water had seeped into pressurised underground cables threatening further damage in the cyclone's wake.

At least 70 per cent of the major underground cabling work and 60 per cent of overhead cabling has been reconstructed. 90 per cent of the important village radio network and the Salelologa exchange have been restored to operation. □

Tonga boosts development projects

TONGA'S latest budget makes provision for T\$71.74 million (US\$54.76 million) to be spent in the 1990-91 year on development projects, an increase of T\$29.08 million (US\$22.19 million) over the previous year. Finance Minister Cecil Cocker said in a statement that the priority was being placed on roads, airports, wharves, water supplies, electricity, post offices and small industry centres — all the infrastructure needed to foster private sector production, growth and marketing. A large proportion of the development budget will be channelled into the Tonga Development Bank with Sea Star Fishing Co Ltd to be established as a public company with the Government providing a substantial share of its initial capital.

The budget statement also targets assistance to vanilla and other crops, development of tree nurseries and the Mataliku sawmill, construction of tuna-fishing vessels, setting up a second industry centre at Popua on Tongatapu.

The Asian Development Bank is expected to be the largest single source of funds, with money also coming in the form of aid from Australia, the European Community, Japan and New Zea-

land. Transfers from the Tonga Trust Fund (proceeds of passport sales) are budgeted to bring T\$8 million, with another T\$4 million to be raised through the issue of Government bonds.

The total Budget expenditure will be T\$119.7 million, only slightly up on last year. Total estimated revenue is T\$48.05 million. Other than development projects, the largest allocations are for education (T\$8.6 million), health (T\$5.2 million) and public works (T\$3.9 million).

The income tax threshold is to be raised from T\$2000 to T\$2500 to exempt the poorer people, while farmers and fishermen are to be exempt from income tax altogether. The Industrial Development Incentives Act is to be amended to expand the system of development licences to cover commercial export fishermen and farmers, and to allow for tax holidays of 15 years for approved enterprises, especially those which boost foreign exchange earnings. Meanwhile, farmers will receive added protection from imports by means of higher duties on imported poultry, pork and other fresh and frozen meats. □

TRADE WINDS

MICRONESIA

Air Marshalls expands

AIR Marshall Islands, which took over a DC-8 jet in January, is now looking for a second aircraft with which to expand its fleet. The preference is for a British Aerospace BA-146 four-engine jet, which seats about 100 passengers. The plan is for the aircraft to be used on the Majuro-Tarawa-Nadi service, on which Air Marshall Islands now employs a 48-seater Hawker-Siddley 748 turbo-prop.

Hawaiian gets new routes

HAWAIIAN Airlines has obtained permission to fly two new routes between Japan and the Northern Marianas. The Honolulu-based carrier will fly between Fukuoka and Nagoya in Japan to Saipan and Guam. Hawaiian has been operating in Guam since 1987 but this will be its first service into Saipan.

Seaweed project study

MAJURO'S College of Micronesia is to study the feasibility of growing seaweed in the lagoons around the Marshall Islands. Seaweed aquaculture is seen as a profitable export industry.

Of the seaweed species, *Eucheuma* is grown commercially in the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Credit grows, liquidity tightens

COMMERCIAL bank surplus liquidity tightened further during the first quarter of 1990 to just SI\$200,000 (US\$80,645) compared with SI\$5.7 million (US\$2.29 million) for the corresponding period of 1989. The March quarterly review from the Central Bank of Solomon Islands said this deterioration in liquidity resulted from a continued expansion in domestic credit and a marked decline in foreign assets, the latter down SI\$19 million (US\$7.66 million) in the period.

Total domestic credit grew by 13.6 per cent, or SI\$16.5 million during the quarter under review. There had been a 13.5 per cent expansion in the December 1989 quarter. Government credit requirements expanded more quickly than the private sector's, with agricultural and forestry sectors showing a decline.

In the quarter, the following production level changes were recorded: copra — 17 per cent; palm oil and kernal — +37.2 per cent; cocoa — 29.9 per cent; fish — 74.1 per cent and timber +24.1 per cent. Total visitor arrivals were down 8.9 per cent for the March quarter, but the average stay for tourists rose from 10 to 12 days compared to the same period of 1989.

SAMOA

New housing corporation

WESTERN SAMOA has established a Housing Corporation with a capital of WS\$1 million (US\$430,000). The money will be lent to low-income families, with lending being limited in each case to US\$14,000 with interest set slightly below the commercial bank rates. The loans will be advanced for a 20-year period.

Airport lights repaired

RUNWAY lights at Pago Pago's international airport have now been repaired and the runway is now open again to night landings and takeoffs. The airport was restricted to daylight operations while 10,000 metres of underground cable — much of it waterlogged — was replaced.

Port ready on time

APIA'S port development is expected to be completed in March next year — the scheduled time — despite the damage caused to the harbour by Cyclone Ofa. Japanese aid is funding the work which will make Apia harbour much less vulnerable to sea swell by the construction of a breakwater. The main wharf is being enlarged and there will be a new container yard and ferry terminal. The Japanese companies involved in the project said they now expect to complete work on target.

Ofa empties markets

FAGATOGO market in Pago Pago is now bare of the staple fruit, bananas, and there are now fears of crop disease problems, reports the *Samoa Journal & Advertiser*. Plantations of bananas were worst hit by Cyclone Ofa than the low-lying taro plants. The director of American Samoa's Agriculture Department, Lauofo Ta'alo, said new bananas should appear on trees during July and August but there may be few fingers on the plants — he fears an outbreak of Black Leaf disease. Taro crops could also be hit if there were to be an outbreak of Army Worm or Leafhopper. Disease outbreaks have occurred often after hurricanes.

VANUATU

Fishermen boost foreign earnings

NI-VANUATU employed by foreign fishing vessels now number almost 400 and are remitting a total of US\$1 million back home each year. Men from Vanuatu had initially been employed on Taiwanese longliners working in the South Pacific, but now they are also being hired for vessels fishing in the Indian Ocean and based in Singapore.

Island to get air link

NEW Zealand has handed over US\$14,000 as the first payment on an air strip to be built on the small island of Gaua, in the Banks group in northern Vanuatu. The strip will allow the islanders to receive their basic needs by air rather than depend entirely on inter-island shipping.

KIRIBATI

Car corruption alleged

KIRIBATI Audit Director Beniamina Tinga has sent a special report to the country's parliament calling for an investigation into the alleged irregularities he discovered regarding the sale of used government cars by tender. He said the Government had missed out on about A\$200,000 (US\$15,000) because cars had now always been sold to the people who won government tenders. Some cars were released before payment was received.

No homing beacon

A RECENT Air Marshall Islands flight from Nadi could not find Kiribati's main island of Tarawa because the Bonriki International Airport radio beacon was not working. The pilot managed to send an urgent message to Radio Kiribati, which is normally off the air in the afternoon, and a technician raced to turn on its transmitter. The aircraft was able to home in on the signal and make a safe landing.

TONGA

Inflation up

INFLATION is now running at 6 per cent in Tonga. The latest survey shows that housing costs are up 4.9 per cent in the first quarter of 1990, with rises also shown in food, clothing and footwear and transport.

Tonga exports paint

TONGA has exported its first consignment of paint — to Niue — and is now looking to establish markets in the Samoas and the Cook Islands. Asian Paints (Tonga) Ltd made the sale of paint worth \$4270 (US\$3259), which is seen as an important step because the local market has now reached saturation point. The company employs 20 people and produced 15,000 litres of paint a month.

Hawaiian cleared for third flight

HAWAIIAN Airlines has received Tonga Government approval to operate a third flight each week into the Kingdom. The airline now operates flights to Honolulu on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, using either L1011 or DC-8 aircraft.

TRADE WINDS

SOLOMONS

Bank opens at Auki

THE National Bank of Solomon Islands has expanded its provincial branch network with a new office at Auki, in Malaita Province. The new branch cost SI\$200,000 (US\$97,940), replaces rented premises, and represents another extension of the bank's computerisation of national operations.

Copra production rises

INCREASED activity by smallholders led to a rise in Solomon Islands copra production in 1988, according to figures just released. But the industry still has major problems: the latest report of the Central Bank of Solomon Islands says that substantial amounts of copra are lying dried but unshipped in rural areas poorly served by boats.

New rice sales

NEW Zealand and Papua New Guinea importers are to begin buying rice from the Solomon Islands, and there have also been enquiries from Western Samoa, Kiribati and Vanuatu. The rice will be sold by Filanders Industries (SI) Ltd, which has just obtained additional protection because the Government considers it an important source of local employment.

FIJI

Emigrant numbers still high

NUMBERS of people leaving Fiji have continued to rise over the last two years. The annual rate of emigration went up 7.8 per cent in 1988. There was a further increase of 1.5 per cent in the first nine months of 1989, to 4153 for the period ended September 30. The emigration of teachers leaving the country also rose markedly in the first nine months of last year.

Airline eyes new planes

FIJI Air is planning to upgrade its fleet with the acquisition of a 24-seat Casa turbo-prop aircraft, and will sell the two long-serving 16-seat herons. The Casa will be employed flying out of Nausori on internal routes to Labasa and Rotuma, as well as its one international service to Funafuti in Tuvalu.

Trade deficit grows

FIJI's visible trade deficit jumped by 45 per cent to F\$150.6 million (US\$98.4 million) in the first quarter of 1990. Total exports fetched F\$113.4 million, with imports running at F\$264 million. The main destinations for Fijian exports were Australia (F\$27.5 million), Britain (F\$20.4 million) and New Zealand (F\$19.4 million).

TUVALU

Funafuti seeks project aid

INTERNATIONAL aid agencies are being asked to support a package of 22 development projects worth more than US\$57 million, the biggest single item being a planned new airport on Funafuti to replace the existing grass strip. The country also wants to boost the Tuvalu Trust Fund, set up with capital from New Zealand, Britain and Australia, and which has been invested by Westpac to provide sufficient income to cover Tuvalu's annual budget deficit. The Government is also seeking finance to upgrade the island nation's Business Development Advisory Bureau.

KIRIBATI

New industry centre

BRITAIN is to provide about US\$500,000 for the construction of Kiribati's first smallscale industry centre, to be located on Betio Atoll (the main commercial district). The centre will cater for such industries as garment manufacturing, production of kamaimai (a toddy condensed from coconut) and footwear manufacturing, for both domestic sale and export.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Tourist trend reversed

FRENCH Polynesia, whose tourist numbers have been dropping since 1986, managed to turn the sector around in 1989 with a 2.7 per cent increase for the year, or a total of 139,705 visitors. The greatest number — 50406 — came from the United States, but that source continues to show a decline with the major increases coming from Australia, Europe, Japan and New Zealand.

Another trade deficit

VISIBLE trade figures for 1989 show that French Polynesia still has a large gap between exports and imports. Traded goods figures show a deficit of CFP78,904 million (US\$770.32 million). The territory exported goods worth CFP9850 million, but imports totalled CFP88,754 million.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Oil palm growers' plea

OIL palm growers in West New Britain Province are demanding K46 million (US\$47.3 million) in compensation for hardships resulting from low commodity prices over the past four years. Grower representatives told Agriculture Minister Galeng Lang that New Britain Palm Oil Development Pty Ltd, the only buyer

and exporter in the province, had failed to pay smallholders proper prices for their produce. The minister offered K350,000 as an interim compensation payment and promised to investigate the complaints.

Ok Tedi's record result

OK Tedi Mining Ltd recorded an increased profit of K24.2 million (US\$24.2 million) for the year to December 31, 1989 its biggest ever. The company said the healthy financial results was because a high production rate in the second half of the year after problems in the first six months with the failure of the copper and old mine's ore delivery system.

India seeks new ties

INDIA is considering establishing a full diplomatic mission in Port Moresby in order to increase its trading and commercial links with Papua New Guinea. Shortly before the Indian diplomatic post in Suva was closed at the orders of the Fiji Government, the charge d'affaires, Vidhya Soni, said his country was planning to boost what he called its modest trade with the South Pacific, and this would include extending the operation of Indian merchant ships into the region. Soni said Indian businessmen would explore the markets for heavy earth-moving equipment for mining operations in the area, but also look to selling garments. Fiji was India's single biggest customer in the South Pacific with trade estimated at US\$4 million a year.

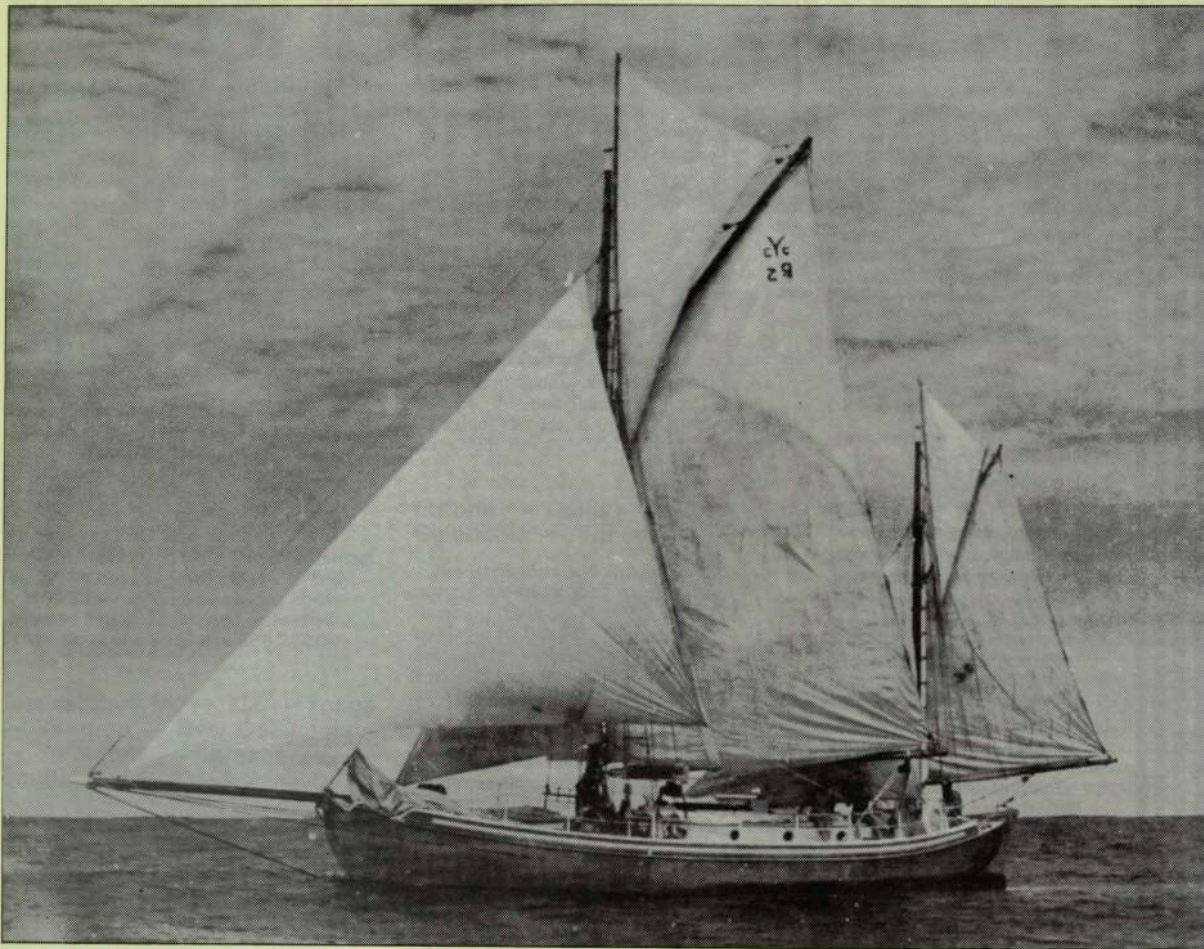
Businessman expelled

A RABAU-based businessman has been ordered out of Papua New Guinea on the grounds that he had become unpopular with the local Tolai people and was "evasive" about his business activities. A government official said Selwyn Krapp, who was involved in management services, take-away food, home furnishings, road contracting and souvenir sales, had refused to comply with government requirements.

Rubber exports to grow

A RECORD export total of 8000 tonnes of rubber next year has been predicted by Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Namaliu. He was speaking at the opening of a high school at Cape Rodney, Central Province, the site of a multi-million dollar smallholder scheme. The Government planned to lift annual rubber exports from 5000 tonnes to 8000 tonnes by next year, he said, and would commit K5 million (US\$4.9 million) over the next five years to develop the rubber industry together with the establishment of a five-year training course for development experts.

SHIPPING



Kathleen Gillett: does anyone remember her?

Know this yacht?

IN the collection of the Australian National Maritime Museum is a historic yacht that spent some of its colourful career in the Western Pacific. Museum staff would like to hear from former owners of the ketch *Kathleen Gillett*, a one-time New Guinea crocodile hunter's boat that was located in Guam recently by Museum representatives.

Kathleen Gillett was built for Sydney artist Jack Earl in the 1930s and sailed by him in the first Sydney-Hobart yacht race in 1945. Earl later sailed the ketch around the world in the second Australian yacht circumnavigation.

Kathleen Gillett will be exhibited when the Australian National Maritime Museum opens in Sydney next year. Curator of the Museum's Leisure exhibi-

tion, Daina Fletcher, is researching the yacht's history and developing a display about it. "We have a very comprehensive picture of the ketch until Jack Earl sold it in the early 1950s to a Sydney stamp dealer who took it up the Queensland coast to Torres Strait," said Fletcher. "We know little of the history of ownership since then."

Among details that have surfaced is a period in New Guinea when the yacht was owned by a plantation owner, thought to be called Fawcett Kay, who sold it to a crocodile hunter, Declan O'Donnel. *Kathleen Gillett* was taken to Sydney for the 1967 Sydney-Hobart race by a Rabaul businessman, Reg Stevenson, before dropping out of sight again.

In 1987 the yacht, by now in poor

condition, was tracked to Guam by Sydney yachtsman, journalist and Museum Council member Bruce Stannard. It was taken back to Sydney by solo sailor Ian Kiernan and has been undergoing restoration funded by the Norwegian Government which has made it a Bicentennial gift to Australia. (The yacht is built to a Norwegian design, famous for its seaworthiness.)

"I would like to hear from anyone who remembers the ketch during the 1950s through to the 1980s," said Fletcher.

• Readers can contact Daina Fletcher at the Australian National Maritime Museum, GPO Box 5131 Sydney NSW 2001, telephone (02) 552 7777 or fax (02) 552 2318. □

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Australia — PNG — Solomons — Vanuatu

A consortium of NGAL/PNG and CONPAC 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. Contact: 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.

Australia — Kiribati

CCS operates a 6 weekly service from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Kiribati (Tarawa). Contact: Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

Australia — Tuvalu

CCS operates a direct service every second voyage to Tuvalu (Funafuti).

Contact: Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

Australia — New Caledonia — Vanuatu

CCS operates a monthly service from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Vila and Santo. Contact: Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

Australia — Solomons — Vanuatu

CCS operates a monthly service from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Honiara, Vila and Santo. Contact: Chief Container Service, 8 Spring Street, Sydney (251-2699) Fax 251-2271.

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. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

Sofrana Europe Australia Line "Sofeal" operates a regular three-weekly service from North European ports including Felixstowe to Papeete from Noumea. Contact: from McArthur Shipping Agency Co Pty Ltd., Tel (02) 5502222 Telex AA24045 Fax 5191382.

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. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Contact Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd. Tel (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

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. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

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. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, GPO Suva, Fiji (312-244), Fax: (679) 301-572, Tlx FJ2199; 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).

Far East — Mid South Pacific

China Navigation's New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container and Break Bulk-Heavy Lift service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara with 18 days frequency. Wewak and Madang will receive four direct calls a year or more on inducement. A T/service via Lae to these and other PNG ports connecting with monthly sailings is available at cost. Cargo from the same Eastern ports to the South Pacific ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa, Rarotonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai service. Contact 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. Contact: 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. Contact: 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 Line operates a monthly container service between Honolulu, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa and Avatiu (Rarotonga). Contact: Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc., PO Box 3264, Honolulu HI (9860)-32641 (808 531 4841). Apia — Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 655, Apia, Western Samoa, Tel (685) 20345, Tlx (793) 2345x, Fax (685) 22343; Rarotonga — Hawaii Pacific Lines Ltd, PO Box 54, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Tel (682) 21780, Tlx (717) 6202 MARTINA RG, Fax (682) 24780;

SHIPPING

Pagopago — Kneubuhl Maritime Service Corporation, PO Box 39, Pagopago, American Samoa 96799, Tel (684) 6335121/6335122, Tlx (682) 505 KNEUBUHL SB, Fax (684) 6335100; Nuku'alofa.

Japan — Fiji — Island Ports

Kyowa Shipping operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports. Contact: 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 Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yokohama, Nagoya and Kobe. Contact: 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). Contact: 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.

coast. Contact: Sofrana-Unilines (Aust) Pty Ltd., Sydney. Tel. 264 8944; Telex AA170090; Fax 267 6547. Sofrana Unilines, Noumea — Tel 275191; Telex NM3048; Fax 272611. Wiltrans Agency, Melbourne — Tel (03) 6144788; Telex AA30163; Fax (03) 6145909. Wiltrans Agency, Melbourne — Tel (03) 6144788 Telex AA30163 Fax (03) 6145909. Wiltrans Agency, Brisbane Tel (07) 8541855 Telex AA40712 Fax (07) 2524953. Carpenters Shipping, Suva. Tel 25141 Telex FJ2188 Fax 301572.

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

Sofrana Unilines operated a RoRo/container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transshipment to the Samoas and Tonga. For details see above.

Australia — Norfolk Island — Lord Howe Island

Sofrana-Unilines (Australia) Pty Ltd operates a regular monthly service with MV *Capitaine Wallis*. Contact: Sofrana-Unilines, Sydney (02) 2648944; Telex AA170090 Fax 2676547.

Australia — New Caledonia — Vanuatu

Campagne Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break-bulk cargo. Contact: 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. Contact: 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. Contact: Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, 6 Spring St, Sydney (20 522).

Australia — New Zealand

ANL Ltd operates the Tranzas container service between Australia and New Zealand, offering access to five vessels. These vessels call at Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane (Tasmania, Adelaide and Fremantle via feeder services) in Australia and Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, Port Chalmers, Nelson, Tauranga (Napier via feeder service) in New Zealand. Each vessel operates on an approximate three weekly round voyage schedule.



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○ PHILIPPINES
○ MALAYSIA
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Phone: 06(531)5821 (Rep.) Cables: "MARIQUEEN" Osaka Telex: 525-6271 Ssiosa J.

SHIPPING

Australia — NZ — Fiji — Vanuatu — New Caledonia — Solomons — New Guinea

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise programme from Sydney to include the better-known ports in the above countries plus a number of unspoilt, and

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro 21 day service from Auckland to Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago and Nuku'alofa. Contact: Pacific Forum Line, Auckland, Christchurch, Suva and Apia, Union Maritime, Lautoka, and Nuku'alofa, Polynesian Shipping, Pago Pago.

New Zealand — Tonga — Samoa

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

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Contact: Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd, Tel (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

NZ — Cook Islands — Aitutaki — Niue

Cook Islands Line services Auckland, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Niue monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes. Contact: McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St, Auckland/PO Box 3, Auckland (390 229). Cables: MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554; Fax 32 931.

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Contact: Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd, Tel. (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

Southeast 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. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St., Walu Bay, Suva (312 244). Fax: (679) 301 572. Tlx: FJ2199.

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. Contact: 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. Contact 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.

Sofrana Europe Australia Line operates a three-weekly cargo service from Continental ports, including Felixstowe, to Papeete and Noumea. Contact McArthur Shipping Agency Co Pty Ltd, Sydney. Tel (02) 550222 Telex AA24045 Fax (02) 5191382.

UK — Western Samoa — Tonga — Fiji

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx NE44171; 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. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

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The Bank Line and Columbus Line

operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Papeete, Noumea, Port-Vila and Santo. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx NE44171; 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. Contact: 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.

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. Contact: The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 53 Martin Place, Sydney (223 6255), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

Sofrana Europe Australia Line "Sofeal" operates a regular three-weekly service from North European ports including Felixstowe to Papeete from Noumea. Contact: from McArthur Shipping Agency Co Pty Ltd., Tel (02) 550222 Telex AA24045 Fax 5191382.

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. Contact: The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 53 Martin Place, Sydney (223 6255), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423 466), Tlx NE44171; 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. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, GPO Suva, Fiji (31 2244); Fax: (679) 301 572. Tlx FJ2199.

STAMPS

So Samoan, so beautiful

YOU lie on a mat in cool Samoan hut and look out on the white sand under the high palms and a gentle sea, and the black line of the reef a mile out and moonlight over everything. And then among it all are the loveliest people in the world moving and dancing like gods and goddesses. It is sheer beauty, so pure it is difficult to breathe in it . . .

So wrote Rubert Brooke, like many other Europeans besotted with the charm of Samoa. Even when he wrote that, a hundred or so years ago, much of the traditional ways of life were disappearing rapidly. One area which has seen change come, perhaps more slowly than others, is that of canoe building. In many parts of the Pacific Islands there are many great traditions associated with this craft and canoes are valuable pieces of property. Those skilled in building them are accorded great respect.

Released on January 31 are four stamps from Samoa showing traditional and modern methods of transport. They were designed by Roger Roberts, of Adelaide, and were printed in lithography by the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

The 18sene features the Samoan canoe known as *paopao* which is the smallest dugout with two outrigger booms and propelled by paddling. The *paopao* is in common use throughout the islands for fishing and transport inside the reef. In the villages, the canoe was almost an indispensable part of every male adult's equipment in life.

The *paopao* is essentially a one-man canoe and although it will hold two persons, the added weight usually brings the gunwale edge down to the water line. As expert carpenters are not used for the construction of the *paopao*, it can be said to be 'home-made'. The costs involved using skilled labour is uneconomical and only warranted on the larger craft.

The 55sene shows a *fautasi* with about 40 rowers. Although nowadays used mostly for competitive sport between villages and nearby countries such as Tonga and Samoa, in earlier times *fautasi* were a popular means of travel between the coastal villages and even distant islands. During the June independence celebrations each year, *fautasi* races which are very popular, feature a number of the longboats preserved exclusively for the annual events.

Polynesian Airlines, the Samoan flag carrier came into existence on May 7, 1959 when a syndicate of businessmen at a meeting in Apia decided to purchase a Percival Prince from an Australian aero club. They flew their first official service with the 10-seater aircraft between Apia and Pago Pago (American Samoa) in March 1960.

In the years that followed, the airline has owned or leased several DC3s, a DC4, HS748, Boeing 737 and 727 as well as light aircraft used on domestic flights and to Pago Pago. The aircraft appearing on the 60 sene stamp, is a member of Polynesian Airlines domestic fleet.

Ferries or island boats have long been a means of transport in the Pacific Islands. In the Samoan archipelago, the people frequently visit relatives in the three main islands of Upolu, Savaii and Tutuila, necessitating a number of vessels operating almost continuously. The \$3 stamp shows the ferryboat *Lady Samoa*, one of the most modern in the fleet.

A dog for a lamb

BEHIND every stamp there lies a good story. The latest to come to light concerns the 1982 Christmas issue from Vanuatu. Peter Smith reported in the *Stamp News* that Vanuatu was not going to issue a miniature sheet for Christmas 1982. However, the authorities changed their minds and commissioned Gyula Vasarhelyi to prepare an original painting of the nativity.

Vasarhelyi is quoted in the *Guinness Book of Stamps: Facts and Figures* as the most prolific stamp designer in the world with 5000 stamps designed for 110 countries since 1962. The interesting story is found in the design of the nativity scene. One of the shepherds is caring not a sheep but Gyula's favourite pet Kuvassy (a Hungarian breed of dog) called Csiga. All the other characters are there in the nativity scene, angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph and the babe Jesus and even a sheep. But the

appearance of a Hungarian dog adds to the scene something not seen in any other nativity painting. □

New Issues

Tuvalu: 28 February Tropical Trees. 15c Cocos Nucifera, 30c Phyzophora Samoensis, 40c Messerschmidia Argentea, 50c Pandanus Tectorius, 60c Hernandia Nymphaeifolia, 90c Pisonia Grandis.

Solomon Islands: 26 February — Personal Ornaments. 5c A Solomon Islander wearing ornaments, 12c Neck ornament, 18c a Solomon Islander wearing ornaments, \$2 Forehead ornament.

Niue: February 5 — World Cup Football. 80c Fritz Walter, \$1.15 Franz Beckenbauer, \$1.40 Vure Seeler, \$1.80 German Football team symbol.

Western Samoa: January 31 — Transport Modern & Traditional. 18s Canoe, 55s Long Boat, 60s Airlines, \$3 Ferry Boat.

Cook Islands: February 19 — Missionaries. 70c — Rev John Williams, LMS, 85c — MGR Bernardine Lastanie, Catholic, 95c — Elder Osborne Widstoe, Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, \$1.60 — Dr Caldwell, Seventh Day Adventist.

French Polynesia: February 9 — Fish. 40f perch, 50f shrimp.

March 14 — Early Discovery. The Mashi explorers — 58f, 59f, 63f, 71f.

New Caledonia: February 22 — Butterflies. Paratiphone Lynessa — 18f, 50f, 94f.

March 17 — Traditional Money. Examples of seal or canaque exchange money — 85f, 140f.

March 17 — Sade and Pearl Show. Sade and Pearl carved ornament — 230f.

Norfolk Islands — March 19 — 200th Anniversary of the Wreck of HMS Sirius. 41c x 2 — two scenes combined into one view of the Sirius, 65c — Recovery team at work. 1 — Artifacts recovered from the wreck. □

BAPTISM — Essential to Salvation

He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved;
he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16)

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THE REGION

TONGA

Passport case troubles the elite

By David Robbie

CRUSADING Tongan editor and Member of Parliament Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva has won yet another court battle, but he faces mounting pressure to silence him in his quest for open government and public accountability.

A recent controversy over bizarre claims of a coup threat in the Pacific kingdom diverted attention from the real story — a crisis facing the monarchy-dominated cabinet over a lawsuit alleging a huge passport scam.

The case involves accusations of breach of trust, unconstitutional and illegal practices in the controversial sale of Tongan passports to foreigners, mainly Asians.

Backers of the lawsuit, led by Pohiva, allege several million pa'anga could be missing from the public coffers.

"The passport case will change the history of Tonga — for better or for worse," says Auckland-based barrister Nalesoni Tupou, but he is confident the result will eventually lead to open government.

Already, he says, the government is stalling. The case was filed in the Supreme Court last August and was amended in October.

Pohiva seeks a court order declaring ownership of the passport payments, requiring an account of the payments to the Legislative Assembly, a declaration that granting of naturalisation letters to foreigners is illegal, and an injunction preventing sale of further passports.

When lawyers, for Finance Minister Cecil Cocker and Police Minister 'Akau'ola — who are named in the lawsuit along with the Kingdom of Tonga — tried to have the case struck out an appeal hearing was set for the Privy Council. Then the sitting judge, New Zealand Chief Justice, Sir Clinton Roper, upheld a plea by Tupou to have Cocker and 'Akau'ola barred from sitting on the council hearing. King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV was also asked to vacate his seat as council chairman.

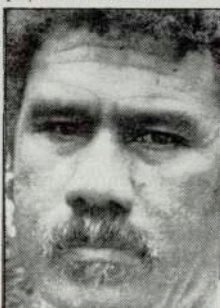
Tupou successfully argued that the council — "rather like King Arthur and his men" — could not be the judges while also being defendants. Government lawyer Clive Edwards succeeded in having the case referred to the newly-created Appeal Court, which will include several judges from Pacific nations on the bench, because of the constitutional implications of the Privy Council meeting without the King. However, although the court is supposed to be constituted in

July, no budget has been allocated so far this year.

Pressure to block the reforms sought by Pohiva have been mounting in recent months, including an alleged conspiracy to discredit the MP and force him out of the Legislative Assembly.

A legal attempt to prevent Pohiva taking his seat in Parliament when the new session opened at the end of May foundered when Chief Justice Geoffrey Martin ruled in his favour on an electoral petition. Pohiva, who won a landslide victory in the February general election, was accused by a conservative rival of bribery, corrupt and illegal practices, and threatening voters during the campaign.

The bribery allegation involved a gift of almost 20,000 pa'anga during the past three years from his MP's salary and allowances to an overseas scholarship fund for Tongan students. Pohiva has campaigned vigorously against excessive payments to MPs.



Pohiva: challenge in court.

Rejecting the accusation, the Chief Justice said that whatever Pohiva had done in the circumstances would have laid him open to being accused of bribery.

"If (as occurred) he returned the money, he

could be accused of bribery," said the Chief Justice. "If he kept the money he could be accused of inconsistency or even dishonesty, by keeping the benefit of the payments about which he had previously complained."

"What he did was consistent with his previous public stance, and it is difficult to see what else he could have done if he were to retain his credibility."

The Chief Justice was also scathing in his judgment about the testimony of the chief prosecution witness, Sione Tu'i Moala, who claimed to have attended three of Pohiva's campaign meetings.

"I find the whole of [Moala's] evidence [about the meetings] has been invented. Whenever he was asked a question outside his prepared script he had to guess, and in these three instances at least his guess was wrong," said Judge Martin.

"There must therefore be considerable doubt about the remainder of his evidence. As evidence to support the petitioner's case the only possible course is to ignore it altogether."

"But his evidence has another effect. It affects the credibility of the whole of the petitioner's case. His stories tie in very closely with the petitioner's allegations . . . The inescapable conclusion is that someone has put these stories into his head and persuaded him to repeat them in court."

A defamation case filed against Pohiva by nobelman Fusitu'a has been adjourned indefinitely. The writ was filed after the MP, his wife 'Eseta, director of education Paula Bloomfield and lands and survey chief superintendent Sione Tongilava.

Tonga approaches next century with a constitution written in 1875 by a Wesleyan missionary, Shirley Baker. Under this constitution, Tonga's 30-seat Parlia-



Long live the King: "Tongans are still very much under the rule of the nobles."

THE REGION

ment has 10 cabinet members plus two governors appointed by the King, nine members voted for by the 33 nobles, and nine members elected by the country's 100,000 "commoners".

Although all basic freedoms are constitutionally guaranteed — a heritage of reformist King George Tupou I — they are hampered by feudal aspects of the traditional system. There is no provision for political parties.

"In our constitution Tongans have many freedoms," said one Tongan writer, "but the reality is that Tongans are still very much under the rule of the nobles." Pohiva, co-editor of the crusading newsletter *Kele'a* (conch shell), has been campaigning to change this ever since he was first elected to Parliament in 1987.

He and his reformers contested the February election portrayed as an official opposition — and they easily won six out of the nine commoner seats. Their victory was seen as a triumph for a new wave of idealistic politicians campaigning

dom made the account "exempt" from the public accounts which need to go before the Legislative Assembly — an act claimed to be breaching the constitution. Tonga has five kinds of passports: ordinary "subject", diplomatic, official (ministers and families), "protected person" and "Tongan national". The special category of "protected person" passports have been on sale for about five years for at least 10,000 pa'anga each. More recently citizenship certificates and "Tongan subject" passports have been sold for more than US\$20,000.

The Tongan National Passport Act has now given a new status for wealthy Asian applicants and several of these passports are believed to have been sold for US\$100,000. Passport applicants apparently do not need to prove they have no criminal records. Since a year ago at least 10,000 applications have been made for Tongan passports in Hongkong and Japan. Thirty Chinese who have travelled to Tonga to buy passports have been stranded after Hongkong, Japan and Taiwan refused to recognise the documents.

According to *Sing Tao Weekly*, a new scheme allowing people to buy Tongan passports with 36 monthly instalments attracted more than 200 would-be customers to the Tongan consulate in Hongkong during one week alone last month. The scheme, said the paper, aims to attract up to 25,000 people and targets South-east Asian countries, particularly Hongkong.

Hung Siu-kai, assistant to the honorary Tongan consul in the colony, said the "hire-purchase" passports will enable

the less wealthy to buy a foreign passport. The passport is said to be available for an initial deposit of HK\$20,000 and 36 monthly instalments of HK\$2000.

"People are concerned about 1997," said Hung. "They want to have a place to go to if things turn out to be disastrous after the Chinese takeover."

Australian and New Zealand officials are worried about the implications of the passport trade and the potential for serious unrest. While both countries do not recognise the "protected persons" passport, Hung says more than 30 countries, including most Commonwealth and European nations do accept it.

Pohiva insists changes must come in Tonga to make government more accountable and he stresses his commitment to peaceful change. He is undaunted by the upheaval his political challenges are unleashing. In a historic legal victory over the government by a commoner in 1988, he was awarded 26,500 pa'anga damages plus costs for unfair dismissal and denial of free speech. Since then Pohiva, a former schoolteacher with no chiefly connections (he was orphaned as a child) and *Kele'a* have become symbols of change.

Comparing that judgment to Britain's Magna Carta, Pohiva said then it would lead to King Tupou coming under greater pressure to remove feudalism from the Tonga political system and to allow greater democracy. Pohiva followed this with unsuccessful impeachment proceedings against Finance Minister Cocker, alleging incompetence and misuse of funds. □



Fukofuka: successful candidate.

on issues rather than on status and traditional lines.

Viliami Fukofuka, a businessman and co-editor of *Kele'a*, was among the successful candidates.

Political sources in Nuku'alofa suggest the passport case "will open a giant can of worms". Although the establishment odds are stacked high against Pohiva and Tupou, they believe they have a strong legal case and will eventually win: "If justice and morality is there, you will always win."

Funds from the cash-for-passports scheme are allegedly paid into foreign bank accounts. One such Bank of America account in San Francisco is said to have the finance minister, one other cabinet minister and a senior government official as signatories. A Trust Fund Act passed in 1988 by the king-

Small hoist, big help

ON the remote Vanuatu island of Futuna, life has become easier. Last March two New Zealand Army officers stayed on the island and built a small hoist, ending hours of dangerous and backbreaking work.

Futuna, meaning "rock all around", is an extinct volcano 11 square kilometres big. It stretches itself upwards from black rocky shores to a flat plateau reaching 666 metres into the often rain-drenched South Pacific sky. There are only 400 people living on the island and they are distinctly different from their Ni-Vanuatu countrymen. The Futunese trace their ancestry more from Polynesian sources rather than Melanesian.

The language is similar to Maori which helps make a New Zealander feel at home on this lush green volcanic conservatory — even though it is one of the most isolated islands in the entire Pacific Ocean. For three weeks in March, Lieutenant Greg Wilson, of Dunedin,

and Sergeant Geoff Downes, of Gisborne, lived on the island. Their task was to construct a hoist for Itavai village, one of six on Futuna.

The tiny settlement is perched on a hillside terrace. There are no roads on Futuna. Itavai's only access by foot is a steep and winding goat track which circles the island. This track is about three kilometres as the crow flies from the island's only airstrip. Travellers have to make their way around wave-beaten cliff faces, short stretches of coral and sand beaches and steep rock climbs.

Itavai is located near a sheer seaside cliff top. At the deep water inlet below, island boats call in good weather. At the site of the New Zealand built hoist is an old pulley extended on a corroding metal arm with which the villagers transferred goods up and down. This old machine was barely trustworthy and not capable of carrying heavy loads.

Placed 30 metres up a cliff, the hoist

THE REGION



At the cliff site: Lt Wilson talks to Ramoia Lishi (lower left), Chief Yapai and Sgt Downes.

now enables the villagers to transport loads to and from the ship with only a five-minute walk from their settlement.

The hoist will be important to every islander and to many other Futunese who have now left their home and are living and working on the other islands of Vanuatu.

Many islanders still live in woven thatched huts like their ancestors. Having the hoist now means that building materials, such as timber, concrete and corrugated iron, can be easily brought onto the Itavai region of the island. The hoist will enable the transport of 150kg loads — compared to 50kg with the pulley-arm.

Dragging materials off the boats was dangerous. When the pulley-arm couldn't be used, the men carried the loads on their backs up a steep cliff-side track or around the coast from Mission Bay where the airstrip is located. "To get the materials, such as concrete, lengths of timber and iron, from there to the other sites, is a mammoth task," said Wilson.

Three countries were involved in the aid project. A British Army officer first conducted the reconnaissance and designed the hoist which, because of time restrictions, was left with the Vanuatu Mobile Force's (VMF) engineering pla-

toon. This small group is currently headed by New Zealanders Captain Paul King and Staff Sergeant Red Mackay who are on secondment to the VMF.

Engineer platoon commander, Captain King, couldn't spare the time to complete the task, but considered it a worthwhile project for New Zealand aid. The materials and most of the costs were funded by Australia while New Zealand provided the manpower and expertise.

Wilson and Downes arrived in Port Vila in early March and assembled the equipment required to complete the job. These materials had to be transported by ship to the island. The two flew to Futuna on a small island-hopping aircraft operated by Air Vanuatu. They constructed the new hoist and trained the islanders how to use the machine properly.

Assistance during the project was provided by a former Futunese villager now a soldier in the VMF engineer platoon. Affectionately nick-named 'Rambo', Ramoia Lishi, recently completed one year's training at the New Zealand Army School of Military Engineering. A simple engineering project such as the Futuna hoist may not seem so significant to many, but to the islanders of Futuna and to officials of the Vanuatu Government, it means a lot.

Life is simple for most Ni-Vanuatu. The only consumables Futunese ever consider buying are soap for washing and kerosene for lighting lamps. Materially, they require little else.

Food is provided by cultivated gardens and taro, watermelon, and other root crops grown on the island's plateau and slopes. Fruits such as bananas and coconuts are plentiful all year round. Much of the harvests are sent to friends and relatives who have emigrated to other islands within Vanuatu's vast archipelago. Futunese are seafaring people and often fish from canoes. Pigs and chickens are the other sources of meat.

A little money can be made from gathering copra which is sent to Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu. However, all spare money is channelled into the church. The villagers of Itavai are immensely proud of their limestone and timber church located in the neighbouring village of Marac.

Itavai Chief, Natuioivi Yapai, was happy with the hoist. He explained that the old metal pulley-arm was built in December 1977, and before that, manpower was the only source of transport. There is still no electricity or plumbing on the island, but a reticulation system provides fresh clean water to villages all over the island. □

THE REGION

The crazy life of Rev Crook

By Karen Mangnall

PAPEETE'S recent centenary celebrations held little to suggest the town's history had not always been with France. Amidst the legions of French politicians, a lone Australian guest provided a reminder that Papeete started life as an English settlement. And that it was religion, as in many colonies, which altered the destiny of Tahiti, and ultimately the South Pacific.

That lone Australian was Douglas Peacocke, the great-great grandson of an English missionary, William Crook, who founded Papeete on April 14, 1818. Crook was a dissenter who described himself as a Calvinistic Methodist, and who ended up spending 17 years of his life preparing for as many years evangelising in Tahiti.

Today, Douglas Peacocke views his great-great grandfather's dedication with bemusement. "He was a nut," he says, shaking his head. "A complete nut. All those sorts of people have got a little bit of craziness in them." Peacocke, the only

descendant of Papeete's early settlers who could be traced by the centenary organisers, has spent his five years of retirement researching Crook's life.

"I always knew of him," Peacocke says. "There were some most astounding tales told by the family, true or otherwise, about his experiences." In the end, Peacocke says his researches proved these stories were either "completely false" or had understated the truth.

Crook had first gone to Tahiti in 1797 on a London Missionary Society ship, the *HMS Duff*, with 19 other missionaries. The young Englishman spent two years alone in the Marquesas without converting a soul. Undaunted, he set out again from London two years later. But when Crook and his new wife arrived in Sydney in 1803, they discovered Tahiti had plunged into a series of bloody wars between the new King, Pomare II, and other chiefs.

"Samuel Marsden was the LMS rep in Sydney at the time," says Peacocke. "It was on his advice that Crook didn't go immediately to Tahiti." In fact the wait

lasted 13 years. Crook and his wife set up a school in Sydney and preached to convicts and remittance men while their missionary colleagues one by one fled Tahiti.

By 1816, Pomare II had reconquered Tahiti and in that year Crook, his wife and seven children moved to the island of Moorea, where four remaining missionaries had taken refuge since 1808 with a temporarily defeated Pomare II. During his years of waiting, Crook had apprenticed himself to a leading surgeon and a Sydney printer. His two years of training in each discipline were to prove invaluable.

The Moorea mission had a printing press and Crook, with his gift for languages, helped produce hymnals in Tahitian. In 1818, he moved his family across the channel to a scrubby, swampy uninhabited plain. Crook named it Wilks Harbour, after an LMS luminary. He built a villa back in the hills to escape the humidity and mosquitoes — much as wealthy residents do today. On the fore-shore he built a church and school at Paofai, now downtown Papeete. Crook preached in Tahitian on Sundays and for the rest of the week joined his wife and two eldest daughters in the clas-

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THE REGION

sroom.

Peacocke says Crook was "completely dedicated" to those things he liked to do: teaching, and converting people to his religion. "I suspect he was more inclined towards preaching, but it didn't bring much money." The large Crook family was quite poor. In Sydney, school fees had sustained them. Once in Tahiti, they were paid in food. Crook got only a meagre stipend from the LMS, which preferred its missions to be self-supporting through trade or industry.

"When they printed the gospels in Tahitian, they charged in currency of bamboo tubes filled with coconut oil," explains Peacocke. The missionaries then sold the oil overseas. It was the forerunner of the church's dominance of Tahiti's early commercial life.

The English missionaries had always allied themselves, sometimes blindly, with the reigning Pomare. Crook himself struck up a warm friendship with Pomare II. The King maintained an office of sorts on Motu uta, a small offshore island, where he would spend days lying on his stomach, correcting Tahitian translations of biblical texts. Crook used his medical training to help alleviate Pomare's elephantiasis, a chronic illness aggravated by the King's consumption of rum. Peacocke says his great-great grandfather often complained in his journal that the King was drunk.

The royal ties strengthened when Pomare's youngest wife chose to have their son at the Crook's new hospital. Mrs Crook actually raised the future Pomare III for the first few months of his life. The King's baptism in May 1819 caused a steady stream of conversions — 87 men, 44 women and 53 children within a year. But then Pomare II died in December 1821.

By 1823, the combined pulling-power of the King, the school and the church services had pushed Papeete's population to about 1000 residents. Crook needed a bigger school and church. The first stone was laid by Pomare III, then a toddler, helped by his elder sister Aimata, soon to become Queen Pomare IV.

The ceremony ended in the normally exuberant feasting and dancing, but it was Crook's very success which ultimately brought about his departure.

The Tahiti-iti peninsula had always been resolutely "pagan" and the other missionaries convinced Crook he was the only man for the job. So in 1823, the Crooks and their nine children moved to Vairao, where they stayed for another seven years.

By the time of Crook's departure, Papeete had already acquired several of its enduring traits. The town was spreading haphazardly, especially towards the east, swelled daily by new arrivals from surrounding areas and the Tuamotu islands. Papeete effectively became the capital in 1827, when the new Queen, Pomare IV, held the annual chiefs' meeting there for the first time. The town was poised for a maritime boom of whal-

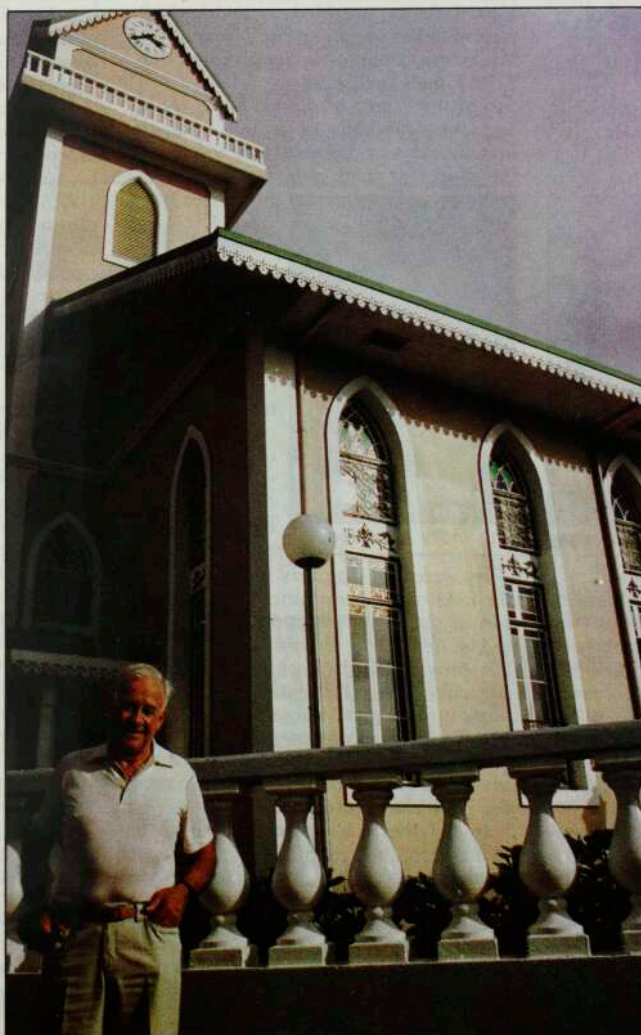
ers and sealers, bringing a consumption economy which has never left — food, housing and entertainment in return for cash and alcohol.

It was this maritime boom which first led to France's interest in Papeete. Then Crook's successor at Papeete, a temperamental Englishman called George Pritchard, led the Protestant missionaries' fight against the arrival of Catholicism in the islands. The row escalated to the verge of a war between England and France and eventually gave the French navy the excuse it needed to annexe Tahiti.

But Crook and his family had left Tahiti for good in 1830. By then Crook was 54. Peacocke says Crook still "loved it" in Tahiti but had become concerned about his wife's failing health and for his eldest daughters. "They were well into their 20s, of marriageable age, and he became worried because of all the visiting seamen."

In his recently published centennial history of Papeete, Bengt Danielsson describes Crook as departing for a "well earned retirement" in Australia. On the contrary, Crook continued with his preaching and is remembered in Sydney and Melbourne as one of the founders of the Congregational Church. His wife set up a school for girls in Sydney. Crook later moved in with his eldest son, Samuel, in Melbourne, where he died.

The Crook family ties with Papeete had been broken for more than 160 years until Douglas Peacocke and his wife Jan visited the capital in May. The modern Papeete they found stands as a momentum to Crook's colossal dedication, to his "craziness", if not to the country or values that sent him halfway across the world. □



Douglas Peacocke:
a reminder of Papeete's English settlement.

THE REGION

United States told: pay islands more attention

By David North

THE United States should pay considerably more attention to the South Pacific. That was the principal thrust of a report filed by a bipartisan group of members of the United States House of Representatives after a hectic tour of seven South Pacific countries, including New Caledonia. The group was led by Congressman Steve Solarz (Democrat, New York) and included Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (Democrat, American Samoa) and Robert K. Dornan (Republican, California).

They urged the United States to:

- continue to provide leadership in the efforts to ban driftnets
- ratify the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone (SPNFZ) Treaty;
- increase its diplomatic presence in the area, as well as the number of bilateral US Agency for International Development (AID) missions
- create a US\$2 million scholarship programme to send South Pacific students to American universities (this is a Faleomavaega proposal which has been adopted by the US House of Representative but not yet by the Senate)
- participate in a major way in the forthcoming celebrations of the 50th anniversaries of World War II battles, such as those in Guadalcanal,

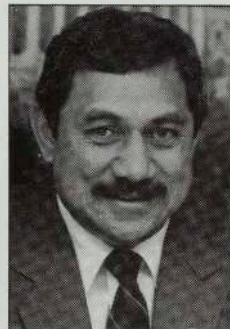


Solarz, Faleomavaega: urging more attention.

assigned to Tuvalu (now covered from Fiji).

The recently released report was long in the writing. The three Congressmen had made their trip back in August, last year visiting Kiribati, Fiji, Western Samoa, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomons. They used a US military plane for the 10-day trip, saying that it would have taken them three to four weeks to cover the same ground if they had used commercial flights. In addition to their general policy recommendations, they made a number of observations about US policies and island conditions.

Regarding aid to the independent nations of the South Pacific, the delegation wrote "US aid levels are particularly modest. Excluding the \$10 million . . . pursuant to the . . . Fisheries Treaty, the United States provided a modest \$6.9 million to the region in Fiscal Year 1989. When this amount is compared to the \$154.5 million that we provided to just two of the Freely Associated States [FSM and the Marshalls] it is not hard to understand why US assistance levels are the source of some bitterness in the region." (see box.)



In Kiribati they were impressed with the nation's strong interest in global warming trends, and heard many criticisms of the lack-lustre performance of the Bush Administration on this score.

They were told that a six-foot increase in the level of the ocean would flood all but two of the nation's islands.

The delegation recommended that the US provide Kiribati with assistance in surveillance of foreign-owned fishing boats in its waters, whose size they compared with the European landmass; they also suggested that two seaworthy military landing craft be given to the nation for inter-island transportation.

In Fiji they noted the significance that nation's budget of the non-payment by the US of \$152.7 million to the United Nations for its peace-keeping forces; this has meant that Fiji has not yet received \$21.5 million for the operations of the Fiji Army in the Middle East, a major chunk of money from the nation's budget of \$338 million.

In Western Samoa the delegation re-

Comparison of 1989 Assistance Levels in the South Pacific (in millions of US\$)

Australia (including PNG)	302.8
New Zealand	103.0
Japan	93.1
Australia (excluding PNG)	66.2
World Bank	40.3
US*	17.2

* US total excludes subsidies to US territories and associated states. Comparable data were not available for France.

Source: Problems in Paradise: US House of Representative report.

ported with pleasure the "unabashedly pro-American sentiments of the leadership", but warned that it would be "a mistake for the United States to take Western Samoa for granted".

It noted both the continuing unhappiness of Western Samoa, the oldest of the independent nations of the South Pacific, with the continuing lack of a resident US Ambassador, and various Soviet efforts to woo Western Samoa. The Russians have offered "to base an oceanic research ship out of Apia, and have expressed a willingness to provide 100 scholarships for Western Samoan students to Moscow University. Thus far, Western Samoa has not accepted either offer."

While in New Caledonia the delegation encountered, and brushed off, a suggestion made by some American expatriates that the French territory be admitted as America's 51st state. The delegation was puzzled by the diametrically opposite expectations of the Kanaks and the French loyalists regarding the 1998 referendum; each side is convinced that it is sure to win it.

Regarding Vanuatu, the Congressmen wrote: "On no other stop of the trip did [we] . . . find the actual situation on the ground more different from its expectations than in Vanuatu. Having heard of Vanuatu's aggressive commitment to the non-aligned movement, its ties to Libya, and its good relationship with the Soviet Union . . . [we were] surprised by the extreme warmth with which [we were] received and by the obvious desire of the present government to improve relations with the United States."

The delegation suggested that the State Department open a one-man mission in Port Vila, as it has in Honiara and in Apia, and that it send a high-level delegation to the celebration of

THE REGION

DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Home of Students	Source of Funds			
	Australia	New Zealand	UK	US
Cook Islands	uns.	uns.	0	2
Fiji	127+	20+	25	8
Kiribati	uns.	uns.	31	2
Niue	0?	uns.	0	1
PNG	278	0?	uns.	3
Solomons	uns.	uns.	30	3
Tonga	uns.	uns.	10	1
Tuvalu	10	5	14	0
Vanuatu	uns.	uns.	35	0
W. Samoa	uns.	uns.	0	8
Total	580	175-185	165	28

uns. = an unspecified number

Source: Problems in Paradise, U.S. House of Representative report.

Vanuatu's tenth anniversary of independence at the end of this month.

As for the Solomons, there was a parallel recommendation. There will be a major celebration of the Battle of Guadalcanal in the near future, and given John Kennedy's wartime activities

in this part of the world, the three Congressmen suggest that a Kennedy relative be a part of the US delegation celebrating the battle.

On a more ambitious note, they suggest that the US find the \$2 million or so needed to construct a building for the

Solomons' Parliament, now occupying borrowed space.

In PNG the delegation remarked on the wantok system "... if someone comes from your region and speaks your language, that person is treated as a member of your extended family and you are obligated to assist him with any need he might have. As a social welfare system it is quite effective. But it ... impedes the process of capital formation, which is essential to the working of a cash society."

The report of the Congressional delegation is entitled *Problems in Paradise: United States Interests in the South Pacific* and is a much-better-than-average example of a Washington art form, the committee print. (It is published by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.) Signed by the three travelling Congressmen, and presumably largely staff-produced, it is more sharply focussed, and considerably better written than most such documents. The reader is aware of several inquiring minds poking into a number of difficult subjects, including race relations in New Caledonia and Fiji. The quality of the report was clearly improved, according to the delegation leader, Solarz, because of the presence of "Eni Faleomavaega. As a native Pacific islander, he not only contributed his considerable factual expertise about the region, he also provided the [delegation] with a range of cultural and sociological insights that otherwise wouldn't have been available to it."

As a publication, as a soft-cover book, however, the report has all the characteristics of its genre. Sprinkled throughout are passages from the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Factbook and bland little one-page memos from US-Aid on its efforts in a given nation. These and fully a dozen appendices are simply photocopies of existing documents, so while the material is often useful, the eye is jarred by the constantly changing type styles and page formats.

One of these appendices, inserted because of Faleomavaega's interest in expanding the US scholarship programmes for island students, provides some information on US, British, Australian and New Zealand programmes in this regard. There have been only 28 participants in the US programmes, over a period of years, and all but one have them returned to their homeland on completion of the programme (which is remarkable.)

In contrast to the 28 in American colleges, New Zealand sponsors about 180 each year, to study in New Zealand, at University of the South Pacific and elsewhere, while the United Kingdom has a total of 165 scholarships, and Australia has 580, about half of which are for PNG. (See table.) □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — JULY 1990 45

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Kabua goes to Washington

By David North

"THIS is an economic development trip," President Amata Kabua of the Marshall Islands said of his June trip to Washington. It was that and more.

Kabua spent about 15 minutes with President Bush at the White House, and had much longer conversations with Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, and with Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, as well as a full schedule of other sessions with Mainland business and government leaders. He had not been in Washington since President Reagan's first inauguration in 1981. Though Reagan has since retired to California, Kabua (now in his third four-year term) is still in office and decided it was time to have face-to-face meetings with Washington's new leadership team.

His approach was low-key. But Kabua had a series of specific subjects to discuss. For example:

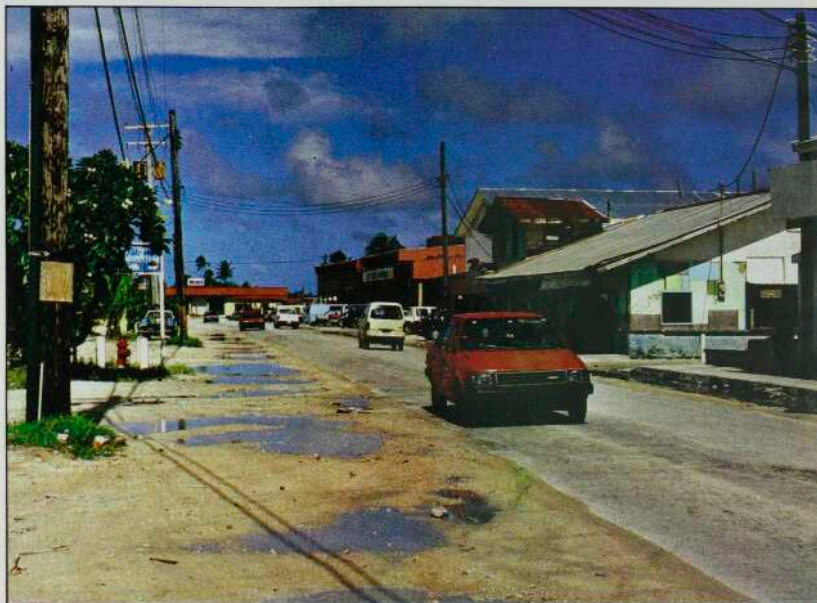
- The Marshalls would like to secure landing rights for the Airline of the Marshall Islands (AMI) in California; it now has them in Hawaii.
- The Marshalls seeks the necessary clearances for the airline to fly military cargo into the Marshalls.
- The Marshalls (and Federated States of Micronesia) seek to extend the about-to-be-terminated Mainland education grants to their school systems.
- The Marshalls would like to play the role of landlord to United States military and civilian personnel living on Kwajalein.

The housing-on-Kwajalein question was typical of Kabua's incremental approach to relations with the States. The Marshalls has long accepted the use of Kwajalein for experimental military purposes, including some testing of the controversial Star Wars system, so why not take advantage of the US military's need for housing on that atoll?

On this trip, the Marshalls was seeking both a contract with the military to build the housing, and a multi-million private sector loan to provide the needed capital.

"We want to replace those aging house trailers now used by the military," Kabua said. The Marshalls is thinking of building 150 units of family housing and a five-storey apartment complex for single people assigned to Kwajalein.

The conversation moved to another kind of visitor, tourists. "We have only a handful of them," the President said. "It is a beautiful place to visit but we only have 150 hotel rooms." An aide took a slightly different tact "we have 8000-9000 tourists a year, and all the rooms



Majuro, Marshall Islands capital: handful of tourists.

are filled all the time, you have to make reservations a long time in advance".

Kabua said he expected the number of hotel rooms available to double soon, and spoke of the rugged pleasures of tourist life in the outer islands, where one is expected to sleep on grass mats under the open sky. He chuckled when asked about the now 14-year-old history of the construction of a hotel owned by Nauru.

He said that the Japanese passion for golf was such that the Marshalls was planning to build one or more golf courses as part of the tourist-promotion efforts.

On a more contentious issue, the planned destruction of chemical weapons at Johnston Atoll, Kabua was careful to express both his government's worry about that activity of the US military, and the information on the subject which he had received at a Defense Department briefing in Hawaii. He said that he would take back to his people what he learned about the technology to be used to destroy the weapons.

"We have been invited to visit the site, and see how it works," Kabua said, indicating that someone from his government probably would accept the offer. "Only about 7 per cent of the US weapons supply to be destroyed will be handled at Johnston," he explained, with the rest being destroyed elsewhere. He appeared to have the impression, not shared by some other observers, that the nerve gas now stored in Germany will be taken by ship from Germany to the US,

shipped overland through the US, and then carried by ship again to Johnston. (The Pentagon refuses to tell journalists the shipping route of the nerve gas.)

Regarding economic development, Kabua was optimistic about the Marshalls' future in the fishing industry. He predicted that there would be an increase in the number of airplane flights from Marshall Islands to Japan and California carrying fresh tuna for the sushi markets in those places, and that Star-Kist would establish a facility in the islands.

Aquaculture also provides significant long-term opportunities, he said, "but we are not quite ready for that yet".

As to foreign relations, Kabua was upbeat. He said that a growing number of nations in the Pacific had recognised the Marshall Islands. Those countries include Chile, the Philippines and Indonesia, but that there were still difficulties with three major powers, France, Britain and Russia. All three are members of the United Nations Security Council, and each, in different ways, resists recognition until the Security Council formally approves the termination of the UN mandate. It is the policy of the US and the Marshalls that there is no need for Security Council action.

Kabua's next stop after Washington was Israel.

Why Israel? Was recognition or economic assistance at issue? He said he had been invited by the Israelis, that there were no aid programme in place, and recognition was not an issue. □

BOOKS

Voyages of discovery

Captain Cook and the Exploration of the Pacific, by Lynne Witney, William Morrow and Co., 512 Pages, index, \$19.95.

Reviewed by Beatrice Levin

IN the Spring of 1768, the Royal Society (England's prestigious association of scientists) planned an expedition to take astronomers to the South Pacific to observe a rare phenomenon, the passage of Venus across the sun's surface. In 1768, the Pacific was of major interest because the English had established supremacy at sea and secured control over most of North America. England would sponsor the voyage to observe the "transit of Venus" and to continue across the Pacific to chart lands still unknown to Europeans.

Two official observers of the voyage would be Charles Green, a 32-year-old astronomer, and James Cook, a 45-year-old non-commissioned naval officer who had devoted the past five years charting the Newfoundland coast. Cook had entered the Navy as a common seaman at 26. A self-taught astronomer, he served in several ships and worked his way from seaman to master. The man responsible for navigating the ship, Cook had the highest non-commissioned rank in the British navy.

European explorers had sailed to search for new lands for nearly three hundred years, primarily after riches. These voyages revolutionised European concepts of world geography in the discovery of North and South America, and the coasts of Asia and Africa.

Cook's special skills at navigation and mapmaking would be invaluable on the *Endeavour*, a 368-ton, 106-foot-long vessel, square, slow, well suited for an arduous voyage. Two artists, among the scientific team, would draw specimens that the naturalists collected. The *Endeavour* was provided with almost 35,000 pounds of bread, 2500 pounds of raisins, and among many other items, 40 bushels of malt and 7860 pounds of sauerkraut. The sauerkraut and malt were an experiment in hopes of preventing scurvy, the most common shipboard disease, caused by a deficiency of Vitamin C.

On April 4, 1769, the Englishmen had their first glimpse of land in two months. The *Endeavour* had reached Tahiti, where coconut and breadfruit trees, lush flowers and a profusion of plants grew everywhere. The author, Lynne Witney, says the sight conjured up "visions of paradise" — as well as visions of dominion. Tahiti, an Englishman wrote, "was the truest vision of an arcadia of which we were going to be kings . . ."

Of Cook, one of his officers, John Elliott, wrote: "He was Brave, uncommonly cool, Humane, and Patient. He would land alone unarm'd — lay aside his Arms, sit . . . and throw Beads, Knives, and other little presents . . . 'til he gained their friendship."

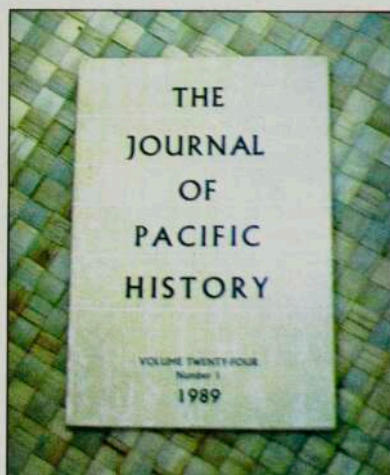
Cook used scientific techniques. He returned to Europe with remarkably accurate maps, specimens and drawings of native flora and fauna. He brought back descriptions of natives, and even a few of the people themselves.

Captain James Cook, commanding three round-the-world voyages within 10 years, sailed the Pacific from Antarctica to the Bering Sea, from the California coast to Australia. Cook discovered the

Hawaiian Islands, circumnavigated New Zealand, charted much of the Canadian and Alaskan coastlines, sailed close to Antarctica until locked in by ice, and recorded many islands earlier sighted by explorers.

Watching a young Tahitian girl undergoing her first tattoo operation, an officer recorded that these beautiful people did not have elaborate ornaments, but preferred to decorate their bodies with designs made by injecting a black dye under the skin. Exceptionally painful, the process required repeated injections with a wooden or shell comb lined with sharply pointed teeth. Many islanders spotted tattoos all over their buttocks, thighs and other parts of their bodies. Some of the sailors, while in Tahiti, submitted to having tattoos, taking home a souvenir and inaugurating a custom that lasted generations among seafaring men.

The English failed to understand how much religion meant to the Tahitians. The Tahitians had a hierarchy of gods



Better bargain

The Journal of Pacific History, Vol Twenty-Four, No. 1, 1989. Various contributors. Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia. \$A13.

Reviewed by Norman Douglas

WHAT can one say about the JPH, as most of its contributors or correspondents know it, that has not already been said, if not necessarily in the columns of this magazine? It is a survivor, having endured for over twenty years, albeit not without a crisis or two along the way, and in the academic world that alone says something about its worth.

Not all that much from outside the Pacific region has actually appeared in the JPH, however, and its editorial board and list of correspondents consist almost entirely of scholars — not all of them historians — who have made the Pacific Islands their academic speciality.

The current volume of 132 pages contains five long research articles on subjects ranging from the pawpaw's secret history (Robert Langdon), to Chief Justice in Tonga (Elizabeth Wood-Ellen), to Franciscan missionaries in the Sepik (Stephen Duggan). A section of notes and documents looks at Marching Rule in Solomon Islands, Jack Hides in the Kewa area of Papua New Guinea, and lists the archives of Augustinian Recollects who worked in the Marianas from 1843 to 1904.

An article on current developments deals with the Vanuatu elections of 1987 (well, it does take some time for academic research to appear in print), and the extensive book reviews, an extremely valuable part of this publication, cover eight recently released titles. Of these, the most interesting is Peter Hemenstall's deservedly generous description of *Upon a Stone Altar* by David Hanlon, a history of Pohnpei to 1890 which recently won the American Ethnohistory Association's award for the best publication of the year.

So your \$A13 can still buy some value in these tough times. Even better, an advertisement on page 132 announces that, in the interests of conserving space, the JPH is remaindering back issues from as little as \$A7.50 each if bought in 10-volume lots. Show me a better bargain than that. □



FORUM SECRETARIAT **VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be citizens of a *member country of the South Pacific Forum, for the following positions with the Forum Secretariat:

• EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Executive Engineer is responsible for the engineering management of all development projects under the Forum Telecommunications Programme (FTP) which is administered by the Telecommunications Division of the Forum Secretariat. He/She will also be responsible for preparation of forward plans for telecommunications development, the preparation of project proposals, and the assembly and updating of the Regional Telecommunications Funding Schedule and associated project dossiers.

Applicants who have a degree or diploma in Communications, Engineering or Science with evidence of specialisation in telecommunications engineering and extensive experience working for a telecommunications organisation.

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General Information

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Applicants should provide 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:

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Forum Secretariat
G P O Box 856
Suva, Fiji**

Telephone: 312600 Telex: 2229 FJ Fax: 302204/301102

Applications close on 15 August 1990 and all enquiries should be made to Ms Karen Sorby, Management Services Officer on 312600 Ext. 216.

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

BOOKS

and spirits, and believed that everything, people, plants, animals, even inanimate objects, had a kind of spiritual aura called *mana*, that flowed from the gods.

The good relations that Cook always tried to foster with natives — the European and the Polynesian, Maori, Melanesian, Australian aborigine, Eskimo, Canadian Indian, Patagonian — rested on a respect for human values, never on the false acceptance of any form of the supernatural, the godlike, or one people being superior to another.

At Christmas Island, (a turtle hunter's paradise), the Englishmen were astonished to find these people resembling the Tahitians and speaking a language remarkably similar to the Tahitian.

Historian Lynne Withey points out that Cook was not always a model commander but was often hot-tempered and severe with his crew and natives. His harshness on the third voyage may have been responsible for his murder.

The effects of the voyages of Captain James Cook were far-reaching both for the Pacific and for Europe. Those who followed Cook, William Bligh and George Vancouver were deeply influenced by Cook's methods and carried on his work into the closing years of the century. Struck by how much Tahiti and Hawaii changed in the few years between Cook's voyages and their own, Bligh and Vancouver observed the decline of population and the islanders increasing dependence on European products. Interisland warfare became more common and more deadly with the use of European weapons and ships.

So much European attention was focused on certain Hawaiian chiefs, Tu/Tynah/Pomare in Tahiti and Kamehameha in Hawaii that they achieved a degree of influence and prestige that played on their ambitions and encouraged them to extend their influence far beyond what traditional Polynesian political structures permitted.

The advantages that Pomare and Kamehameha had over rivals through these foreign contacts led to political power that would have been impossible without such aid.

Missionaries and traders encouraged chiefs to embrace western religious beliefs and European forms of law in preference to ancient native traditions. Tahiti, the Tonga, Society and Hawaiian Islands had the most complex social organisation in Polynesia, strong native leaders resistant to domination by outsiders and intelligent enough to use foreigners for their own needs. Later, England, France and the United States required the cooperation of native leaders to impose rule over the islands.

The opening of the Pacific brought change to Europeans as well as to the Pacific. □

PACIFIC PEOPLE



That's my girl: Lieutenant Olive Tava'i gets her gold bar from mum Lauolive and Congressman Faleomavaega.

West Point's only Samoan

A Pacific Island woman breaks into America's male-dominated military academy.

By David North

WEST Point, America's tough-as-nails military academy, is a historically male institution. American Samoa's is a male-dominated society. So the first Samoan graduate of West Point is likely to be a male, right? Wrong. She's Second Lieutenant Leafaina Olive Tava'i, and she's in charge of fixing trucks and guns for a unit of

the US Army stationed in West Germany.

While a few American Samoan men have made it through other US service academies, no Samoan woman had done so, and, to the best of anyone's memory, no previous Samoan of either sex had graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point. This is the institution which produced President Dwight D. Eisenhower and General

Douglas McArthur, among others.

Lt. Tava'i, now a career US Army officer, said she was born in Apia in 1966 to a Western Samoan mother, Lauolive Tava'i, and her American Samoan father, High Chief Kaleopa Tava'i. (The three of them have three different citizenship statuses, incidentally; her father is a US national, her mother a citizen of Western Samoa, and she is a US citizen, because the Army demanded it.)

The future Lieutenant lived in Apia through first grade, and then moved with her parents to Pago Pago. Third in

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a class of 250 at Somoana High School, she decided in her senior year there to apply to several Mainland colleges. She sent off applications to Lewis and Clark in Oregon, to Auburn in Alabama and to Brigham Young in Utah. They all accepted her.

But the high school student had heard from then Congressman Fofu Sunia that his office was looking for applicants to the military academies, so she had applied to them as well, sending off the results of her aptitude tests, and the physical examinations demanded by the academies.

She had almost forgotten about the academies, and had all but decided to attend Lewis and Clark, which had offered her a good scholarship and a pre-law course she wanted to follow, when the word came that she had been accepted by West Point. She learnt about her good fortune in an odd way — she heard about it while listening to the local television news. The Congressman's Pago Pago office, informed of her selection by Washington, had passed the good news on to the TV station, but had not yet called her about it. (Ever the diplomat, she would not be drawn into a conversation about what she thought of that notification process.)

The first step was a year at the West Point prep school, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, where she got ready for the rigors of West Point. Then, in the autumn of 1985 she became a plebe (freshman) at the big grey institution on the Hudson, a hundred miles north of New York City.

All Americans attending West Point encounter the cultural shock of the place, with its intense schedule, its high demands (both academic and physical), its military discipline and the first year of hazing. The hazing, which sometimes gets out of hand, is routinely a technique for forcing the newcomers, the plebes, to play a subservient role under constant social pressure; they must, among other pieces of forced behaviour, "hug the walls" in the corridors, Lt. Tavai explained, to stay out of the way of the upperclassmen.

"It teaches you how to survive," she said.

Whilst West Point is remarkably different from Mainland Americans, the Mainland was a different environment for Lt. Tavai, as well, so she, in effect, had to cope with two simultaneous cultural adjustments, to Mainland life and to West Point. (The ice and snow of West Point in the winter was another new element).

The Lieutenant did survive, though it was not easy, and she did not want to talk about her academic rank at the academy. Whatever it was, she did better than the quarter of the class which dropped

ped out, or was forced out, during the four-year grind.

"It was not so much the level of difficulty at West Point, it was the amount of work piled on you; we all had seven courses; you had to learn to manage your time and your priorities," she said.

When she graduated, in the summer of 1989, her mother made the 10,000 mile trip to the academy to pin her second lieutenant's golden bars on her shoulders; her father, being ill at the time, asked Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, to fill in for him at the ceremony.

After a welcome period of leave in Samoa, and a four-month course at the maintenance and logistics training programme at Fort Aberdeen, Maryland, the new officer was shipped out to her first assignment in the "real army", a job with the Third Infantry Division in southern Germany, where she arrived in January. She is in charge of the Automotive and Armament Platoon, (consisting of three women and 67 men) in Company B, of the 3rd Support Battalion of the Divisional Support Command of the 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd Infantry is posted near what used to be the Iron Curtain, and would be instantly in the heat of battle were there an East-West war.

Her company is charged with providing maintenance services to the First Brigade of the 3rd Infantry. Her platoon, working in a huge garage-like facility ("motor pool" is the military term), repairs M-16 rifles, .50 calibre machine guns, jeeps, trucks and tanks. When we talked she and her platoon were working long hours, trying to get everything in shape for summer manoeuvres.

Lt. Tavai likes Germany, but has not seen much of it yet, because "I usually have to work weekends". She is stationed in Schweinfurt, a small city in Northern Bavaria.

She has learnt a little German and wants to learn more. Has she ever had a chance to use her Samoan? Yes. She

found another Samoan woman in the American Army, a non-commissioned officer in a communications unit is stationed nearby. She was also born in Western Samoa.

Lt. Tavai has opted to live off-base, "in the local economy" as the military say, and has rented an apartment for herself from a German family. She is getting used to German food, as she got used to West Point food, but looks back fondly on a diet dominated by pork (available in Germany), bananas (a few varieties are imported) and taro (unknown in Germany).

What's next for Lt. Tavai? She is happy in the Army, and plans to make her career in the military. In May, 1991, if all goes as planned, she will become a First Lieutenant, and at some point a little later will move into the second-ranking job at Company B, when she will become the shop officer. (She will succeed another woman; both of them report to the company commander, another woman.) At the end of 1992 her three-year tour of duty in Germany will end, and she will go on to another assignment, probably in the Mainland.

Would she suggest that other women — other Samoans — go into the armed forces? "Yes, it's a good idea, if you like what you are doing," she said, adding that she adapts easily, and that this has helped her both in West Point and in Germany.

There is something of a military tradition in the family. Her father, during a 10-year-period before she was born, served in the US Navy, and one of her younger brothers, Fa'agi a 22-year-old E-5 (non-commissioned officer) in the Army, has just returned to Pago Pago after a tour of duty in Korea.

Maybe, coming from a family with a military history and being the eldest sister, with four little brothers, is good background for a woman army officer. It seems to be working in the case of Second Lieutenant Leafaina Olive Tavai. □

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The Centre invites applications from those interested in its Research and Visiting Fellows programme for 1991. Successful applicants will be picked on the relevance of their interests to the Centre's activities. Applicants without conventional qualifications will be considered on the basis of experience and research interest. For more information about the Centre's research programme and fellowships please write to:

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PACIFIC PEOPLE

INTERVIEW

ED RAMPPELL



Geoffrey Henry: Prime Minister, Cook Islands

COOK Islands Prime Minister Geoffrey Henry was first elected to the Cooks' Legislative Assembly in 1965. Since then, the avid sportsman and Victoria University (Wellington) graduate has served as head of the Cook Islands Party since 1981 and held numerous ministerial portfolios, including, briefly, the prime ministership in 1983. The 49-year-old father of six is from Aitutaki. He regained the prime ministership in 1989. He spoke to *Pacific Island Monthly's* Ed Rampell.

What kind of investments, business, and economic development would you like to see in the Cook Islands?

The main industry back home is tourism. With over 32,000 arrivals per annum at present — a high number — given Rarotonga's population of 9000 —

we're aiming for high yield market tourism, top quality stuff aimed at catering for the increasing visitor arrivals from North America, an already important marketing area. The fact that Hawaiian Airlines will double its weekly flights between Honolulu and the Cook Islands

reflects the development of our local tourism industry. My government recently concluded an agreement with the Sheraton Hotel chain to build a 200-room hotel.

That's the kind of area that we hope we'd be able to develop. We're interested in talking with people that have that kind of interest. We have marine resources as well, we're the proud owners of nearly 2 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone waters, third largest in the Pacific, including rich seabed resources. And there's a lot in that region worth developing. Another area offering considerable potential for investment is that of offshore finance. Since 1982, the Cook Islands has nur-

PACIFIC PEOPLE



New connections? Henry in Honolulu with Valerie Williams, of Pacific Islands Association; Bob Worthington, Cook Islands Honorary Consul; Ilima Piianaia, Director, Office of International Relations, State of Hawaii.

tured a strong, reputable and innovative industry, with exciting developments occurring regularly.

It is my government's policy to encourage reputable investment in the industry, and the potential in such new areas as the development of venture capital markets is limited only by the limits of one's imaginations. The Cook Islands already has first class telecommunications facilities on the main island and a programme is being implemented to link almost all 15 islands in the country by satellite communication in the next three years.

We'd be interested to talk to people who have these kinds of interest as well. And there are small markets, special type of marketing activities, investment activities that are available in agriculture, in horticulture, and so forth. For example, the Cook Islands was one of the major suppliers of ballet shoes to Australia [and] one of our outer islands exports a particular type of leaf *Maire* (Maile), for use in making [Hawaii] leis. Although the trade in *Maire* is relatively small at present, some CI\$52,000 per annum, it is, nevertheless, significant in local terms especially for an island which exports *Maire* and which has a population of approximately 500, and indicative of what can be done through imaginative investment.

However, investment [in general] must

be to the mutual advantage of all concerned, not investment at any price. Those interested only in a quick return on their investment profit will no longer be welcomed with an open arms reception in our region. There are many opportunities in the Pacific Islands for those with innovative ideas willing to forge a long-lasting partnership with island governments and they will be treated as friends, in the true spirit of Pacific peoples everywhere.

Will the Cook Islands receive support from the United States government's Overseas Private Investment Corp?

This is one area that I'm interested in. A project was raised with me . . . which could be ideal for an OPIC cooperation.

The Cook Islands and New Zealand have a unique relationship that has been a trendsetter, "free association". How does it operate?

It's an association that has floored all international jurists and lawyers because they're not able to go to the shelf, pull out the text book, and turn to the chapter on free association. It was a model devised by the Cook Islands and advisers from New Zealand. It was built around our own needs, our own desires, not so much the desires of the Committee of 24 of the United Nations, or even the desires of some groups in New Zealand who wanted to see the Cook Islands become either fully independent or fully

integrated with New Zealand.

What we have, in fact, is a relationship that is in between full integration and full independence, but much closer to full independence, because the ties we have with New Zealand are in areas of defense, our constitution vests that responsibility in New Zealand. In foreign affairs they are given a responsibility in that area. We also have the same head of state, the Queen of England . . . Annually, Wellington provides us with NZ\$8.9 million. Those are basically the ties.

But free association really means that either one of the parties in this relationship can walk away from it at any time. So, if we wanted to become fully independent, in terms of not having the same head of state as New Zealand, not having New Zealand look after our defense, not having New Zealand as a partner in external affairs or foreign affairs, we can walk away from that relationship if we wanted to, and so can New Zealand. Except in our case, the manner in which we walk away from that relationship is actually determined by the provisions of our constitution. We can't just simply say tomorrow we're going to become independent. We need to comply with the provisions of the constitution, which require that we have to obtain a two thirds support from the people, and then two thirds vote in parliament twice in favour of breaking the

PACIFIC PEOPLE

relationship with New Zealand.

There has been disagreement between Wellington and Avarua over the defense aspects, because of New Zealand's nuclear free policy. Does this difference still exist?

The differences were really more political or personality-bound than anything else. The fact of the matter, however, is that since New Zealand has found itself in the position where it's not longer a fully active participant in the ANZUS treaty, questions of our security must arise. Because quite clearly, when the constitution was drafted back in the early sixties, and our defense was vested in New Zealand, ANZUS was very much in existence, and must have been very much in the minds of the lord draftsmen at the time. Because let's face it, New Zealand can't defend itself, how could it possibly defend us? It had to be part of an umbrella security scheme, of which ANZUS was.

Since New Zealand has been either pushed, or it has withdrawn from ANZUS, the question of our security, of course, becomes very important. I've had a discussion with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Honourable Geoffrey Palmer, and he is intent on ensuring that we in the Pacific, particularly ourselves, Tokelau, and Niue, should not feel afraid in terms of security.

The Pentagon has a policy that it will neither confirm nor deny whether its ships are nuclear armed or capable, which conflicts with Wellington's anti-nuclear posture. Have US Naval boats been to the Cooks?

We have no problem with U.S. military ship visits. The Salvador has already visited and (last month) another boat will pay a call. There's a new situation down south.

Isn't this a breach of New Zealand policy and law?

It's definitely against New Zealand law. But New Zealand law doesn't apply to the Cook Islands. Only the laws accepted by the Cooks' parliament apply, but we have not accepted New Zealand's nuclear free stance.

Is independence on the agenda right now in the Cooks?

I can think of independence any time. Whatever any of us politicians may think, independence might prove to be an attractive road to go down. But the fact of the matter is, it's not on anyone's agenda, for the reason we cannot move unless the people, themselves, have that subject on their agenda.

The Cooks is neighbour to a superpower, France, which has a major presence right next door to you at French Polynesia. What's your relationship with Paris and Papeete?

The fact of the matter, of course, is that French Polynesians are our cousins,

and have always been that way.

The indigenous people?

Yes, indeed. The Tahitians are, in fact, part of the same stock of race, Polynesian people. We speak the same language, sing the same songs, dance about the same way, and enjoy life just as much. What has happened is, a political system has come between us. We're British on the one hand, they're French on the other. We speak English, they speak French. And the relationship has been — the languages, English and French, and their political systems, have tended to serve as a wedge that tended to widen the relationship between our two peoples



The Pacific Age: Henry speaks in Honolulu.

and countries. Well, I made a step to close that gap dramatically. I've spoken with the president of French Polynesia and the prime minister of France, and told them it's my intention to revive the close Polynesian connections of our two peoples and countries. The language is not going to make any difference to me. *What are your views on the nuclear testing at Moruroa?*

The same as that reported by the Tahitians themselves: they are upset with it, and so are we.

Have nuclear fallout, radioactivity, etc., from the atmospheric and underwater French tests, impacted on the health of Cook Islanders?

We have no medical evidence to indicate that such a thing has happened. No one has conducted a factual scientific study to show whether, in fact, whether

the diseases that have been the problem in the Cook Islands are directly related to nuclear testing in Moruroa.

There's talk of fish and food poisoning, but we have no scientific evidence that relates that directly to nuclear testing in the Pacific. Writers and thinkers such as Bengt Danielsson and his wife tend to draw those connections, the scientists that were sent there by New Zealand, together with Australians about 10 years ago didn't find that connection. Others have been to conduct their own tests and have not found the connection themselves. But that doesn't mean to say that the connection doesn't exist, all I'm saying, is we have no irrefutable data. *Does the Cook Islands receive aid from France?*

We're about to conclude a treaty of cooperation. We're keen to conclude that, and I understand that President Mitterand himself is also keen to make that treaty come into existence fairly soon. We are, in fact, talking aid with France, grants, as well as concessional loans.

Do you have a fishing surveillance treaty with France?

We're about to conclude an arrangement with the French government whereby the surveillance activities between French Polynesia and the Cook Islands can be coordinated and integrated by using our one patrol boat and their three patrol boats, as well as over-flying surveillance provided by their planes.

Any last thoughts?

We are now in The Pacific Age. The people of the Pacific Islands are determined not to be what some have called "the hole in the doughnut of the Pacific Rim" . . . Government and the private sector are in the process of making money: one is for accumulation and further investments, the other for equitable distribution. The region is ready for a joint venture between the two in order that each may in their separate efforts find a better place in the sun for the peoples of our region. □



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Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be citizens of a * member country of the South Pacific Forum for the above position.

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The **Climate Change Officer** will be required to provide advice on the latest information available about the greenhouse effect, its causes, effects and appropriate responses. Development of information suitable for public distribution through the media and other means will also be required.

Communication skills of a high order and relevant qualifications are essential. Relevant experience, particularly in the Pacific, is highly desirable.

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.

Applicants should address the selection criteria and provide 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 Manager Staffing
Australian International Development
Assistance Bureau
GPO Box 887
Canberra, ACT 2601
AUSTRALIA

Duties statement and selection documentation can be obtained by phoning Australia (06) 276 4019.

Applications close on 27 July 1990 and all enquiries regarding the duties of the position should be made to Mr Chris Wheeler at the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau on (06) 276 4609.

Enquiries regarding the conditions of employment including salary should be made to Ms Karen Sorby at the Forum Secretariat in Fiji on phone number 31 2600, extension 219.

* MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Australia, Cook Islands,
Federated States of Micronesia,
Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands,
Naomi, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea,
Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu,
Vanuatu and Western Samoa

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KEH-M3002QR

Auto-Reverse Cassette/Receiver with Multi-Play CD Controls

- Power output: 25W x 2 or 15W x 4 (max.)
- Supertuner™
- 24-station (18 FM/6 AM) presets
- BSM (Best Stations Memory)
- Dual-groove SHC head
- Quick-Release System
- Multi-Play CD Controls:
 - Program Play (Instant Track Program)
 - Random Play on 6 discs
 - Repeat (Track/All Discs)



"Flip-Down" Protective Cassette Door (during cassette eject or insertion)



CDX-M50

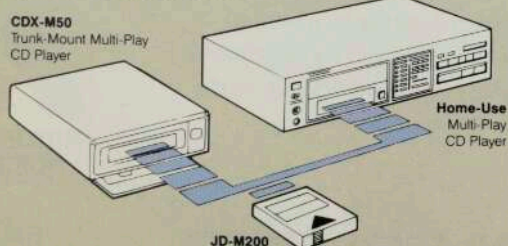
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- 6-disc magazine loading
- AMPS (Automatic Magazine Program Selection)
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- Protection against heat and dust
- Ultra slim profile
- Versatile Horizontal/Vertical mounting system



Note: The CDX-M50 can be easily connected to units incorporating an amplifier, such as the KEH-M3002QR, and a set of speakers for complete system integration.

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For further information, please contact:
Australia: Pioneer Electronics Australia Pty. Ltd. (Incorporated in Victoria), 178-184 Boundary Road, Braeside Victoria 3195 Tel: 580-9911
Fiji Islands: Brijal & Company, G.P.O. Box No. 362, Suva, Fiji Islands Tel: 22258

New Zealand: Monaco Corporation Ltd., 41 Poland Road, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand Tel: (09) 444-9144
Norfolk Island: Burnt Pine Traders Ltd., P.O. Box 21, Norfolk Island
Vanuatu: Burns Philp (Vanuatu) Ltd., Vila, Vanuatu
Nauru Island: Jacob Enterprises, P.O. Box No.4, Republic of Nauru
Tahiti: Tahiti Hi-Fi, P.O. Box 848, Papeete, Tahiti

New Caledonia: Menard Pacifique Sarl, B.P. 3899, Noumea, New Caledonia Tel: 27-62-23
American Samoa: Transpac Corporation, P.O. Box 1477, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799 Tel: 633-5224
Rarotonga: South Seas International Ltd., P.O. Box 49, Rarotonga, Cook Islands Tel: 2327

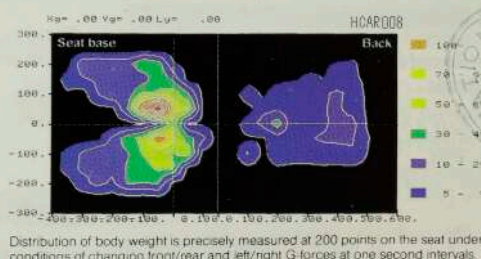
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