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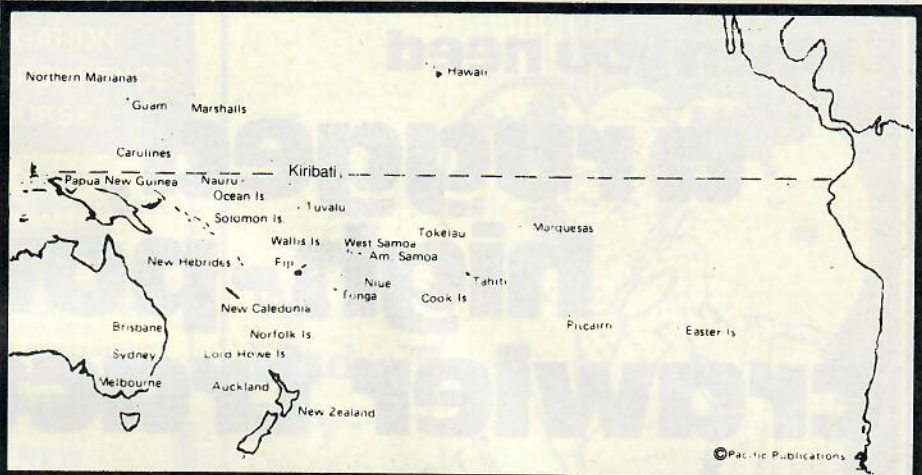
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Cover: Linda, a performer at Nett Cultural Center, Ponape, in repose. Photo: Harry Hargett

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More on the reluctant missionary

I entirely agree with Nigel Krauth (PIM, Aug, p 6) that the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies should be concerning itself with the present as well as the past, though perhaps in the field of factual material rather than that of fiction.

I doubt whether the institute is, in the long run, doing a good turn to Papua New Guinea creative writing by providing a sheltered workshop for PNG's novelists and a subsidised publishing channel for their novels. This kindly process deprives them of the kind of 'tough editing' which Nigel Krauth admits John Kolia's work stands in need of.

Some sort of a case could, no doubt, be made for giving this kind of aid to beginners in the art of novel writing, though it should be noted that our pioneer PNG novelist, Vincent Eri, managed very well without it and finished up in the Penguin list.

But John Kolia, currently the acting director of the institute, is not a beginner. *My reluctant Missionary* is his fourth novel, and it is surely time for this writer to be thrown in at the deep end and left to sink or swim.

Nigel Krauth suggests that commercial publishers have lost interest in PNG. If so, I think that their interest would be quickly revived if a new novel of the calibre of Vincent Eri's *The Crocodile* appeared in their in-trays.

Nigel Krauth accuses me of a lack of sympathy with 'dis-trought humanity'. Not so. I could have very much sympathy with John Kolia's Judy as a reluctant christian. But a reluctant missionary is a contradiction in terms. One does not, or at least one should not, try to convert others to a faith one is not sure about oneself.

Nigel Krauth refers to the

'policy' of the institute. I find this hard to gauge; but I notice that out of 10 publications listed back of the title page of *My Reluctant Missionary*, no fewer than seven are by John Kolia. Of the remaining three, only one is by an indigenous Papua New Guinean.

John Kolia is, of course, quite entitled to write what he likes, and to get it published if he can. But I am one of a number of PNG taxpayers who would like to be reassured that public funding of the institute is not being used to subsidise the publication of such highly tendentious fictional material.

PERCY CHATTERTON

Port Moresby
PNG

'Reflections by a Coral Reef'

I wrote the attached poem very late one Saturday night when I was teaching on Guam back in 1974-1976. It summed up a few of the changes a Statesider like me had to get used to, from phones not working, to drivers passing you at 90 mph on the street shoulder, to no buses or public transport, to learning that one had to live with all of these 'O.O.G.'s' (only on Guam's).

Now that I am living the quiet life of a graduate student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, it seems a shame that there is no one I can share my little poem with any more who could enjoy the meaning of life on an island in Micronesia. If possible, I would appreciate it if you could print my poem in your magazine. It seems a shame to let it sit in a drawer in Boulder, when there are so many Islanders who could appreciate the little differences that make island living so unique.

MARILYN KAMINSKI

Boulder
Colorado
USA

'REFLECTIONS BY A CORAL REEF'

To the tune of 'Home on the Range'
By Marilyn Kaminski
Sunday, Nov 23, 1975, 2.45 am.

- Oh, give me a land,
Where the snowstorm is banned,
And tropical breezes blow sweet.
Where never is heard,
"Yon comes an iceberg!"
And you never wear shoes on your feet.

CHORUS: Guam, Guam in the sea,
Oh, you look awfully good to me,
Though you go far and wide,
You will just find your stride,
Takes you back to the island of Guam.

- You eat Australian beef,
And get high on a reef,
And the mountains inspire you to heights.
Though it always is hot,
It's a pretty nice spot,
From the dawn to the tropical nights.

CHORUS.

- How could anyone lurk,
Where the telephones work,
And they take the mail right to your door?
Where the houses are brick,
Without louvres to click,
It's so easy it must be a bore.

CHORUS.

- And how could you take,
No coral to make,
Your car wheels skid from lane to lane.
Few mosquitos or boonie cats,
And there are no fruit bats,
Or many earthquakes or typhoons with rain.

CHORUS.

- Oh, how could you live,
Where a bus ride would give,
You a look at too many pale faces?
Where subways go fast,
And the radios blast,
Twenty stations from the world of rat races.

PIM regrets that space problems preclude us from publishing the final four verses of reader Kaminski's pome,

And trusts she is now settling down in her far-off Colorado home.

That 'Pacific Quebec' again

In the past, local politicians in Tahiti and New Caledonia have occasionally protested against the hypocritical stand of their 'home' government in Paris which is all for the independence of French Quebec but refuses to grant more freedom to its own 'territories' in the Pacific.

A former French journalist, Daniel Tardieu, who lived for some time in Tahiti in the early 1970s, has now added, in a letter published in PIM, June, a new twist to the Quebec Saga — by twisting the facts.

In his view, the only problem is the 'incorrect' attitude of the English-speaking peoples of the Pacific, the editor of PIM and us, the under-signed correspondents of the magazine, towards 'the French-speaking

islands, with their population of some 320 000 people' who are all perfectly happy with the present system of government.

The simple truth, of course, as everybody knows, is that in the whole of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and the Wallis group there is not a single island where the French language is the commonly spoken mother tongue of the majority of the inhabitants, who are either Polynesians or Melanesians. And how does Mr Tardieu arrive at a population figure of 320 000? Even if we leave out the New Hebrides, as he has obviously done, because of the embarrassing fact that they will soon achieve independence, the total is definitely wrong. As for Mr Tardieu's contention that the majority of peoples in the French possessions are not in favour of independence, it is flatly contradicted by the recent territorial elections in New Caledonia, the only ones so far where independence was the main issue. Not less than 82.5% of the Melanesians voted for independence. What the figure would be in French Polynesia, if a similar choice were given to the Islanders, is anybody's guess.

Certainly, there can be found in some of the large islands a varying number of French officials, troops, nuclear test technicians, gendarmes, businessmen, planters, missionaries, and so on. But to equate the situation of these minority groups with that of the compact majority of French Canadians living in Quebec, as Mr Tardieu does, constitutes a deliberate attempt to create confusion in the minds of PIM readers, to say the least. Incidentally, if any valid comparison between Canada and the South Pacific can be made at all, these 'French-speaking Islanders' are rather matched by the cordially detested 'English overlords' in Quebec.

Having fabricated a totally fictitious 'Pacific Quebec' consisting of 320 000 French citizens, Mr Tardieu makes a strong plea for a more tolerant attitude, meaning a hands-off policy and no criticism of the

old-fashioned colonial methods, from the governments and mass media in the so-called English-speaking part of the ocean. It must therefore have been a rather chilling experience for him to read in the June issue of PIM, immediately after his own letter, what the most conservative and well-disposed statesman in this 'English' half of the Pacific has to say on this subject: 'New Zealand's Prime Minister Robert Muldoon has spoken of the "growing difficulties" faced by France in the South Pacific as "the major French colonies, New Caledonia and French Polynesia, become more and more restive in aspiring to independence". He said New Zealand's position was that it wished "to see in due time a wholly independent South Pacific" ...'

As for ourselves, we shall continue to report as correctly and completely as possible, in spite of all the pressures, threats and abuse to which we are subjected, all major events in French Polynesia.

MARIE-THERESE and BENGT DANIELSSON

Papehue
Tahiti

What are the Games all about?

One can expect that the South Pacific Games will eventually develop towards the point where it will be too expensive for any of the Pacific Islands countries realistically to stage them.

What are the South Pacific Games all about anyway? Surely they at best can be called a third-rate gathering of sporting aspirants who will never make the grade in the Big One. The Big One is the Olympics — not the ex-British Empire's second-class Olympics called the Commonwealth Games. Our local Pacific-style mini-games should be called a friendly get-together.

Many participants are not the nationals of the country they represent. Surely this must stop! What is the point of sending a New Zealand golfer, or Australian tennis player, to represent Papua New Guinea at Suva? Does this mean that PNG has no national golfer or tennis player of sufficient stan-

dard to represent this country? If this is the case, then surely no one should represent Papua New Guinea in that sport!

The size of any contingent can easily be limited by setting minimum standards, and limiting participants to nationals of each country — and none of this 'four years residence rule' nonsense, either.

Participant numbers can also be limited by looking hard at the type of sports covered. In particular, sailing stands out to me. Ten years ago the boat selected was a Fireball; a good boat, capable of being built by the sailor for much less than K1000 then. The committee then selected the Laser — K1200 or so, professionally built only. Now they have moved into the big class — Hobie Cat 16s — more than K2100 (\$US3000) in PNG. This is an expensive class. Has the committee ever considered what chance any national has (certainly in PNG, but probably every other place too) of ever owning or sailing a Hobie 16? PNG can't even boast one national boat owner who races regularly — so perhaps the selection committee could have a second thought about boats.

Why not eliminate sailing unless it is done in a lakatoi? I'm serious. Port Moresby sails up to 80 of these each weekend. But if that type is not widespread in the Pacific it would be unfair to select lakatois.

It seems to me the Games have run their predictable course and should be stopped, on account of the cost/benefit analysis. The cost is great and just what benefit does anyone but a select group of (often expatriate) second-rate sports aspirants get from such expensive hoo-ha?

Boroko
PNG

JOHN GARDNER

Goodbye Tim!

PIM has always had an unsurpassed reputation for predicting forthcoming events as well as its ability for exercising an impeccable sense of timing. There is no better illustration of this than the message that appears on pp 34-35 of August PIM.

Dr Tim Kuberski, who has



Clever PIM's message for Tim. (See the letter from Zim.)

been the epidemiologist with the South Pacific Commission for the past two years, is about to leave that post to return to the United States. During his time with the commission, Dr Kuberski has contributed considerably to the SPC's health programme. Dr Kuberski has been held in high regard by both Pacific Island and overseas medical workers who will all be very sorry to see him leave the SPC. PIM could have found no better way to farewell him than with the message on that double page Sansui advertisement.

PAUL ZIMMET
Associate Professor

Southern Memorial Hospital
Caulfield, Victoria
Australia

Sharing his Holiday Love Affair

As if I had not told enough people yet! Friends, workmates, neighbours and even an assorted group of patients in the doctor's waiting room, but here I go again, talking about my recent ocean voyage to the Pacific Islands.

Here I was on the mature side of 50 about to start a new extension of my life as a winemaker, — a consultant, — but my wife decided that she wanted to experience a sea cruise. I had just never got around to it. In any case, I had worried about wasting the time and money, being seasick, and of having to attend the cap-

tain's cocktail party, and Bingo nights.

But there I was doing all the 'done' things, like having a cabin party, throwing streamers and waving farewell as the white liner pulled away from the wharf at Sydney Cove. With some 800 other passengers I was embarked on my first sea voyage.

Life on board was not how I had envisaged it at all. I very quickly developed an affection for the ship, and the atmosphere made all of us friends. The ship's roll was a gentle roll. It was luxury afloat, with port breaks to ensure that the luxury is appreciated. Returning to the ship was like 'going home'.

The crew, intent on providing service, succeeded magnificently, and nowhere was this more apparent than in the dining room. Entertainment was virtually continuous — and there was broadening of the mind with lectures. Certainly the time never dragged, and I even made it to the Bingo.

Having served in the New Guinea war zone in R.A.A.F. aircrew during World War II, I was anxious to experience again the real tropics and the real jungle, and I was more than satisfied. Fiji, New Hebrides and New Caledonia stirred the memory, but my real return was in the Solomon Islands, in a jungle setting with a Guadalcanal Museum organised by the Solomon Islanders — very sad, but satisfying.

The various market places visited and the happy natives —

I do not know why one always says "happy", but it seems synonymous with the Islanders — met my anticipations. However some islands are showing signs of "commercialism". This is a great pity and should be curbed by the authorities. The sight of native children begging was fortunately not common, but it did occur.

I found life on board particularly pleasing because, at approximately half the Australian price, I battled on with a daily bottle of 1973 vintage Moët and Chandon champagne — another pleasant side benefit of the trip.

It is neither right or proper to presume that my friends will enjoy the same vacation, but I have been boldly recommending a life on the ocean waves to all and sundry. After all, a 14-day cruise 'away from it all' to the South Pacific without a blemish must create some loyalty in me.

R. W. 'SCOTTY' IRELAND
Boat Harbour
NSW
Australia

Questions for Mr Malandain

I find it surprising that Bernard Malandain of the French Embassy in Fiji has been extremely quiet of late on French nuclear testing. Why has he, who has so often defended these tests on the grounds of their harmlessness, had nothing to say on the July 25 explosion at Moruroa? With the South Pacific Games now well under way, Mr Malandain should be seeking maximum publicity for the humanitarian benefits of French nuclear tests.

Could it be that the South Pacific Games participants, particularly those from French Polynesia, might just react 'dangerously' if a debate on the question were going on now in the Fiji papers?

One thing is clear: history does not teach the French rulers anything. French nuclear experimentation is like those developments which in 1946 culminated in 'Operation Crossroads', an operation which, according to the US military governor of the



French biologist Jean Rostand ... 'every increase in the radioactive dose, however small, increases the possibility of a mutation'

Marshall Islands at the time, involved experiments designed 'for the good of mankind and to end all wars'. And yet three decades later the innocent inhabitants of Bikini and Enewetak are still plagued by these 'humanitarian' American experiments!

Marie-Thérèse Danielsson (PIM, Aug, P5) raises six questions about nuclear testing. I am also anxious for Mr Malandain's answers. And, in the interest of truth, I would also ask the following of Mr Malandain:

(1) An explanation and justification, on humanitarian grounds, of the underground explosion of July 25.

(2) An explanation of the accidents which occurred on Moruroa on July 6, which incidentally killed two and injured four.

(3) To deny the claim of French biologist Jean Rostand that 'every increase in the radioactive dose, however slight it may be, enhances the possibility of a mutation'.

If France has a conscience then its leaders must immediately put an end to its testing programme. The peoples of the Pacific can no longer tolerate the 'official lie' (Monod, Nobel Prize-winner). In the words of Albert Schweitzer, 'those who claim that these tests are harmless are liars!'

For Pacific peoples, it is imperative that the French Government is confronted so that it will take heed of Nelson Anjain's words (PIM, Aug, p14). A magistrate who, unlike Malandain and his colonial cohorts, has acquired wisdom

from history! And though Anjain speaks specifically of US deception, his words are just as applicable to French betrayal of the true peoples of French Polynesia and the Pacific.

'For me and the people of Rongelap, it is life which matters most. For you it is facts and figures. We want our life and our health. In all these years ... you've never once treated us as people ... you've never sat down among us, and really helped us honestly with our problems ...'

Suva
Fiji

J. J. HERMAN

Once more on that word 'Fijian'

I belatedly came across PIM's July issue and I am prompted to express to you my disappointment with Laz Vusoniwailala's article (p13) advising other races to become 'Fijian' in order to solve the national identity problem. Your readers certainly deserved more enlightening analysis and solutions than vague statements such as 'walking the same road (to) evolve a set of shared values and perceptions of the meaning of life'. I wonder whether there is any validity in the belief that we indigenous Fijians have identical 'values' and 'life concern'?

On the one hand, Laz Vusoniwailala wants a plural society, but then enjoins other races to make sacrifices 'to become Fijian'. People can't choose the culture they are born into, hence a person of Indian stock cannot miraculously transform himself into a native Fijian any more than Mr Vusoniwailala can choose to become an American Indian in Washington! The suggestion is not only impracticable but also culturally arrogant.

Instead of asking their races to do the impossible, why shouldn't native Fijians make the sacrifice, and allow every citizen to adopt that name? After all, it is not an indigenous word because it was what our former colonial masters chose to call us. If the natives are sincerely an 'accommodating

people' then why shouldn't such a gesture in the interest of national unity be made?

Mr Vusoniwailala put the cart before the horse when he said that the lack of a common name in Fiji is a result of a lack of national consciousness. On the contrary, there is as strong a sense of national identity in Fiji as in any other country but what is lacking is the political will on the part of the present leadership to come to terms with the question of a common name. It had been raised many times before and was always fobbed off with lame excuses such as Fijian opposition or the lack of a nice-sounding, widely acceptable alternative name.

So far, no attempt has been made to find out by survey, poll, or referendum what the general populace actually thinks. It seems that the Fijian leaders prefer to leave the matter in benign neglect because they can't afford to bury old political myths about Indian designs to grab Fijian land etc, as they still have their political use nowadays for arousing ignorant suspicions and false fears for the purpose of maintaining political support.

If the natives' possessiveness about the name 'Fijian' cannot be ignored or dispelled by rational argument, then why not circumvent the issue by having the country adopt a new name altogether?

The different groups can retain their present racial identification and strengthen the sense of belonging together by a new national name. There are numerous countries in the world that discarded their old colonial names without any difficulty and the best examples are Fiji's neighbouring countries such as Kiribati and Tuvalu.

With the races in Fiji now more than ever divided as a consequence of disputes over entry to the University of the South Pacific, and within the major political parties, the time may be right for the leaders to do at least something positive that will not cost much financially and is in everyone's long-term interest.

J. D. VARANI

Wellington
New Zealand

Pacific Report

NEW HEBRIDES SETTLES CONSTITUTION

A vitally important step along the New Hebrides' painful path to independence was taken in September when the country's constitutional planning committee unanimously agreed on a constitution for the new republic. This agreement clears the way for elections to be held on November 14, with independence slated for the first half of 1980. May is tipped as the most likely month. (See PIM's exclusive background report beginning p13.)

FIVE PNG JUDGES STEP DOWN

Five of the eight judges of Papua New Guinea's National Court have resigned in the wake of the country's controversial 'Rooney Affair' (see p17).

HISTORIC TREATY FOR US, KIRIBATI

The US and Kiribati have signed an historic treaty in which the US renounces its previous claims to 14 islands in the Line and Phoenix groups, and which contains provisions for widespread co-operation, including joint economic ventures between Kiribati and American Samoa (see p20).

SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN SESSION

The 1979 annual South Pacific Conference was meeting in Papeete, Tahiti, as PIM went to press. Stuart Inder, editor and publisher of PIM, was in Papeete for the conference and will report on its work in PIM December.

SECOND PNG MINISTER GAOLED

Papua New Guinea's National Planning Minister, John Kaputin, was gaoled by the National Court for 10 weeks with hard labour in mid-October for disobeying a court order to produce an annual report and other documents of the New Guinea Development Corporation within a stipulated period. Mr Kaputin is chairman of the corporation which is owned by villagers in New Britain. He is the second PNG minister to receive a gaol sentence in recent weeks. The Justice Minister, Mrs Nahau Rooney, had been sentenced to eight months imprisonment a month before before contempt of court.

TENSE SCENES IN NOUMEA

Riot police and pro-independence demonstrators faced each other in Noumea for two hours during September 24 celebrations to mark 126 years of French rule in New Caledonia. About 800 demonstrators, mostly Melanesians, had marched from a park where they had been authorised to hold their only public meeting on the day of the anniversary. They were confronted in a narrow street by police armed with batons, teargas and riot shields. A delegation of protesters was taken to see French officials. The rest returned to the park to continue their meeting. Several kilometres away, the highlight of the anniversary celebrations — a parade by about 800 French soldiers, sailors and airmen — was watched by about 2000 Melanesians, Europeans and Polynesians. Among those impassively looking on were 100 riot police flown in specially from Paris for the occasion. In Suva on the anniversary day about 500 chanting demonstrators occupied the French embassy and hurled abuse at the charge d'affaires Bernard Malandain. They were led by the New Caledonian Kanak independence leader Pastor Jubily Wea, and members of a leftwing Suva-based group, the Pacific People's Action Front. Earlier in the month, 70% of New Caledonia's schools were closed by a strike in protest at the sacking of three Melanesian teachers. In one demonstration six people were seriously hurt and 18 arrested. Riot police used teargas and batons to break up the 200-strong demonstration.

FRENCH EXPERTS CONFIRM N-ACCIDENTS

A scientific investigative party sent from France at the insistence of the territorial assembly confirmed late in September that there were two unrelated accidents at Mororoa on July 5 and 25. Two men died in the first accident when acetone gases exploded in an underground laboratory. The second occurred when a bomb stuck partway down an atoll shaft and was exploded, causing a tidal wave which injured seven people on Moruora.

Scientists insisted neither event brought radioactivity hazards and said defence secrecy was the reason for initial official denials of the accidents. The bomb explosion was obviously massive as Wellington recorded 6.3 on the Richter scale at that time. (See PIM reports on both incidents, Sep p7, Oct p23).

TUVALUAN ISLANDS ON HARD RATIONS

Tuvalu's outer islands had a near famine in September because the country's only ship, the MV *Nivaga*, was in dry-dock in Suva for overhaul. Imported foodstuffs ran out and people on four of the islands were said to be existing only on local produce. Three islands had resorted to rationing. 'In spite of this problem,' reported the *Tuvalu News Sheet*, 'life on the outer islands seemed to be jolly-well fun'.

DEOKI FIJI'S NEW A-G

Andrew Deoki, Fiji's former director of public prosecutions who emigrated to Australia three years ago, has been named by Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as the country's new attorney-general. He took over from Sir John Falvey in October. Sir John, who resigned from the job in 1977, had been temporarily doing it following the dismissal of Sir Vijay Singh (PIM Sep p7).

FIRE DAMAGES PNG LONDON DISPLAY

A fire in September partly destroyed Papua New Guinea's permanent cultural exhibition in London. PNG's high commission reported that about K15 000 worth of artifacts were damaged when the fire broke out in the PNG gallery of the Commonwealth Institute.

NEXT GAMES IN APIA, 1983

The South Pacific Games Council has approved Western Samoa's request to postpone the Seventh South Pacific Games to 1983 from the planned date of 1981. The unanimous decision was taken following Western Samoa's plea that the extra time was needed for preparations.

MARSHALLS TIE TAIWAN KNOT

The government of Marshall Islands will establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan when the US trusteeship ends in 1981, according to a report in the *Honolulu Advertiser*. Other Micronesian groups are expected to follow suit.

STRIKE ACTION HITS KIRIBATI

Newly independent Kiribati in September was in the throes of a strike which disrupted ferry services between Bairiki and Betio, overseas air flights, and some essential services, and resulted in the sacking of a number of workers. A trade union covering government workers on Bikenibeu, Bairiki and Betio ordered its members, including co-operative federation workers, to strike in protest at the alleged forced retirement by the public service commission of an employee, Highland Muller. Later, about 100 of the sacked unionists marched to the president's office to petition for their reinstatement.

POPE UPGRADES MICRONESIAN VICARIATE

Pope John Paul II has raised the apostolic vicariate of the Caroline and Marshall Islands to the level of a diocese, the apostolic delegate in the United States announced. The Pope named Nishop Martin J. Neylon, a US Jesuit who has been serving as vicar apostolic since 1971, as first bishop of the new diocese.

PNG SEEKS OVERSEAS HELP ON FORESTS

Papua New Guinea's Department of Commerce is calling for applications from overseas companies or groups to manage three forestry development corporations. The corporations, owned jointly by the government, the respective provincial governments and the people of the areas to be logged, plan to harvest by selective logging 160 000 ha in Sagarai-Gadaisu (Milne Bay Province), 70 000 ha in Kumusi (Northern Province), and 95 000 ha in Umboi (Morobe Province). The contracts for three management teams of four to eight persons will be for an initial period of five to eight years and production for each corporation is expected to reach 7000 to 10 000 cubic metres a month over about 20 years of logging.

CHURCHES URGE NC INDEPENDENCE

The Pacific Conference of Churches has supported a call for independence of the Melanesian people of New Caledonia. In a September statement, the PCC said its support followed 'unanimous action' taken last month by the 45-member synod

PACIFIC REPORT

of the Evangelical Church in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. It was the first time the church had gone on record supporting Melanesian independence. The statement urged member churches and related organisations 'to bring the Evangelical Church's statement to the notice of their governments' and to make 'special prayers for all the people of New Caledonia in this critical time of tension and difficulty'.

US REAL ESTATE AGENTS ACTIVE IN PACIFIC

American real estate agents have been busy in Kiribati and Fiji offering land for sale in the United States and their sales talk has prompted an American official to issue a warning through PIM. 'It is folly,' he told PIM in Sydney, 'to invest in real estate in America unless the would-be purchaser has seen the land. Some land dealers are genuine but some land being offered, especially in states like Texas, is desert and certainly not a sound investment.' The people of Nuito and Nanumanga in Tuvalu have bought land in the USA offered for sale at \$US5000 an acre by a part-Tuvaluan, Mr Bula Tokotasi O'Brien, who is employed by the firm Human Resources and Development Inc of Majuro in the Marshall Islands. The people of Nanumea in Tuvalu, who also bought land, have decided to cancel contracts, the *Tuvalu News Sheet* reports. Mr O'Brien was in Tuvalu in September with Californian real estate Mr Sidney Gross. Mr Gross has invested more than \$554 000 of Tuvalu's money in the United States at an interest rate of 15 per cent and is helping Tuvalu to establish a fishing industry. Mr Gross told the Tuvaluans during his visit in September (PIM Oct p7) that their investment had already earned them \$31 560.50 in interest.

1980 SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE IN PNG

Papua New Guinea's National Executive Council has agreed to host the 1980 South Pacific Conference, probably in one of the provinces outside Port Moresby. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Ebia Olewale said the success of the recent South Pacific transport ministers and civil aviation and shipping conference held in Mt Hagen proved that major conferences could be staged outside Port Moresby.

HAS THE US STOPPED LOOKING FOR N-DUMP?

The US Ambassador to Western Samoa, Mrs Anne C Martindell, has said that the US Government has 'halted' plans to find a Pacific island or atoll which could be used as a dump for nuclear waste from such countries as Japan, Korea and Taiwan (PIM Oct p23). The Apia newspaper, *The Observer*, quoted her as saying: 'We realise it's a sensitive issue since France has been testing its nuclear bombs in the area. This is why we have immediately stopped the studies of the islands.' However, an October report from Washington said that the US and Japan have agreed to 'look further' into a proposal to store nuclear waste on a remote Pacific island. The report said talks in Tokyo between senior officials had resulted in both sides moving towards a decision on whether a full-scale feasibility study was warranted. Each government would now examine such factors as the cost of research, and whether it is prepared to pay for it.

SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES IN THE BLACK

The South Pacific Games Committee will make a profit from the 1979 Games, despite earlier fears that there would be a loss. Committee treasurer John Creighton said he was sure the committee would do better than break even, mainly thanks to the soccer and rugby finals. Creighton said that during the two finals, more than \$20 000 was taken at the gates for each of the games, not including money raised from sales of season tickets. Basketball and boxing also helped as money-raisers. Other sports chipped in, but to a lesser degree. Timesball, the *Fiji Times* — Qantas FunRun and other fund-raising bodies made valuable contributions. Creighton said more than \$500 000 had been put down as expenditure.

FIJI PARTY OFFICIAL RESIGNS

The secretary-general of Fiji's ruling Alliance Party, Senator Akanisi Dreunimisimisi, has resigned her position. Earlier, Prime Minister Ratu Kamisese Mara had told the senator he could not continue working with her. He said he had been concerned about a flow of information from Alliance headquarters without his knowledge. The senator had also been asked about rumours concerning the prime minister circulated at the height of the Sir Vijay Singh affair (PIM Aug p31).

FAO PLAN TO HELP FISHERIES

A new programme established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation aimed at helping fisheries development in countries with extended ocean fishing limits could greatly benefit many Pacific Island nations and territories. Announced in August by the Rome-based organisation, the programme covers every aspect of fisheries management. According to FAO, more than 90 nations now have extended sea limits, many of them up to 200 nautical miles, as opposed to eight countries only 12 years ago. Nearly all Island nations in the Pacific have established their own 200-mile fishing and economic zones.

ADB ANALYSIS OF ISLANDS AGRICULTURE

'Pacific Agriculture — Choices and Constraints' was the theme of a report on the South Pacific Agricultural Survey, a pioneer project of the Asian Development Bank. All seven South Pacific developing member countries (DMCs) of the bank — Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Western Samoa — were covered in the survey. A sub-regional seminar will be held in Apia in January to discuss the survey's findings. Major matters to be taken up include: the need for increased adoption of the plantation mode of management for major crops, and the associated need for new forms of landholding; shortage of rural labour in some areas and consequent need for capital-intensive development; the generally poor state of the coconut industry; the need for rural service centres and for co-ordination of transport and agriculture; problems of providing services/facilities for populations in economically non-viable places; the role of government in national development, including the key role national development banks; and the scope for regional co-operation, especially in the field of marketing.

OLEWALE AT TAHITI INDEPENDENCE RALLY

Papua New Guinea's Deputy Prime Minister Ebia Olewale absented himself from a dinner for delegation leaders at the South Pacific Conference hosted by the French High Commissioner in Papeete in October to attend a pro-independence rally instead. The rally was organised by four small local political parties advocating independence. According to press reports, he was rebuked for his action by Australia's Minister for Productivity Ian Macphie. Mr Olewale calimed Mr Macphie had told him he had 'encouraged the people to revolt against France', and added: 'What nonsense, I just told them that we supported their demands for independence.'

\$55 000 FOR A TUVALU PASSPORT?

The Tuvalu Government is considering a suggestion from Californian real estate dealer Mr Sidney Gross on how to raise \$27 million by selling citizenship to stateless people. Mr Gross, who is handling Tuvalu's financial affairs in the United States, saw Prime Minister Toalipi Lauti in Funafuti in September and outlined the scheme by which Tuvalu passports could be sold to about 500 stateless families at \$55 000 each. Opinions in Funafuti are mainly against the scheme, arguing that such a scheme would upset Tuvalu's cultural, social and economic balance. Some fear international terrorists would be 'in the market' for such facilities. Mr Gross has also asked for a Tuvaluan charter to open a bank.

TONGAN ROYALS IN NZ, AUSTRALIA

King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and Queen Mata'aho of Tonga made state visits to both New Zealand and Australia in October. The visits followed invitations issued during celebrations of the King's 60th birthday last year.

EXPANSION FOR FORUM LINE

The Pacific Forum Line is to open offices in Suva and Wellington. By February next year the line plans to have disposed of its conventional ships and have three new roll-on-roll-off container ships in their place.

RESIDENT AUSTRALIAN HICOM FOR APIA

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrew Peacock has announced the appointment of Allan Deacon as Australia's first resident high commissioner to Apia, Western Samoa. Previously Australia's high commissioners to Fiji were accredited to Western Samoa.

DIPLOMATIC TIES FOR W. SAMOA, INDONESIA

Indonesia and Western Samoa are to establish diplomatic relations. Indonesia becomes the 26th country with which Western Samoa has such relations.

Vila's 'political miracle': A New Hebrides constitution

Hailed as 'a marvellous minor political miracle' by the British resident commissioner in the New Hebrides, Andrew Stuart, the success in September of the country's constitutional planning committee in reaching agreement on a constitution for the soon-to-be independent republic is one of the most important developments in Pacific politics for some time. In the article below, a PIM correspondent who was in Vila during the final stages of the committee's work, and in a position to observe this work closely, backgrounds the momentous events which have cleared the way for general elections in the New Hebrides on November 14, and for New Hebridean independence in the first half of 1980 — with May widely tipped as the most likely date.

As dawn was about to break on the morning of September 19, 1979 over Vila, New Hebrides, the constitutional conference was still deadlocked over two questions on the constitution. One concerned the powers to be vested in the regions or districts, and the other the method of adoption of the constitution. After a long, intense and emotional debate, the conference resolved these questions, and thus cleared the path to general elections on November 14 and independence to follow as soon as the question of the powers to be vested in the districts of Santo and Tanna is resolved by the new representative assembly. The new assembly will have considerably more powers than its predecessor; and its election and the installing of the new council of ministers will clearly mark the establishment of self-government, with only defence, currency and certain aspects of internal security reserved to the metropolitan powers.

The conference, at which the French minister Paul Dijoud and the British minister Peter Blaker were participants, was the culmination of several months of work by the constitutional planning committee. The boycott by the Vanuaaku Party, generally acknowledged to be the majority party, of the 1977 elections to the assembly produced an impasse in the country. The assembly, elections to which produced no contest, consisted entirely of francophones, variously labelled as the moderates, or

federal party. The council of ministers came from the same group. The legitimacy of the assembly and the council was questioned from the very beginning. Meanwhile, the Vanuaaku Party carried its earlier boycott to what it considered the next logical step — the establishment of a provisional independent government, which was facilitated by the thinness of administration on the ground and the overwhelming support for VP in some parts of the country. The impasse was broken by the VP agreeing to call off its own government, and to join with

the moderates in a council of ministers as the government of national unity. Given the history of New Hebrides politics, the GNU was an inherently unstable body, and was unable to provide the momentum towards constitutional progress that was expected of it.

The impasse was further broken by an important initiative of Paul Dijoud in February 1979 when he visited Vila. He then lifted what was generally referred to as the French veto on independence. But he insisted that the country must first prepare and adopt a constitution for independence, be-

fore the 'unrepresentative' assembly was dissolved, and fresh elections held, a position which was contrary to that of the VP, who considered that elections and a genuinely representative assembly were prerequisites to the preparation of the constitution. Dijoud went on to make suggestions for constitutional provisions: bilingualism, proportional representation, and decentralisation or powers, all concerned to ensure suitable minority protection. Further, he set a tight time table. The council of ministers, assisted by two foreign experts, were to prepare the draft constitution, to be submitted to the metropolitan powers in June, and then referred to a referendum. Under his proposals, independence could well come before the end of the year.

The Dijoud Plan met with considerable opposition, apart from that of the VP. Many complained that the time table was too tight, and, more importantly, the francophones became nervous at the imminence of independence implicit in the proposals. Thus, when the constitutional advisers came there was considerable confusion about, and some measure of opposition to, the proposals. The idea of a referendum had already been dropped at the behest of the GNU, but precisely how the constitution would be adopted was unclear. The two advisers were Professors Yash Ghai and Charles Zorgbibe, the former with considerable experience of constitutional work in the Pacific, the latter with none.

Professor Ghai's analysis appears to have been that the fundamental problem was not the drafting of a constitution but creating the conditions for



British Minister Peter Blaker (left) makes a point to his French counterpart Paul Dijoud during their September visit to Vila for the successful conclusion of the New Hebrides constitutional conference. Nabanga photo.

national unity. There was no doubt that the country was deeply divided, but the divisions were the result of the condominium. It was important that the New Hebrideans should transcend these divisions in order to find the true basis of unity in their common Melanesian heritage. In many ways this was the last opportunity for them to find the basis of unity, and so Professor Ghai reportedly urged the council of ministers, the different parties, churches and chiefs to expand the membership of the body charged with the basic responsibility for drafting the constitution, so that its deliberations would begin the process of healing the national wounds, and the constitution would enjoy greater legitimacy. The constitutional planning committee was thus established in early April, on the initiative of the New Hebrideans and owing nothing to the metropolitan powers. Although its legal status was ambiguous, it was as representative a body as it was possible to put together in the circumstances, and the success with which it was established was an early indication that if the New Hebrideans were left to themselves, they were capable of resolving their differences in an amicable way.

Once the CPC took on board the task of drafting the constitution, the vast majority of its members worked diligently and honestly. With the help of option papers prepared by the consultants, the committee held long debates on various aspects of the constitution, debates which showed a sure grasp of the problems of the country and which were evidence of the wish of the members to find common ground and to understand the points of view of other sides. As the discussions proceeded, they cut across party lines. There was very quickly agreement on a parliamentary system, but there was considerable controversy as to whether there should be a 'constitutional' or executive head of state.

Two of the most difficult issues were the system of elections, the moderates wanting proportional representation, and the VP wanting single-member constituencies, and



the powers to be vested in the districts or regions (the term preferred by the moderates). The latter issue threatened to abort the committee's work of many months, and was not resolved until the last minutes of the conference.

There was a wide measure of agreement on the judiciary, public services, languages and land. It was also easy to find agreement on citizenship, despite at one point a rather rigid and racist line taken by the British Government (withdrawn later when it was discovered that there was little in the proposals of the CPC which need arouse the wrath of the Enoch Powells).

The conference concluded with the decision that the committee would travel round the islands to explain the constitution to the people and seek their views on it. The committee would then reassemble in Vila when the two resident commissioners would sign the constitution on behalf of their governments, and it would then come into effect on the eve of independence. Despite some of the attacks which have been made on the constitution it is generally acknowledged that it is very democratic; it provides for free and fair elections, and the government will always be responsible to the unicameral parliament. The judiciary is completely indepen-

dent, and the Supreme Court is the final arbiter of disputes about the constitution and responsible to ensure that constitutional rights and guarantees are respected. The constitution protects the fundamental human rights of all citizens, and provides for the establishment of an ombudsman to investigate complaints of maladministration, discrimination, etc. The status of English and French as official languages is preserved, and Bislama will become the national language as well as an official language. There is to be a council of chiefs with the primary responsibility to safeguard and promote custom and tradition, and with important consultative functions in respect to certain kinds of legislation, including land.

On land, the constitution provides a basis for the return of alienated land to the indigenous people and enables the government to exercise greater control over land transactions than before.

One issue the constitution does not resolve definitively is decentralisation. The committee was unanimous in its support of the need to decentralise, but there was disagreement on the extent of decentralisation and the procedure to determine this. An overwhelming majority wanted the question to be re-

Four o'clock in the morning of September 19 — the conference is over. From left: British Minister Blaker, Chief Minister Leymang, Deputy Chief Minister Walter Linl, French Minister Dijoud. Nabanga photo.

solved by the new Assembly after receiving the report of a special commission; a small minority wanted regional powers agreed at the conference and entrenched in the constitution.

The ultimate compromise was that the assembly would retain the power to make the decision on the devolution of powers to the regions and islands, but that Santo and Tanna would elect their regional assemblies on the same day as the general elections, and these would enter into negotiations with the central government on the powers to be devolved, leaving the final decision on the assembly before independence. All in all, the constitution provides suitable guarantees for all groups, and in particular the French-speaking 'minority'. It is clear that each group has had to make compromises in order to reach agreement.

The constitution is therefore not only a considerable technical and political achievement of the committee, but it is also evidence of the fact that the New Hebrideans are capable of solving their own political differences, especially if the

metropolitan powers do not interfere unduly. There was a strong suspicion among the members of the committee that on issues on which it was difficult to get an agreement, one or the other metropolitan power was inciting a small minority to be recalcitrant. Despite such interference, which the 'cognoscenti' freely acknowledged, the committee succeeded in its mission.

The ultimate success of the committee can only be judged over time, but it can be stated that its work has truly laid the basis of national unity, fragile though the basis may be. It was the view of many observers that the work and the spirit of the committee may have brought about a qualitative change in the politics of the New Hebrides. Under the patient and gentle chairmanship of Father Leymang, the committee worked on the basis of consensus, which meant in practice that even one member of the Committee could hold up agreement on any point. There was therefore a strong incentive to concede points, to compromise and to persuade rather than to threaten. The debates helped to clear the air, and better understanding of the points of view of the different groups by others was established. It was clear that the political groups could no longer be facilely divided into anglophones and francophones. Many prominent francophones co-operated with the VP, while among the moderates there were at least two anglophones. A very positive role was played by the

Tabwamesaana-Nakamal alliance. Many observers were impressed by the sense of responsibility and maturity shown by the VP, not least by those members of it who have been constantly attacked for being 'communists' and 'Marxists'.

A factor which ultimately facilitated co-operation among the New Hebrideans was their realisation that if the matter was left to the metropolitan powers, the interests of the New Hebrides would be poorly served. They realised that the NH was a small pawn in the game of international relations, including the EEC, that Britain and France conduct with each other, and that this pawn would be lightly sacrificed. Those who saw the supine performance of the British minister would have been more than confirmed in their suspicions. Few expect that the two metropolitan powers will now desist from their intrigues. Yet others may decide to try to divide the leadership of the VP in their mistaken and simplistic belief that a few communists exist who should be isolated. Unless these outsiders want to see an area of instability in the Pacific, they would be well advised to let the New Hebrideans get on with the already difficult task of national integration and unity without external sabotage.

If the urge to carry on the Battle of Waterloo is too strong, they should be told to carry it on elsewhere, as Professor Ghai stated in his farewell message to the committee.

Mrs Rooney won't go back to Justice

Received just as PIM went to press, the following story from Angus Smales in Port Moresby brings Papua New Guinea's 'Rooney Affair' up to date to mid-October. Smales' background account, written earlier, begins on p17.

Although the immediate crisis posed by the Rooney affair has passed, its repercussions and long-term effects are still with Papua New Guinea. Mrs Rooney is still a member of cabinet, but without portfolio, and Mr Somare has made it clear she will not be getting back the justice portfolio.

For the time being Mr Somare himself is continuing to act as justice minister, and he has given no indication of who will eventually take over the portfolio and of what responsibilities in cabinet will be given to Mrs Rooney.

Mrs Rooney has lodged a non-legal appeal process against her contempt conviction, approaching a statutory committee known as the Advisory Committee on the Powers of Mercy which is headed by the United Church Bishop of PNG, Bishop Ravu Henao. The committee has power to recommend to cabinet full or conditional pardons or remissions of sentences.

It is believed the committee has already formally recommended that she should be pardoned, but the matter lies with cabinet and no statement is expected before November.

In any event the decision — although no doubt of profound personal importance to Mrs Rooney — has little bearing on the chain of events which brought so much criticism on the government.

One of the major manifestations of the criticism was a wave of unrest through at least nine Papua New Guinea gaols, including confrontations with warders, destruction of property, mass escapes, and clashes with police who replied on three occasions with teargas.

Four weeks after order was restored in the gaols more than 100 escaped prisoners were still free (500 were free at one stage) and it is now doubtful that they will all be recaptured.

Mr Somare has established a committee of inquiry to look at

what happened in the gaols, and it will be chaired by a senior magistrate, Joseph Iramu.

Its terms of reference will include whether there was collusion with some warders in the events, and whether the media and organisations outside the gaols helped to promote the trouble.

The parliamentary opposition has criticised the terms of reference on the grounds that they ignore what the opposition sees as the real source of the trouble — the government's action in overriding its own judicial processes.

In the long term, Mr Somare says cheerfully that his country has not been damaged by what the government did and he denies strongly that his government has interfered with judicial processes.

The judges carried out their duties correctly and properly, he says, there was no interference with them, and the government subsequently made a decision which it believed was fitting.

Mr Somare says there was no need for the judges to resign, and he will have no hesitation in appointing other Australian judges if necessary. 'In fact there are already telephone calls and letters for me from suitably qualified people,' he said a few days ago.

But Mr Somare has also indicated that some of the new appointments to the bench will be from Papua New Guineans.

Two names unofficially tipped are those of the present secretary for justice, Kubera Los, and the former law reform commissioner Bernard Narakobi.

The first of the present judges to be leaving PNG will be Mr Justice Pritchard in December, and the others will probably leave in March and April next year.

Mr Somare does not expect to announce new appointments until about February.



Custom demonstration in Santo organised by the moderate parties to bring home to visiting ministers the parties' concern that regionalism and custom did not figure largely enough in the draft constitution. Nabanga photo.



POLITICAL CURRENTS

MICRONESIA: NEW FACES

For the many people in the Pacific who have difficulty keeping up with political developments in the US Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, here is a brief guide to the four new states slated to succeed to control of its 2000-plus islands spread over 7.7 million square kilometres of the Pacific when the US trusteeship expires in 1981.

• **Federated States of Micronesia:** In the central area of the trust territory, the districts of Yap, Truk, Ponape, Kosrae and a large number of atolls will form the FSM. Ponape's Kolonia will be the capital. Land area: 108 square kilometres, population 65 000 (approx.).

• **Marshall Islands:** In the east of the trust territory, the Marshall Islands will have an independent political set-up. The government centre of Majuro has about 8000 population. Land area: 179 square kilometres, population 25 000.

• **Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas:** In the northwest of the trust territory. About 12 000 people live on Saipan, the main island. All inhabitants of the commonwealth will become US citizens in 1981. Land area: 471 square kilometres, population 15 000.

• **Republic of Belau (formerly Palau District):** In the southwest of the trust territory. Government centre Koror. Land area: 461 square kilometres, population 13 000.

US, KIRIBATI SIGN PACT

A treaty of friendship between the Republic of Kiribati and the United States was signed in Tarawa in September. Signing on behalf of their nations were President Ieremia Tabai of

Kiribati and Mr William Bodde Jnr, Director of Pacific Island Affairs of the United States Department of State.

A witness to the signing was Mr Peter Tali Coleman, Governor of American Samoa, who accompanied Mr Bodde to Tarawa. Governor Coleman represents the US in the joint administration of Canton Island and in any future joint ventures based on Canton.

The island is one of 14 in the Phoenix and Line groups to which the US has relinquished all claims in the new treaty of friendship. The relinquished islands are Caroline, Christmas, Flint, Malden, Starbuck, and Vostock, all in the Line group, and the atolls of Birnie, Gardner, Hull, McKean, Phoenix and Sydney, and the islands of Canton and Enderbury, all of the Phoenix group.

In the treaty the two governments agree to consult on matters of mutual concern and interest and to promote economic and social development. They also agree to consult concerning any military use of the 14 islands by third parties, and that facilities constructed by the US on Canton, Enderbury and Hull islands would not be used by third parties for military purposes without US agreement.

Mr Bodde said the treaty looked forward to especially close and friendly co-operation between American Samoa and

Kiribati, using the American-built facilities on Canton island for joint fishing ventures.

WHEN CUSTOM, LAW CONFLICT

'The term "political crisis" is frequently over-used,' writes Mike Field in Wellington's *Evening Post*. 'But what other expression could be used when a nation faces the possibility of having almost all its elected representatives in a criminal court dock?'

Despite the many differences, the Western Samoan situation discussed by Field also has telling parallels with recent developments in Papua New Guinea.

In a lengthy review of recent events in Western Samoa, Field notes that the root of the issue was a series of judgments made earlier this year by a New Zealander, the country's Chief Justice Bryan Nicholson, concerning charges of 'bribery' and 'treating' in the country's February elections.

He writes: 'In 1963 Western Samoa's legislative assembly enacted an electoral act which was taken almost word for word from a similar New Zealand act. Although banning corrupt practices like bribery and treating, in the words of one lawyer, the members who passed the act gave little or no thought to the conflict that could arise between the act and the *fa'a Samoa* ... a catchword

to describe traditional customs in the country.

'The conflict remained virtually unnoticed until in February this year the country's 10 000 *matais*, extended family heads and the only people entitled to vote, went to the polls to elect 47 members of the new legislative assembly.

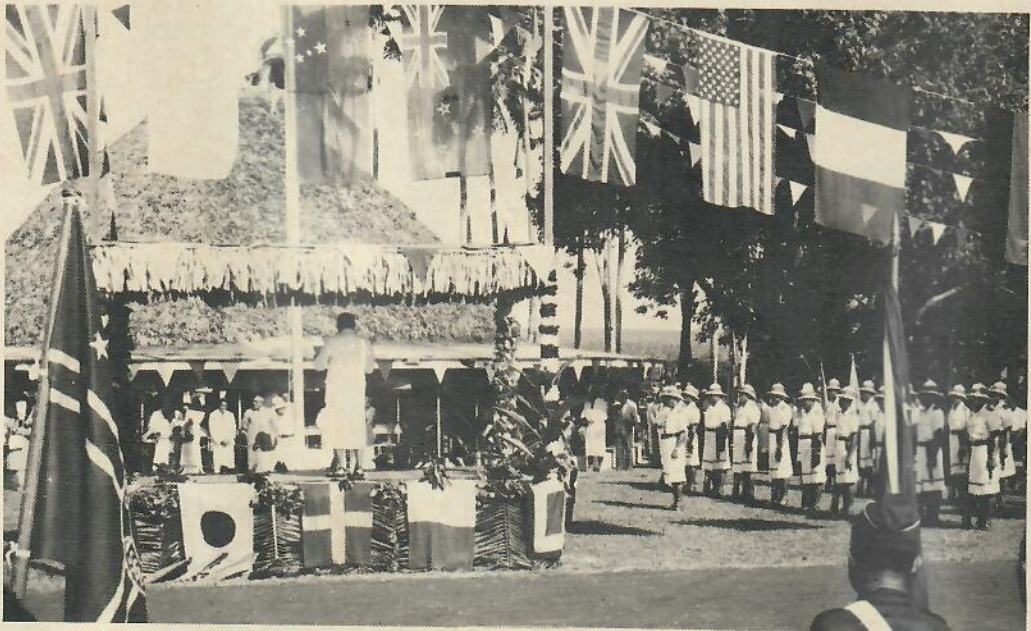
'In many constituencies voters only total about 200 people, and margins between candidates can average out at about five votes. In spite of warnings from electoral officials, a great deal of money, food and alcohol was handed out by candidates to likely voters.'

Field records that in one court challenge an unsuccessful candidate, Frances Moore, charged that a successful candidate, George Lober, had committed corrupt electoral practices by handing out food and beer at election meetings.

Field writes: 'In his judgment, Mr Nicholson noted that Moore had served home-made cordial and sandwiches as refreshments at her meetings. This, he said, could not be seen as an attempt to induce voters.'

'But Lober, in handing out beer and kegs of salt beef, went "far beyond the category of light refreshments".'

Field sums up: 'Since Western Samoa's independence celebrations, 1962 ... after 17 years, second thoughts on some institutions.'



POLITICAL CURRENTS

independence 17 years ago, Samoa's Westminster system has apparently worked well. Problems have arisen, and it would seem that inexperience has meant that the implications of some bills have not always been fully thought out. One obvious example is the electoral act.

'In a way, it has been the inexperience of a Westminster style of government that has produced the problems.

'An interesting moral problem comes with the issue. Samoa is run by an elite, the *matais*. The *matais* themselves wrote out the rules for themselves. Now, suddenly, they do not like the rules and apparently will not follow them. In a way the issue strikes at the very basis of parliamentary democracy.

'There are more shocks to come. Shortly after becoming prime minister three years ago Prime Minister Tupuola Efi established a commission of inquiry under the chairmanship of a former prime minister, Tupua Tamasese Lealofi IV.

'Late last year the commission reported back to government, but because of the pending elections, Tupuola did not make the report public, even though other commission reports had been made public.

'The reason for the secrecy is that the commission apparently recommends that Samoa scraps *matai* suffrage, and instead goes for universal suffrage.

'In an atmosphere of "corrupt practices" none of the ruling class can afford to have such a recommendation made public.

'Samoa's politicians are not "criminals"... Nor are they the innocent victims of a circumstance which has meant that the *fa'a Samoa* can be seen as a crime. There is evidence that many of the politicians were trying to see how far things could be pushed.

'What is now taking place is part of the cut and thrust of Samoan politics which has suddenly found itself in something of a bog. The year's events are a tough test for the adopted system. From what I have seen and reported in over two years



in Apia, I believe the system will probably survive with some modifications. The personalities may not...'

'NO DISSENT HERE'

In this delayed report from Papeete, Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson relate some of the behind-the-scenes doings during the July visit to Tahiti by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing:

The teller of this rather unpleasant tale is a member of the legally constituted Socialist Party of French Polynesia, *Ia mana the nunaa* (Power to the People), which is fighting for independence from France and an immediate stop to all nuclear testing. Its programme has attracted a rapidly growing number of Polynesians who, during the June general elections, gave the party 10% of the total vote. This is what happened to two dozen of its activists on July 18-20:

'On the day the president was due late at night, we gathered in our party headquarters to paint anti-colonial and anti-bomb slogans on banners that we planned to display in various places where he was to speak. While we were at work we saw through the windows that a large number of policemen and seven police

cars had surrounded the building. We nevertheless went ahead with our task, as the law certainly does not forbid a citizen to express his opinions freely in public, provided he does not disturb order or block traffic.

'At 4.30 pm the first batch of banners was loaded into the car of one of my comrades who set off on his way home. He was soon overtaken by a car which forced him to stop, while three other cars came up behind. The occupants were all plainclothes policemen who opened the rear door of my comrade's car and read the slogans on a few of the banners. One of them then climbed into his car and ordered him to drive to the police station. The chief inspector interrogated him briefly, told him that he was not allowed to display any banners and locked him up in a cell. His repeated requests to be allowed to phone a lawyer or his wife were turned down.

'Fortunately, a sympathiser who had witnessed his capture informed us about what had happened, and our party secretary hurried over to the police station to find out what the charges were. He was told that our comrade was detained as a "safety measure", in order to protect the president of the republic, and that the inscrip-

Gendarmes surround would-be demonstrators during French President Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Papeete. (See 'No Dissent Here'.)

tions on the banners were "offensive".

'Our secretary next phoned the public prosecutor and protested in vigorous terms against this illegal detention and against the police encirclement of our party headquarters. As a result, our comrade was at long last released, at 8.15 pm. The banners were kept by the police.

'Having been told by the public prosecutor that the police siege of our headquarters had been carried out by order of the French High Commissioner, our party secretary tried to phone him, but was told that he was too busy to take the call. To prevent the policemen from breaking into our headquarters and stealing the remaining banners, two of us kept watch inside all night.

'The following day we gathered again, this time 24 men strong, at our headquarters, from where we marched, with our banners neatly rolled up, to the de Gaulle monument, where President Giscard was to lay a wreath. We assembled peacefully on the adjacent parking lot, which was reserved for onlookers. Almost immedi-

ately a police car drove up and out stepped an officer who asked us what we were doing there. We replied that we were there, like everybody else, to demonstrate our feelings towards the president. He asked us to show him the slogans on our banners, but we refused, saying that they were not for him, but for the president. He shouted back: "No demonstrations are allowed here!"

'We retorted: "Then you ought to chase away all the people standing here with French flags in their hands. By waving these flags, they're also demonstrating their feelings towards the president." The police officer seemed quite puzzled by our bent for logical reasoning and called up the French High Commissioner on his car radio to obtain spiritual comfort and guidance. His

boss's reply was so loud that we could all hear it: we were to be taken straight to gaol before the president appeared on the scene. The police officer made the mistake of invoking the law, for we were very eager indeed to hear which law or regulation it was that forbids a citizen from standing in a public parking lot to demonstrate his disapproval of the policies pursued by the government. He was, of course, unable to quote any precise law and therefore decided to tackle, without further delay, a task he was better equipped for: he beckoned to a squad of about 40 police and the drivers of two big vans to come over and fetch us.

'Well aware that the slightest resistance on our part would be an extremely welcome pretext for beating us senseless, we let them herd us into the vans. We

were driven to the police station, where 10 of us were packed into a two-man cell, while the remaining 14 were locked up in a slightly more spacious one. There was only standing room in my cell and the heat almost suffocated us. We asked for a little water, but this was refused, as well as our requests to be allowed to go outside to urinate.

'In the meantime, as we learned later, our wives had phoned the public prosecutor who seemed surprised by this new, illegal detention. They told him that they were all going to Place Tarahoi, with our children, at the time when the president was to deliver his key speech and heckle him until we were released. Since all 36 journalists and radio and TV reporters who had come out from France to cover the

great event were present such an eventuality appeared so distasteful in ruling circles that we were soon liberated.'

Let us only add that the *Ia mana te nunaa* group, much wiser after this harrowing experience, eventually succeeded in displaying a few banners before the eyes of the startled president when he was returning from a visit to historic Point Venus. However, none of the metropolitan journalists witnessed the incident. Since they were, of course, kept in complete ignorance of the other abortive demonstrations, nothing was ever published in the French and foreign press to tarnish the official image of the beloved president receiving the unanimous homage of the happy inhabitants of French Polynesia. This, after all, was the main aim of the whole police operation.

The case of the agitated scientist

A few months back I was working away in the Hamilton Library in Hawaii, writes a PIM correspondent from Honolulu. I gradually became aware of the presence of a neighbour who was leafing in a rather agitated manner through reference books on the Pacific Islands, including the Pacific Islands Yearbook.

His search seemed to be getting him nowhere, and his evident exasperation grew accordingly. Eventually, the librarian introduced him to me, suggesting that I might possibly be of some help.

It turned out that my rather frantic neighbour was a scientist employed by one of the United States nuclear agencies, and that he had a profound interest in questions of the sovereignty of various islands in the Pacific, especially the smaller coral atolls.

He referred to an old map which showed that the US had formal claims to most of the northern Cook Islands, to Tokelau, to many of the islands of Kiribati (then still the Gilbert Islands) and of Tuvalu (formerly the Ellice Islands). The map also showed that

there was a sharing of sovereignty between the US and Great Britain over Canton and Enderbury Islands. He didn't hesitate to trot out the old chestnut of the US Guano Act of 1856, and took some convincing that the US did not indeed have any territorial rights, as suggested by that act, over the Cook Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu or sundry other Pacific Island nations.

I was curious as to why a gentleman in his position was making such inquiries, and I asked. His reply was that the US had entered into agreements with countries like South Korea and Taiwan according to which, in return for certain provisions safeguarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the US would undertake to dispose of nuclear wastes from these countries.

Because this was a federal matter it was virtually certain that no state within the US, including Hawaii, would sanction the dumping of these wastes within their territories. Therefore, it was essential to find some place or places over which the US had some claim, which were not incorporated within the US, where nuclear waste dumps could be set up. The argument then went that isolated coral atolls seemed to offer the best solution — an attitude that would certainly be challenged by the many people who are familiar with, and have been moved by, the examples set by the exploitation, for the purpose of developing nuclear weapons, of such places as Bikini and Moruroa.

I was naive enough to suggest that the US in fact did have some isolated islands over which her claims were undisputed. For instance, there was Johnston Island, which had already had a role in nuclear testing. Couldn't it be used? Oh no, came the scientist's reply, that would never do. Johnston Island was already being used to

store chemical warfare elements . . .

After this memorable personal experience, I was immensely gratified to learn of the firm attitude of opposition taken by Pacific Island Leaders at the July meeting of the South Pacific Forum in Honiara to tentative US plans to store nuclear wastes in either Midway, Wake or Palmyra (PIM September).

Perhaps it is appropriate at this point to recall an Associated Press despatch from Washington early this year which stated that the 'US Army plans to blow up 26 deteriorating land mines containing deadly chemicals, exploding them in place at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah'. The then US Secretary for Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph A. Califano, was quoted in the despatch as saying: 'It is clear that the existence of these land mines is a cause for grave concern. Because of their deteriorating condition and their exposure to the elements, their continued existence poses an ongoing danger to public health and safety.'

them with international connections to make, were over-nighted in Santo and flown out next morning at 6 am on the same Trislander which had returned at 7 pm with the Nagriamel chief the night before.

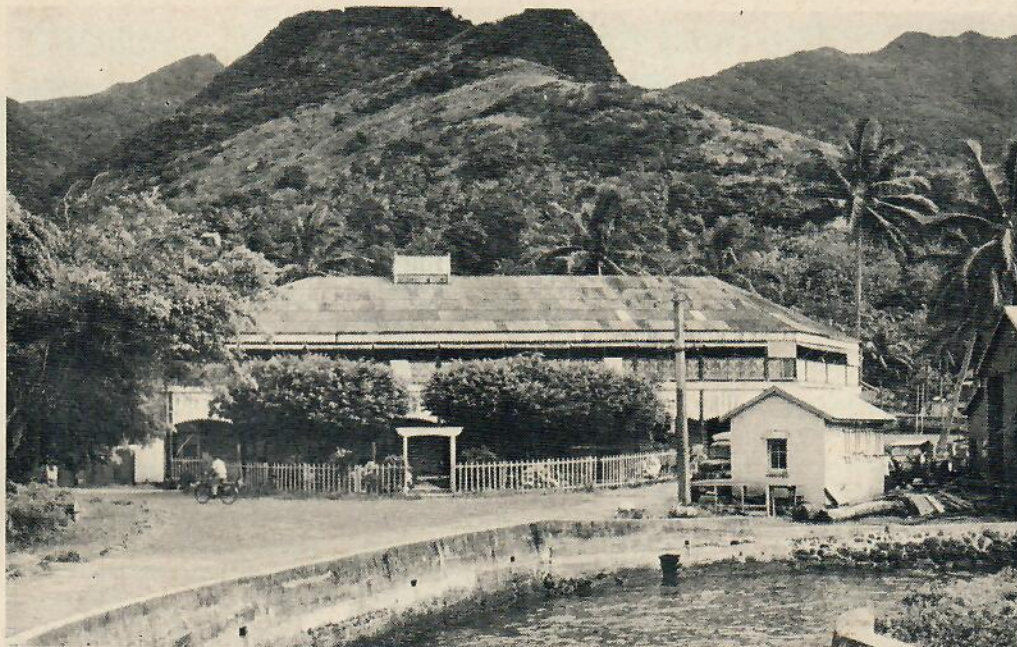
The French Government picked up the tab.

'It certainly demonstrates how "free" Air Melanesiae is to have their fare-paying passengers treated in this cavalier fashion.'

A hot time in the old town

Residents of the charming old Fiji capital of Levuka, on the island of Ovalau, have been horrified at the news that permission has been granted for the erection of a nightclub in the town. The Levuka Historical and Cultural Preservation Committee in September held a special meeting, and fired off a unanimous protest to just about everybody likely to help put a stop to it.

The nightclub was first mooted a year ago, and the locals thought they had knocked it on the head at that time.



The problem is that Levuka people have in recent years begun to take seriously their Historical and Cultural Preservation Committee, which was formed to preserve the charm of the old capital. They have recently, after two years, successfully got a guarantee that the old Morris Hedstrom building on the waterfront will

be preserved as a public museum-cum-library and meeting room, thanks to the co-operation of the owners of the building, Carpenters Ltd, and the government, which has given the lease of the land on which the building is standing. The National Trust of Fiji, which is now responsible for the building, is currently work-

ing on plans for its use and the townspeople can now see it really is possible to safeguard their historic heritage.

The nightclub is proposed for just along the street, opposite the fish canning

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and life of
your boat.**



1979 International Year of the Child



freezer and factory. The town attracts Asian fishermen who supply the factory after spending weeks at sea.

The public meeting was told that the nightclub would be seen as an open invitation 'for this gentle and historic town to become the happy hunting ground of prostitutes, pimps, standover men and drug operators.'

Levuka on September 2 held successful celebrations for the centenary of the famous Levuka Public School — the oldest school in Fiji. Guest of honour was the school's most distinguished son, Ratu Sir George Cakobau, who spoke of 'the town's calm that refuses to be hustled by pressure or self-importance', and whose 'serenity rubs off on all who live in Levuka for any length of time.'

Historic BP get-together

For the first time in history, at least in living memory, there was a convivial gathering at the head office of many retired members of the Burns, Philp family, with some of the longer-serving current members of head office staff, on September 19. It was a move towards more human relationships with the company's loyal servants. Mr David Burns, the chairman, explained that he had been trying to initiate such a meeting for some years, to give the retired members a feeling of belonging to the family, and it was obvious that although some had left the company nearly 20 years ago, they still appreciated the wel-

come extended to meet their old friends in head office.

Most of the 70 people present, of whom 16 were ladies, had joined the company about 50 years ago; the oldest admitted to 88 years — Mr Lee, the secretary for many years.

Not all those present had served in the Islands, but there were some stalwarts from New Guinea, including Bernie Ryan of Lae, Monty Stobo, George Clarke and Jack Sherry, with John Beveridge who inspected plantations as far afield as Fanning Island. Among the tall poppies in the crowded function room were the present general manager, Philip Best, Arthur Furze of BP Trustee Company, and Ray Sharp, the personnel manager, as well as being a very active Brigadier in the Army Reserves.

The shipping side of the company's history included five ex-Captains, Gordon Howe, Alan Aitken, John Ealey, Frank Sadler and myself, with Arthur Lloyd, Lachie McQueen, George Hazell and Bill Williams of the shore staff. Two veterans were unable to be present owing to ill health, Roy Waddell, 86, the engineer superintendent, and Herbert Baker, 93, who was shipping manager until he was 78. There were some other notable absentees, but the invitation list had to be severely restricted, for the available space, and for the same reason no wives were invited.

The history of the company was certainly revived in the hours of personal contacts and reminiscences, and everyone was most appreciative of the chairman's initiative in holding the function. When asked jok-

ingly whether the historic event might be repeated every 50 or 100 years, David Burns said he hoped to repeat it, perhaps making it an annual event.

The party began at 5.15 pm and was to end at 7.30, but I noticed that it was 10.30 when I left, and I was not the last — though probably I was the only guest who had flown from Queensland specially for the occasion. The hospitality was generous in both food and convivial fluids, including the best Macleay Duff. — *Brett Hilder.*

Micronesia on US TV

A team from the top-rating CBS television programme *60 Minutes* has visited Micronesia and filmed an episode on the islands' progress and problems since the 1958 bombing moratorium.

Scheduled for screening in November, the film is based on a two-week visit by CBS correspondent Morely Safer and five CBS crewmen. They visited Guam, Ponape, Kwajalein and Palau.

Vavau piggery bogged down

After the success of a beach and entertainment area project developed communally by the 72 families making up the village of Tuanikivale in Vavau, Tonga, to entertain cruise ship passengers who visit their village, an even more ambitious programme was undertaken by the village co-operative, writes Jimmy Cornell.

All the pigs which normally roam undisturbed around the village, messing up the roads

Based on photographs of Nauruan children, the special Nauruan stamp issue for the International Year of the Child (above) appeared on October 3. The finished artwork was carried out by Julian Vasarhelyi, and the five stamps (denominations 8c, 15c, 25c, 32c and 50c) appear in se-tenant strips of five in sheetlets of 25 stamps (five rows of five different stamps with marginal inscriptions).

and ruining the crops, were to be housed together in a model piggery. The plans for an integrated farming system, including a piggery, algae and fish ponds and market gardening plots, were provided by the South Pacific Commission, which also contributed technical assistance, while the US-based Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific donated \$20 000.

The people of Tuanikivale put in thousands of hours of voluntary work providing all labour, but the whole project came to a halt with the departure from the SPC of Mr Chan, who had been directly involved with the project.

At the site of the piggery one building is complete, as are the gas digesters which were expected to supply the village with lighting and even cooking gas.

Unfortunately, according to village chief Hingano Palefau, who is also chairman of the co-operative, everything has come to a standstill, with no help coming from the ministry of agriculture in Nukualofa and no word from the SPC.

Meanwhile, the pigs are roaming the village, and the unused building will soon be swallowed up by the encroaching forest.

An adventurous visitor stands on the SE corner of Lateiki, hottest part of the new island, amid steam, smoke and fumes arising from geysers.

As the eruption built up, ash, pumice and lava blocks were thrown out in continuous explosions up to 200 metres, and a pilot of Tonga Air saw a column of smoke and steam rising to 3000m, high above the cloud layer. Captain R. Jones, also of Tonga Air, said he saw the gradual birth of the island over four days, from June 19 to 23. He said: 'It was tremendously spectacular each time I flew back over it — a fantastic experience I will never forget' (PIM Sept).

Captain Jones said the eruption hurled small rocks as high as 150m into the air when he flew over it. There was no sign of land anywhere around, although round the centre of the smoke he saw the green outline of a subterranean peak in the midst of the blue sea. But instead of being deposited all around the rim of the crater, the ash, sand, and rock were deposited only on its northwest arc, probably due to the strong southeast winds blowing it in that direction.

A new island rising out of the sea was an event to celebrate with royal ceremony. On Saturday, July 7 His Majesty King Tupou IV sailed to the island on the MV *Sami*, and on Sunday, July 8, His Royal Highness Prince 'Aho'eitu led a landing party to the island to raise the Tongan Flag and claim it for Tonga.

When the flag-raising party returned to the ship to report to the king that the task had been carried out, a service of thanksgiving was held on deck. The president of the Free Wesleyan Church, Rev Huluaolo Mo'ungalao, mentioned that the new island was like a blessing from God to His Majesty on his 61st birthday (July 4). After the service the King named the island Lateiki saying: 'I believe that the island is given as a blessing to all Tonga'.

Geologists and vulcanologists visiting the island with the landing party, and others later from Fiji, report that Lateiki is composed of volcanic

Lateiki: Tonga's new jack-in-the-box island

The story of the Pacific's newest island — Lateiki, in Tonga's Vavau group — is told in detail by E. A. Crane, writing from Nukualofa. For good measure the writer seeks a fundamental explanation for the appearance of this (and other) islands as he outlines briefly the theory of 'plate tectonics', which is finding increasing acceptance among earth scientists throughout the world. E. A. Crane, MA, is assistant principal of Nukualofa's Tupou High School.

Another 'jack-in-the-box' island has been thrown up by a volcano on the western submarine ridge of Tonga. Lying between the volcanic cones of Kao and Late, it has been named by King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga, Lateiki, which means 'it lies beside Late'. Although not so well-known as Falcon Island, renamed Fonua Fo'ou (new land) by the Tongans, which has been raised by an undersea volcano four times in the past 200 years and eroded away by the sea each time, Lateiki is already staking its own claim to fame by rising and sinking twice in the past 100 years. It has now been reborn for a third time.

In 1875 the British frigate, HMS *Metis*, while charting this area, found a small volcanic island protruding out of a shallow platform which the captain named Metis Shoal. Volcanic activity continued for the next

15 years, gradually building the island higher. When HMS *Sappho* saw it in 1878 it was 200m long and 37m high. In 1890 its height was given as 480m. From then on volcanic activity ceased, and by 1898 waves had worn away the loose ash and rock until it was again a shoal with 4m of water over it.

Twelve years ago, in December 1967, Metis Shoal erupted again, throwing up dense clouds of steam, smoke, and ash. A small island of loose rocks and ash was formed, and the King of Tonga visited the area by aircraft to see this small extension of his kingdom. But by the end of 1968 the island had completely disappeared under the relentless sea.

Then three months ago Metis Shoal began erupting again. On May 1 sailors on the New Zealand cargo ship *Marama* reported clouds of steam rising into the air on the

distant horizon. Sailors on the Tongan vessel *Niukavai*, on its way from Samoa to New Zealand, passed closer to the shoal and reported that the sea was boiling, and saw clouds of steam and ash rising high into the air. On May 10 an orbiting satellite reported steam rising from a Tongan volcano.

Reports then began to come in from distant ships and aircraft of a strange phenomenon — a 'sea of pumice' 190km long and 50km wide drifting away towards Fiji (PIM, August). Samples of the pumice were collected by two Fiji naval vessels near Vanua Balavu. In the first week of June the New Zealand navy frigate, HMNZ *Canterbury* sailed into the pumice field on its way to Tonga. The engine intakes sucked in the pumice and turned it to mud, but the ship was not damaged.

This pumice had originated from the eruption on Metis Shoal. The eruption had begun when gas building up in the underlying magma suddenly burst forth in frothing bubbles of red-hot lava. As these bubbles came into contact with the water and air above, they solidified quickly into light, buoyant rocks containing countless air pockets left by the escaping gas. One observer on a Tonga Air plane reported this pumice floating away from Metis Shoal still steaming, and with one piece 'as big as a motor car'.

ash, pumice, and dark grey or black basalt (lava rocks). It has an area of 3ha, is 320m long and 120m wide. Its steep southern end curves in an arc of cliffs rising 16m in the southwest to 10m in the southeast. From the tops of these cliffs the land slopes down almost to sea level on the northern end. Black volcanic sand circles the whole island. Scattered all over the island are large boulders of basalt, some being 3m high and 5m long. While the outer surface of these boulders is hard, black rock, the inside of the rocks is granular and softer. On the island too are many fumeroles (holes) emitting sulphur dioxide with its strong, salty odour.

In front of the cliffs is the live centre of the volcano. When this is exposed at low tide, clouds of steam and fumes of sulphur dioxide come out of the central vent. These clouds

rise to over 20m and then spread over the whole island. At high tide, when the live crater is submerged, the sea boils and volcanic sands rise into the air in black fountains.

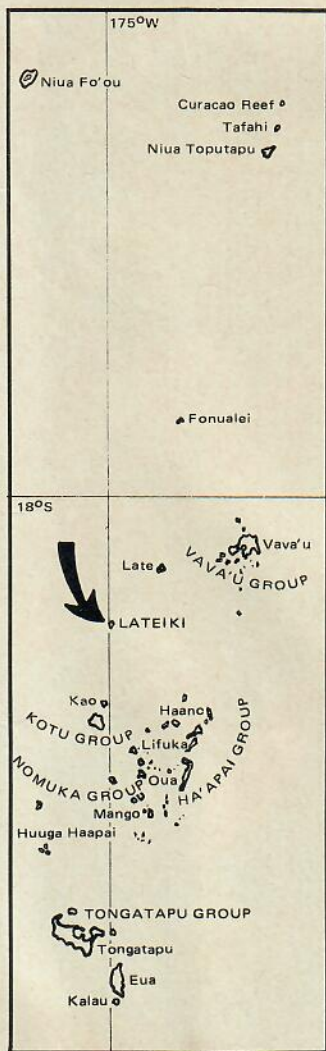
How did Lateiki arise? There is no doubt that it is part of a chain of volcanoes that have raised peaks and islands on the crest of a long submarine ridge stretching 3000km from Samoa to the southeast of New Zealand. In the Tongan group the existing volcanic islands of Ata, Hunga Tonga and Hunga Haapai, Tofua, Kao, Late, Fonualei, Tafahi, and Niuafuou rise out of the ridge from south to north. Kao, Late, Fonualei and Tafahi are perfect cones, but violent eruptions 10-20 000 years ago caused the sides of Tofua and Niuafuou to collapse into holes left by the ejected magma forming large calders 7-8km in width.

But in other places along the ridge less violent eruptions are occurring today which, after throwing out relatively small amounts of lava, pumice, rock and ash, quickly subside as they are washed away by the sea. They occur at Fonuafoou, just north of the Hungas, Metis Shoal, close to Late, and Curacao Reef 24km north of Tafahi. Three undersea eruptions have occurred at Curacao Reef since 1973, but although dense clouds of steam were thrown into the air, no islands were formed.

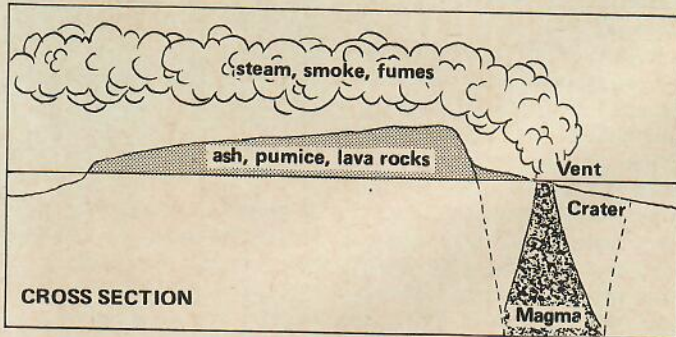
Most earth scientists today are accepting the new theory of plate tectonics as an explanation for these volcanoes. This theory, reinforced by findings from ships drilling the ocean floor, and submersibles that explore the rugged ocean terrain to depths up to 3000m, is that the earth's thin outer shell is split up into gigantic, irregular-shaped blocks called plates. These move slowly over the globe, only a few centimetres each year, carrying continents, islands, and oceans on their backs. Where two plates collide with each other or continents, they slowly pile the edges up into massive mountain ranges, but where they collide under oceans they form ridges and deep trenches, and



Top picture shows the extraordinary southern cliffs of the new island, bordering the live crater seen at left, which is exposed at low tide. Centre picture: King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, aboard the MV Sami, takes part in a thanksgiving service as the ship stands off the newest island in his kingdom, and before a landing party goes ashore to raise the Tongan flag and claim it for Tonga (at right). All photos illustrating this article are from the Tonga Chronicle.



Continued next page



along the ridges there is usually much volcanic activity.

Plate tectonics provides a convincing explanation of the formation of Tonga's volcanic islands, its deep eastern seas, and the occurrence of its severe earthquakes. It is believed that the plate carrying Asia and Australia is riding over the edge of the giant Pacific plate and the meeting-place of the two plates is the high submarine ridge extending from Samoa to New Zealand. The movement of the Asia-Australia plate eastwards is forcing the Pacific plate moving westwards to bend downwards and push it away at a low angle deep into the earth's mantle.

These contrary movements force up a ridge on the edge of the Asia-Australian plate, and push down a deep V-shaped trough where the Pacific plate begins to dip. This trough, known as the Tonga Trench, is nearly 3000km long, 100km wide, and extends to a depth of more than 10 000m at one point, the second lowest depth in the Pacific Ocean.

As the Pacific plate moves downwards some of its rocks melt at a depth of 100-160km. Most of this molten material cools and solidifies before it reaches the surface. Some of it, however, pours out as fiery lava erupting violently from volcanoes, while some of it is pushed up like putty through cracks in the surface. As a result the submarine ridge from

Lateiki, seen from the south, showing the active crater facing the line of cliffs. The sketch shows the anatomy of the new island.

Samoa through Tonga to New Zealand has become a 'fiery arc' of volcanoes, most of them dormant now but liable to burst out afresh at any time, as the new volcanic island of Lateiki shows.

Earthquakes occur when rocks under great pressure move suddenly to relieve the strain. Where rocks are shallow they are comparatively hot, pliable and 'soft', so when they break only gentle earthquakes occur. The cold, rigid rocks of the Pacific plate can withstand much greater pressures, but when they finally give way along the opposite moving edge of the Asia-Australia plate much more violent earthquakes occur. Such severe earthquakes have done great damage to life, property and landscape in New Zealand in 1931 and in Tonga in 1977.

A knowledge of plate tectonics is not really helpful in enabling us to predict future eruptions or earthquakes, as events occur across a slow-moving timespan of thousands of years. But it is helpful in explaining the reasons for present volcanic activity and earthquakes. At least in the short term we can predict with confidence that Lateiki, the world's newest island, is doomed to extinction before many years have passed.

**EXPORTERS
TO THE PACIFIC ISLANDS**



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*ENQUIRIES
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pared with the Battle of Britain. Turnbull had fought with the squadron for a couple of weeks but had then been recalled to Australia to help form and lead a new fighter squadron.

Kittyhawk Squadron No. 76 (RAAF) was formed in Townsville in April 1942. It had a nucleus of veteran Australian pilots who had fought in Britain and Europe, the most famous of these being Squadron Leader K. W. (Bluey) Truscott, DFC, who was Turnbull's second-in-charge. In July the squadron was ordered to Milne Bay but had to wait at Port Moresby while the Gurney airstrip was being prepared.

The day after Turnbull's squadron landed in Papua New Guinea, July 21, the Japanese mounted a major assault on Gona at the eastern end of the Kokoda Trail. This formidable mountain track leads straight across the rugged ranges into Port Moresby. As the Japanese troops poured off their ship transports onto the Kokoda Trail, Turnbull loaded bombs on seven of the squadron's Kittyhawks and flew to the attack. However the mission was unsuccessful. They were surprised by a large number of enemy fighters and forced to jettison their bombs in order to fight off their pursuers.

The Japanese had planned to invade Milne Bay two weeks after the Kokoda campaign had begun. However the Americans stunned them by launching a massive offensive in the Solomon Islands which tied down all the Japanese troops who had been assigned for the attack on Milne Bay.

This extremely fortunate event delayed the Milne Bay invasion by three weeks, thus saving the base from capture. Even so, the timing was so fine that the final contingent of 3000 battle-hardened Australian troops from the Middle East arrived only four days before the Japanese actually landed.

Turnbull finally led his full squadron into Milne Bay on July 25. Even though the pilots must have been forewarned, nothing could have prepared them for the actual experience.



December 1942 drawing by Australian war artist Roy Hodgkinson 'Peter Turnbull's Last Landing'. (AWM Neg No 36449.)

Milne Bay has an annual rainfall of about 280 cm and July is the middle of the wet season. So, when the pilots flew in, they were landing on a narrow strip, hastily carved out of the jungle, which was virtually under water. Interlocking steel matting laid over its length to a width of 27 metres alone made the landing possible.

The pilots had never experienced anything like it before. As they touched down their aircraft sprayed water like hydroplanes and skidded, some so violently that they swung off the runway and became bogged in the morass at the side of the matting.

It was a raw jungle camp with little comfort. Everyone slept in crowded tents, pitched on a sea of mud, and was plagued by hordes of insects. No one and nothing could remain dry for very long because of the rain and intense humidity.

To those who had so recently returned from England, like Bluey Truscott, it was an especially difficult experience. They had fought their war in comparative comfort, in clean clothes, with hot baths, warm beds and good food to come home to at night.

Milne Bay was badly affected by malaria-carrying mosquitoes but, because of the

extremely tight secrecy surrounding the military base, it was impossible to build up adequate supplies of medical equipment and drugs. Consequently, the incidence of malaria was extremely high.

Gurney airfield had been built to accommodate only one fighter squadron and conditions became very cramped when the now re-equipped and refreshed No. 75 Squadron turned up, led by Jackson's younger brother, Squadron Leader Leslie Jackson. The second squadron had been rushed into Milne Bay after news of the surprise attack on Gona was flashed to Australia.

The tight security, which included strict radio silence, combined with the constant low cloud cover saved the squadrons from air attack for nearly two weeks. On August 4 a small armed reconnaissance flight consisting of four Zeros and a dive bomber casually entered Milne Bay to gather information for the proposed Japanese attack.

The airfield radar was not

fully operational at this stage and both sides received an unpleasant surprise when they suddenly encountered each other. Gurney was strafed and a Kittyhawk was destroyed on the ground but a patrol of eight Kittyhawks from No. 76 returned in time to destroy the dive bomber and chase off the others. This was the first kill for Turnbull's new squadron. But the secret was out and more raids quickly followed.

Initially the squadrons paid a high price for the inexperience of some of their new pilots. But, no matter how experienced the pilots became, their aircraft were at a dangerous disadvantage to the Zeros, particularly when employed as interceptors. The Kittyhawk had a slower rate of climb and its weight made it sluggish and difficult to manoeuvre above 4000 metres.

Nevertheless, the single-engined Kittyhawk was an excellent army co-operation and low-altitude fighter. It was heavily armed with six 0.5 inch Browning machine guns, it could carry bombs and was ruggedly built to take considerable punishment. In fact, it was a lethal fighting machine in the role of strafing ground targets and was extremely suitable for

fine white sand only seven years ago. Anse Vata has been transformed these days into a busy lagoon filled with jet skis, windsurfers, Hobie Cat sailors and reclining sun-worshippers, most of them topless.

The habitual procession of leisurely cars along the Anse Vata promenade has been joined by an increasing number of local boys and girls on *motocyclettes* and tourists on bicycles, even tandem cycles. These are hired from the new Maison de Tourisme complex, built around what used to be the Lantana Hotel.

The Relais de Kanumera on the Isle of Pines has closed its hotel rooms, although day trips to the island are still organised. The Club Med. is trying to persuade the Melanesians to authorise a Club Med. installation on the island. Back at Anse Vata, the Chateau Royal Hotel, closed down since February, was due to open as a Club Med. resort in early November. Behind the South Pacific Commission, the Hotel Isle de France is building an extra 40 rooms to bring their total to 100, while around by the Baie des Citrons beach the Mocambo Hotel has been refurbished and is under new owners. Closer downtown, the new Paradise Park Motel offers comfortable accommodation with swimming pool and free bus to town from the handy suburb of the Vallee des Colons.

The most exciting new hotel project for Noumea is the Internautile hotel-casino, being promoted by Raymond Frere's SOCOTOUR which has obtained several hectares of municipal land situated on an undeveloped beachfront at the northern end of Nouville. With its convict ruins and fine lagoon, this former Isle of Nou is now linked by causeway to Noumea on the mainland. A number of large hotel groups in Australia are keenly interested in the Frere project which has ambitious prospects as a luxury island resort.

Back in downtown Noumea, friendly general advice to tourists is available at the infor-



Parking area on Noumea's filled-in Baie de la Moselle.

mation bureau which has just been transferred from in front of the Qantas agents and re-opened in the old colonial town hall building, overlooking Noumea's central square. Completely dwarfing the old wooden town hall is the 14-storey glass and concrete structure of the Bank of Indochina and Suez, across the street. At the other end of the square the imposing new town hall occupies a whole block. Across the corner, the Maison Barrau

department store beams out the daily local news with illuminated messages revolving over its shop front. Big splashes of white paint on buildings around the square try to obscure signs calling for *Independance Kanak*. The locals watch and wait, knowing that the territory is in the experienced hands of a highly-trained elite of skilled public servants from the best schools in France, who are convinced of the important role France

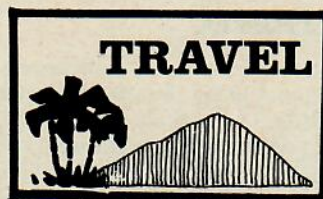
has to play in the Pacific.

Noumea radio and colour TV use satellite transmission to keep the Caledonians up to the minute with events in France. And French government officials urge them to 'open up to the outside world, especially the Pacific' for 'New Caledonia will in her own special way spread the French language and way of life in the Pacific'.



'Baby' buses stop outside Noumea's new town hall.

A Sydney medical specialist whose great love is surfing ('after,' he says, 'my family and my work') has spent many of his holidays over the last 11 years travelling the South Seas, more often than not with his surfboard. One of these trips took him to the island of Rurutu, in French Polynesia. He has written this account of it for PIM, with the accompanying comment that 'since one of the great areas of potential economic assistance for many of the South Pacific islands is the tourist industry, the continuing growth of surfing, especially professional surfing, might prove to be a significant contribution. Most South Pacific islands have surf. This is my justification for offering this article.' We think 'Dr Geoff', as he prefers to be known in print presumably for reasons of medical ethics, needs no such justification. We hope to see more of his warm and sensitive reports.



With surfboard to Rurutu, in the French Australs

My interest in making a trip to Rurutu, for some reason, surfaced into an obsession. Its roots lay somewhere in my readings of early European Pacific explorations. The flower grew as I questioned my Tahitian friend, Remy, and then procured a naval chart of the Austral group. Rurutu itself then blossomed in my mind.

For some 10 years I had been consistently returning to French Polynesia, extending my explorations and friendships.

Remy and his family warmly accepted me as one of them, teaching me Tahitian history and culture. At a farewell *tama'ara'a*, Remy introduced one of his friends, Jacques, a native of Rurutu. Jacques described his island and asked whether I would see his father who some years before had suffered a stroke. There were no unrealistic expectations in this request — merely the natural concern of a son for his father.

Rurutu is one of the seven islands comprising the Austral group. Of volcanic origin, the Australs geologically represent a S-E extension of a vast, underwater, mountain chain originating in the Cook Islands.

Five of the seven are inhabi-

ted — Rurutu, Rimatara, Raivavae, Rapa and Tubuai — with a population (1971 census) of 5079 persons, spread over a total area of 141 square kilometres. European contact with the group began in 1769 when Captain Cook 'discovered' Rurutu (Oheteroa). As white contact increased, infectious disease dramatically reduced the native population from 2800 to about 350. The major portion of this epidemic occurred around 1818.

Missionary contact did not take place until 1821. Two teachers from the London Missionary Society at Raiatea returned with the occupants of a large *pahi* (canoe) said to

have 'drifted' the 760 kilometres from Rurutu. Christianity was adopted on Rurutu soon afterwards.

In response to the growing threat of German influence, Rurutu became a French 'protectorate' in 1889, finally becoming annexed in 1900.

Tubuai was the first island in this remote Austral group to have an airstrip. Rurutu followed in 1977, ending over 200 years of relative isolation.

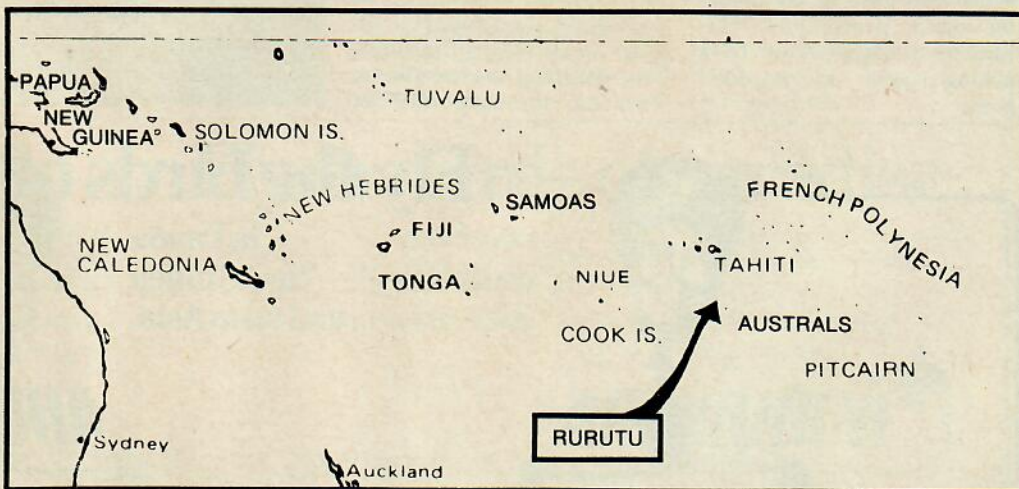
For my visit, the Air Polynesiæ F27 once again droned into the cumulus-shred Pacific sky, leaving behind the 'market-garden' island Tubuai, and headed WNW for Rurutu. The words of a Mr Russell (a

mining expert acting for the Papeete consul during the early 1900s), returned to me. He had described Rurutuans as being 'intelligent and industrious' but 'noted for their lack of cordiality to strangers' and a desire 'to keep their island to themselves'.

Within a short time, the dark green peaks of Rurutu etched their way into view. Point Toataratara, the southernmost tip of this whale's-tooth shaped island, was surrounded by a maelstrom of white water. Huge southerly swells battered onto the step-to reef, exploding upwards against the sheer cliffs. A small pass in the reef a few kilometres along the eastern shore remained in my memory.

A pulsating whiteness assaulted me on alighting. The coral airstrip, the freshly-painted white observation tower, and the airport hut gleamed and shimmered in the hot sun. Definitely a change after the diesel ambience of Papeete.

Timothea, one of Jacques' relatives, and the local gendarme, slowly drove the regulation Toyota along the recently 'constructed' bumpy coral road, to the principal village of Moerai. Although Rurutu's total population of 1514 resides principally in Moerai (on the NE shore), and Avera (on the W shore), scat-



TRAVEL

tered houses are nonetheless found along the island coastal strip.

As Timothea delivered the newly arrived mail, a far quicker islands communication source — the coconut radio — was in action. Shy children, and friendly adult faces stared at the *popaa* (white man) with his strange *poti* (my surfboard).

After showing me the administration building and dropping my belongings at Pa's place (where I was to stay), Timothea took me to Catherine's for lunch. Even though it was the only 'eating place' — at least to my knowledge — in Moerai, there was nothing mundane about this food: it was at least equal to any I'd tasted in French Polynesia. Taro from Rurutu is renowned amongst Tahitians as 'the best'. Today I became a disciple. Raw fish, washed down with lime-juice, completed the fine repast.

It felt strange giving Pa and his wife a gift of Australian rice. However, I could tell they appreciated it. Neither of them could speak French (that I could understand) so conversation was limited to textbook Tahitian.

My *fare taotoraa* (bedroom) was upstairs, off the large lounge, in the huge rambling wooden house. Beautifully set out, the lounge was like those found in elderly persons' homes throughout the Western world. Handcrafted items, numerous family photographs, personal treasures and the Bible were proudly exhibited. Pa showed me a ship's lamp which had been in the family for many generations. This priceless antique would be a talking point in anyone's home.



Late that afternoon I climbed the slippery road to Avera. Just on dark I stopped near Mt Rurutu. On the coast a few kilometres away lay the beautifully set out village of Avera. Languid wavelets licked lazily away at the brittle lagoon sands. Outside the reef, gun-metal grey corduroy swell lines ended their vast trek by obliteration onto the fringing coral reef. Tomorrow would give me my *'raison d'être'* — I would take out my board.

It's a strange feeling stepping off shore and paddling towards the kinetic forces of mother ocean. It had taken me all morning to walk to Avera with my surfboard, check the tides, reconnoitre the general area of Avera bay, time sets through the channel and recheck the chart.

Surfing a previously (as far as I knew) unsurfed location requires significant preparation — both physical and mental — especially with the swell as large as this.

Nearing the channel I became transfixed by the almost overwhelming masses of water, buckling, throwing out and

'My bedroom was upstairs in the huge, rambling wooden house ...

exploding onto the razor sharp coral of the fringing reef. On being swept through the tiny opening of Opupu pass, I began to wonder why I'd put myself in this somewhat perilous position

After about 20 minutes I reached the take-off zone. I'd noted this area to be producing what, from shore, appeared to be perfect waves. But on paddling into a small wave and looking down I knew I'd made a bad error. A half metre under water lay the reef. Three metres above was a mass of curling energy about to dump its huge weight! I felt ominous vibrations as I hastily strained back on the surfboard to avoid death, or worse.

On reflection, my initial mistake had been to go out in the surf for the first time in such a large swell with waves in excess of three metres. The second had been to wait until near high tide, with the swell still to become bigger. Already it was no longer safe to try to paddle back through that channel.

Not allowing enough time to

paddle 16 kilometres back to the safety of Moerai was the third mistake. This took a little longer to appreciate!

Relaxation only comes when the body and mind synchronise into a common rhythm. Paddling those 16 kilometres gradually produced the wanted harmony, and I became less scared. With the sun moving towards the horizon I nevertheless understood the reality of my situation. It was some hours later when I rounded the southern point. As the swells gradually diminished in the lee of the island I recalled my incoming flight in the F27 and the position of the pass I'd noted on eastern shore.

An eternity ended as I walked elatedly from the water and headed along the track to Moerai. Although exhausted, I felt invincible — the transient legacy of masses of adrenalin circulating throughout every fibre of my body. As an epilogue to a somewhat testing day the tap broke just as I was about to have a shower.

Using Jacques' letter as an introduction, I sat down with his elderly parents and via an interpreter explained the purpose of my visit. Even being partially blind, unable to converse, and paralysed down the right side, Jacques' father was still at peace within himself. Because of an intrinsic closeness he could 'communicate' with his family.

At the same time, by a series of automatic reflexes and will-power, he was able to hobble around using a bamboo walking stick. I didn't need to tell him, or his family, that nothing could (nor in fact need) be done. Everyone knew. He accepted his disabilities. His family and friends accepted and revered him. No medicine



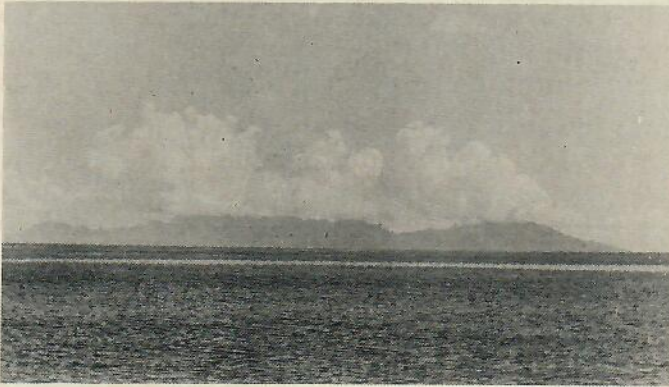
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— neither 'sophisticated' nor 'primitive' — could offer any more.

After church, Rurutu, like most South Pacific islands, comes alive. Sunday is the day to dress in white, listen to a sermon, and after, greet old friends.

It really was a pleasant feeling to be so far away from home yet experience the traditional

family custom of a 'Sunday drive' — a visit to Point Parari. Winding past the airport we finally came to the beautiful NW coast.

Sheltered from the trade winds and with the sun shimmering off the rich Pacific Ocean, we sat down to a peak Tahitian food experience — 'smelly fish'. Basic preparation is easy. But rigid adher-



ence to technique is important if serious illness is to be avoided. This version of raw fish is prepared by keeping the fish pieces in a nearly airtight coconut shell container, together with a small amount of salt water. Although the olfactory organs say 'no!', the first bite totally addicts one's taste senses.

Following a slightly euphoric snooze, Jean-Pierre took us to a grotto. There are many such caves in French Polynesia but only the 'locals' seem to know of their existence. Following a long trek through papaya, mango and *uru* (breadfruit) stands, we reached the huge cavern. Sunlight filtering through a large hole in the roof gave an impression of a surreal, lunar landscape. Bats, stalactites and the constant drip, drip, drip of water slowly pulsating through limestone completed the Fellini-like scene. I could almost feel the resident *tupapua* (phantom).

That night an 'excuse' for a party was made.

'Pa' against his house. He has a priceless antique ship's lamp which has been in the family for generations.

Rurutu, with its dark green peaks, surrounded by a maelstrom of white water. Huge southerly swells batter the reef where 'Dr Geoff' went surfing.

Soulful Tahitian hymns, screams of laughter (especially when I 'sang'), copious quantities of rum punch (a mixture, I swear, of aviation gasoline and pineapple juice) and beer, congealed into a confused, manic night. Never was the *tamura* so wildly danced.

By early afternoon I struggled to Tetuanui plateau. The scenery was a contrast of massive movement and eerie sameness. A southerly wind screamed off the frenzied Pacific. Rolling hills of bracken, interspersed with occasional trees, spread out towards nearby peaks. An omnipresent, subtle beauty, somberly reflecting the isolated environment of this remote island.

The storm that was growing would go on to batter Rurutu for five days, though at the time I didn't know. Although drawn to this island in a very deep way by the warmth and friendship of its people, its natural beauty and its potential surf quality, it was time to return north.



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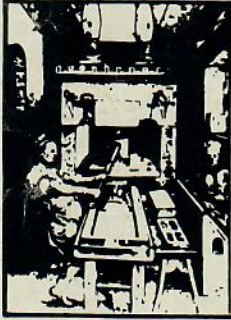


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From the ISLANDS PRESS

The Coconut Telegraph, Savusavu, Vanua Levu, Fiji

The outstanding impression of Children's Day, August 6th, in Savusavu, was the eager enthusiasm of the children, who threw themselves into it, heart and soul, from the moment they came marching through town, banging on a biscuit tin, and assembled at Khemendra School, where the events in honour of the International Year of the Child were held. An overcast, but cool, fine day, gave everyone lots of energy and the programme went with a swing . . .

Tohi Tala Niue, Alofi, Niue

To People Who Use To Wait In The Waiting Room: Health Department. Please do not tear the posters on the wall. Please do not cut the hardboard lining of the walls. There are two big holes in one wall being cut by someone who was waiting. Look after your children and do not let them play with posters, wall furnitures or anything in this room. Replacing broken articles is very costly — we do not have any money to pay for these. Keep the room tidy and comfortable for you to rest in while waiting for the doctor.

Tonga Chronicle, Nukualofa

The talk of the town these days is the recent passing by the Parliament of a New Amending Act to the Land Laws which could take away an allotment from a Tongan who has been naturalised as a citizen of a foreign country as well as a Tongan who has been away from the Kingdom for more than two years . . .

Tuvalu News Sheet, Funafuti

A Royal Navy frigate, the HMS *Dido*, was expected to make a goodwill call at Funafuti for two days early this month, but the visit was cancelled due to the captain's concerns about the safety of entering the island's lagoon . . . Although Government offered to provide a local pilot for the ship the offer was turned down by the commanding officer who in turn put forward that he and about 12 members of the ship crew call briefly at Funafuti via helicopter, while the *Dido* lay drifting somewhere close by. The plan was unacceptable to Government on the grounds that the amount of time to be spent ashore was limited to four hours, while a much longer visit had been anticipated by both Government and the Funafuti people . . .

The Observer, Apia, Western Samoa, (Editorial)

Those people who are addicted to scrawling threats and abuses on other people's walls must check themselves before placing their tools against the walls . . . graffiti are meaningful only if they are meant to amuse. And these are amusing only when one is bored waiting and one is reading them on a bus-stop shelter wall. Or bored sitting on a public house bowl and one is reading it on the inside of the door.

The Norfolk Islander

' . . . the small but very proud team' was the description given to the Norfolk Island team by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, at a reception hosted by the Mobil Oil Company after the opening ceremony of the Sixth South Pacific Games . . . We arrived in Fiji on Friday 24th August after a most enjoyable flight on Norfolk Island Airlines and someone said to us after our arrival 'You Norfolk Islanders certainly caused a stir when you arrived in your own aeroplanes!'

Tonga Chronicle, Nukualofa

This should be in the Guinness Book of Records. Tonga is the only country in the world to beat five countries in a period of 11 days. The Tonga (Rugby) team defeated Western Samoa 18-10; Tahiti 74-0; Solomon Islands 92-3; New Caledonia 58-3 and also Fiji 6-3. Tonga scored 248 points against 19 countries or 47 tries and 30 conversions to two tries, a conversion and three penalties by Fiji, Western Samoa, New Caledonia, Solomon and Tahiti. An average of 49.6 to 3.8 points.

Fiji Times, Suva

When William Shakespeare wrote the tragedy of *Othello*, a performance of it in Fiji would have been beyond his imagination — if indeed he knew that Fiji existed. However, the students of Queen Victoria School in Tailevu have tackled the play and produced a remarkably good version of it . . .

Micronesian News Service, Saipan

The Marshallese man who was on Saipan in May to buy pigs for the Marshalls Government returned to the island Friday . . . Asked what happened to the 33 pigs he bought on Saipan during his last trip, Joaje Aisak said that they have been sent to the Marshalls' outer islands hit by Typhoon Alice last December for breeding purposes . . . 'All the pigs arrived in Majuro in good condition,' Aisak indicated. 'Some people travel to buy cars and other imported items. But sometimes I travel to buy pigs. I enjoyed the pig-buying mission very much.'

Fiji (magazine of the Ministry of Information, Suva)

'The hurricane is not monopolised by Fiji. Fiji is not the only place you get hurricanes. They get typhoons in Hong Kong, Japan, Manila and in Singapore. If there is recession in Fiji, Fiji is not the only place where there is recession — there is recession in other countries too.' (Quotation from Hargovind Lodhia, Opposition backbencher in the Fiji Parliament.)

News Drum, Honiara, Solomon Islands

The whole work force of the Province Headquarters in Honiara spent all morning on Tuesday killing rats from their furniture shop. An assistant administrative officer who helped in the killing of more than 105 rats said the animals were discovered when they wanted to get furniture for shipment. He said the 20 workers started to kill the rats about 8 am, and by about midday they were still busy chasing the rats.

Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby

The member for Nipa-Kutubu, Mr Ibne Kor, wants the Government to immediately knight him for his services to the country. Mr Kor told Parliament this week he had done as much work as those who have already been knighted and deserved to be called 'Sir Ibne' . . .

Atoll Pioneer, Bairiki, Kiribati

King George V and Elaine Bernacchi Secondary School, Tarawa, closed for the school holiday on Tuesday. The school closed three days early because of disciplinary problems at the school. The problems arose when Fifth Form students demanded to use the school dormitories during the school holidays. The Headmaster refused to allow them to do this because similar arrangements had been abused in the past but agreed that classrooms would be available from 8 am to 6.30 pm on weekdays for study purposes and transport arrangements would be made. The third term will commence early so that students will not lose any school time. Meanwhile, the Board of Governors of the school will meet to consider what action to take about students who caused trouble at the school, including damage to property.

Atoll Pioneer, Kiribati

Faced with the need for a repaint job on the church, the local Catholic community on Makin set out to create a lime whitewash for the purpose. The method used is not new by any means but is seldom used in islands closer to imported convenience. A large pit was dug about five metres square and firewood was placed in the bottom. The firewood was a complete green *teren* tree cut into convenient pieces. Then coral was placed on top and the lot set to burn, stoked occasionally by coconut logs. The fire lasted

about a week. When the coral finally cooled, it was taken from just below the surface and mixed with water to form a thick sludge. It was this sparkling white sludge that was applied to the walls of the cement church.

Press Extracts from New Caledonia

To mark the occasion of the French President's visit to Wallis and Futuna, a customary ceremony was organised in his honour — the royal Kawa ceremony. Tradition has it that the first and last cup carry with them the greatest token of honour. These cups were given to Mr Giscard d'Estaing and his wife.

The Samoa Times, Apia, (editorial)

When times are good, population issues are not a practical problem for most people. Why worry when things are going well, they would say. However, quite different is the picture when the country suffers economic problems galore. Now that we are again facing economic problems, we are compelled to take a closer look at the over-population problem, primarily, of course, because of the economic impact of this problem . . . The argument that people who reduce the size of their families are merely being selfish does not hold. The real issue is whether people can afford to give a decent living to their offspring. To overproduce without care of the consequences is criminal.

Niugini Nius (from column by Rhonda)

The Port Moresby Theatre Group will bring us *Midsummer Night's Dream* late in August. Ideas for its presentation could include an updated presentation. I like the way one actor put it — 'Shakespeare's still Shakespeare even with the players in jeans, so we're thinking of doing away with cardboard cut-down crowns, cloaks and jiffies'.

Pitcairn Miscellany, Pitcairn Island

ADAMSTOWN AND AROUND: . . . Best Dressed Man in Town: Christy Warren would almost certainly win this award. Whenever he appears at church or the pictures, he steals the show with his fancy styles. Recently he has added trimmings to all his shirts, and caps are his speciality. Last week at the pictures he was wearing a fancy, hand made blue cap, with buttons and ribbons on the front; a lace-trimmed shirt with silky cravat; and white gloves with a matching white handbag. He completed the outfit with a rather elegant cane. Very smart indeed Christy.

Papua New Guinea Post-Courier, Port Moresby (letter from reader signing herself 'PNG Woman, Boroko')

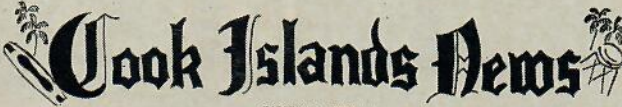
Going bare-breasted is our tradition. What are we ashamed of? Perhaps you don't realise that those people who told us, taught us and forced us to cover our breasts up today want to or are practising the reverse. So-called modesty is lost. They show this by the way they dress. Don't you see that if they were given the chance, they'd be jumping into arse-grass and going bare-breasted? You should be proud of your breasts when you dress up traditionally. If you want to cover them up, use traditional material to do so. There's nothing more sickening than to see a beautiful Papua New Guinean girl or woman dress up traditionally and put on a splash of Western clothing, namely the bra . . .

Fiji Times, Suva

Local beer was condemned in Parliament yesterday as the 'sportsman's killer' by an Opposition member who said it should not be advertised in sports grounds. The MP, Mr Koresi Matatolu, said that as a sportsman he found it difficult to understand why gin, whisky and beer advertisements were hung in sports stadiums.

Fiji Times, Suva (letter from Leighton Bullock, of Carlton Brewery [Fiji] Ltd).

With sales of approximately 3.6 million gallons per annum Fiji ranks very low in beer consumption per capita. In fact Fiji's yearly consumption per capita is approximately six (6) gallons or 2.6 ounces of beer daily which is less than one fifth of that in



Telephone 2065 Ext. 468 BAROTONGA, TUESDAY 21 AUGUST 1979

SIR ALBERT—YOU LET YOUR PEOPLE DOWN

In a long awaited court decision in the dramatic conspiracy cases Mr Justice Beattie in sentencing Sir Albert Henry stated "You have forfeited the right to serve this country fully in any political fashion."

"You have placed yourself above the democratic process and let down your people."

• Turn to page 7

NEWS FLASH!

KID ORINA TE TU TAREKE
HE TE WAKI OIRINE
KATONDA I RUA AKE KA
DAI CI KIPU KI TE ENIA
TORE HUI KITU KI TE
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ABOVE: "Sir Albert, you placed yourself above the democratic process" said Mr Justice Beattie.

- PUGANGA TAKAKE P.3
- GEDFP AND MAX - P.4
- PENBYS CUSTOMER P10

Above is the front page of the issue of the government-owned Cook Islands News which reported the results of the court decision on the conspiracy cases involving former Premier Sir Albert Henry and a number of other officials in his government (PIM Oct. p20). The headline rather dramatically quotes the judge who sat on the cases, Mr Justice Beattie, and the caption to the photograph of Sir Albert says: 'Above: "Sir Albert, you place yourself above the democratic process," said Mr Justice Beattie.'

Regular readers of the Cook Islands News over many years will certainly recall the occasions when uncomplimentary headlines have been reserved for the Opposition members who are now in power. In the Cooks, press licence might seem to depend on who licenses the press!

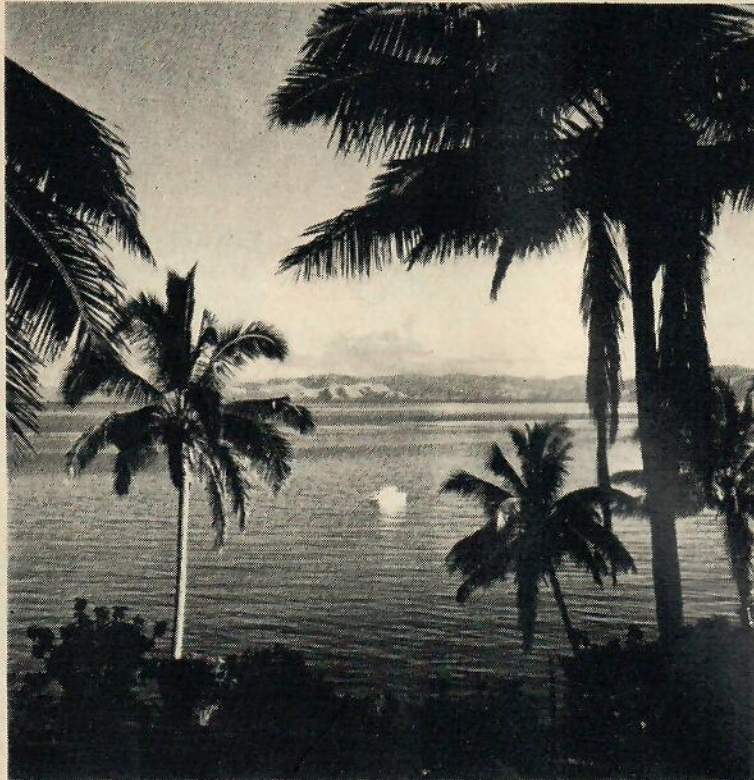
Australia. Drunkenness in Fiji is a problem only with a very small minority and any harsh regulations harm only the vast percentage of the population for whom no problem exists . . .

Tohi Tala Niue, Alofi, Niue

Quarry Sales: The Public Works Department has at long last received the explosives which were ordered some months ago. As a result of this and following a very successful course held in Niue on the correct use of explosives, we are able to sell crushed chips etc. to the public again.

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Taveuni, the third largest island in the Fijian Group, has a daily air service to Suva, the capital. Waiyevo, the main centre, has shops, hospital, churches and the international Taveuni Travelodge Hotel.

With a rapidly developing community and great scenic beauty, Taveuni, with its year round equable climate, has all the facilities of a south sea island resort. Its strategic location to major tourism markets, political and social stability, the hospitality and friendly nature of the Fijian people, ensures investors that this island in the sun will produce the rewards they are seeking.

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A **STEADY** improvement in prices for nickel ore and nickel on the world market has been greeted with highly audible sighs of relief by New Caledonian business circles.

THE HEBRITEL satellite telecommunications ground station in Vila became operational in June. It will offer 24-hour, seven-day telephone, telegraphic and telex services to all points on the globe. But users will have to wait until 1980 before they can dial international numbers on their own phones, as the necessary equipment has not arrived.

ACCORDING to the Noumea daily *Nouvelles Calédoniennes*, CFP585 million (\$A5.573 million) has been invested over the past 10 years in the hotel trade in 'Noumea and the bush' (this sum excludes investments in the Chateau Royal Hotel). The paper said that all indications were that, despite inevitable difficulties, the next decade will be marked by an enormous increase in investments in New Caledonia's tourist sector.

A **MINI-GENERATOR** driven by the water of a nearby stream designed by an electrical engineering lecturer and his students at the NSW Institute of Technology, Sydney, will supply villagers on Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands, with electricity. The idea came from an Australian non-profit organisation called APACE (Appropriate Technology and Community Environment) which researches technologies for the Pacific and Asia.

ABOUT 77 villages in the New Hebrides will get better water supplies during the next two years with the help of a grant of \$A530 000 from Australia, according to the Australian Information Service (AIS) newsletter. The project, which started in

1976, will continue providing materials, equipment, technical supervision and installation costs. The newsletter adds that the New Hebrides Government is giving high priority to the rural water supply programme.

MARIE BAILEY, Norfolk Island tour operator, has spread her wings with the purchase of a Cessna 172 which will give visitors the opportunity of scenic air flights around the island.

GORDON Sioni Pacific Advertising, Papua New Guinea's largest advertising agency, has opened a Lae office to meet the growing needs of the private sector in Lae.

THREE third-level airlines in Lae, Papua New Guinea — Co-Air, Talair and Chee Air — because of increasing costs, including fuel prices, raised all air and charter fares by 10% from June 4.

TOKELAU Islands' administration, based in Apia, is negotiating with the Cook Islands shipping company, Silk & Boyd, to charter a vessel to take supplies to the three atolls in the group. The atolls have been without shipping since the *Cenpac Rounder* ran aground during Fiji's Cyclone Meli in April.

COST OF transforming Noumea's Chateau Royal Hotel into a Club Mediterranee resort will be higher than expected, according to Jean Combard, president of the French firm Sodececotour. Mr Combard told the Noumea daily *Nouvelles Calédoniennes* that the conversion would cost CFP300 million (\$A3.371 million), making 'all profit estimates very tight'. On staffing questions he said that after collective bargaining had been completed, an employment office would be opened.

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DEATHS of Islands People

J. S. K. B. BORRON

James Sawers Kidston Braddock Borron, born in Suva in 1901, at his house there after a long illness. Together with his wife Zena, who died two years ago, he was well known for his philanthropy and generosity. His home, Borron House, used as the Allied Command Headquarters in World War II, was donated by Jimmy Braddon to the Fiji National Trust. He inherited the Mago Island estate, which is now managed by his son James. A true *Kai Viti*, he will be remembered by many friends.

SIONE TUI KLEIS

A former Speaker of Tuvalu's House of Assembly, on his home island of Nui, aged 48. Educated at the old Elisefou

School on Vaitapu, and in Western Samoa, New Zealand and Italy, Sione Tui Kleis did a short stint in the former Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony civil service before being ordained a Catholic priest in 1961. In 1964 he left the clergy to return to government service. After working as a broadcaster with Radio Tarawa, he was elected to the GEIC Legislative Assembly, and later selected as minister for commerce and natural resources before the Gilberts and Tuvalu separated in 1975. He was fluent in Tuvaluan, Gilbertese, Samoan, French, Italian and English.

JOHN SACHS

At his home in Suva, of a massive heart attack, on September 23. John Sachs, 45, was on the staff of *The Fiji Times* for 20 years, lately as commercial printing manager. He was born at Nausori, one of an old European family in Fiji, his grandfather being one of the original settlers at Tailevu. John Sachs was involved in

many community activities including YMCA and Harry Charman's sports club, and was president of the Fiji Master Printers' Association. Former executive director of *The Fiji Times*, Mr L. G. Usher, in a tribute, described Mr Sachs as 'having absolute integrity, in both his working and private life, and he could be depended upon completely'. He leaves a wife, Dorothy, and four children.

ROGER HEARD

Suddenly in Sydney in August, aged 82. He designed the pile light at the entrance to Suva harbour, having gone to Fiji in 1920 to join the Public Works Department. He returned to Australia in 1924. He married Florence Beddows, second daughter of William Beddows, who operated the Vunivasa copra estate on Taveuni.

M. J. RANIGA

At Ba, Fiji, aged 64. Coming to Fiji from India in 1939, Mr Raniga worked as a goldsmith in Ba and Suva before returning to Ba in 1953 to found Popular Novelties Ltd, springboard for Maganlal Jiwa and Sons, the town's biggest industrial concern. Founded as a distribution company, Popular Novelties later began manufacturing its distribution lines, beginning with curry powder and moving on to confectionery. Retired, Mr Raniga spent his last few years concentrating on a private charitable trust set up in the family name. He is survived by his wife, four sons, two daughters and 16 grandchildren.

REV MINORU LOUIS

On Guam, aged 42. Originally from Ponape, at the time of his death, he was assistant pastor of the Faith Presbyterian Reformed Church on Guam. He was also director of Faith Hospitality House, a ministry for Micronesian students on Guam, and a representative of the United Bible Society to Guam and Micronesia.

KUNJU

A *Girmitya*, Kunju, at Savusavu, Vanua Levu, Fiji, aged 87. Kunju survived the

Girmit Centenary (of the first arrival of indentured Indian labourers in Fiji) by only three months.

FR LAWRENCE ISA

The first Shortlands man to be ordained a Catholic priest, Father Lawrence Isa, at Gizo, Solomon Islands. Father Isa had been working with the Gilbertese settlement around Gizo. He was ordained in 1968.

E. J. ROBSON

Eric John Robson, in Lae, Papua New Guinea, aged 65.

Born in New South Wales, Australia, Eric Robson first went to Rabaul, New Britain, in 1938 as a police officer, later transferring to the medical service.

In World War II, he was attached to the Allied Intelligence Bureau, and became one of the elite band of coastwatchers, operating along the Morobe coastal as well as inland areas behind Japanese lines.

After the war he was posted to Mumeng, in Morobe, where he remained until his death. The building of Mumeng's hospital and primary school was largely due to his efforts. Among his other activities were the running of a roadside restaurant at Mumeng, and a spell with the Commonwealth Department of Works.

He was awarded the Independence Medal (PNG) and received it at Mumeng on the country's second Independence Day in 1976, along with his better-known fellow resident, the late Mick Leahy (PIM April p7, May p68). By this time Eric Robson had become a PNG citizen.

A. P. ELKIN

Emeritus Professor A. P. Elkin, Anglican minister, anthropologist, and author, in Sydney, Australia, aged 88. Professor Elkin was a former editor of *Oceania*, a journal mainly concerned with the study of the indigenous peoples of Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island countries. His field work took him to many remote places in these areas.

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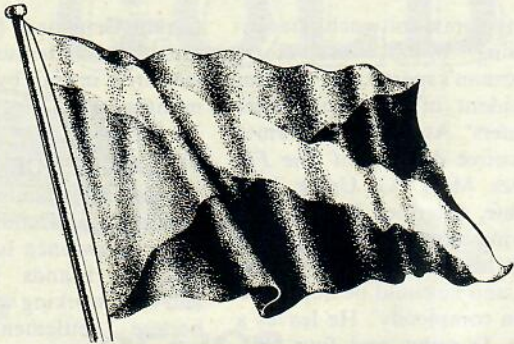
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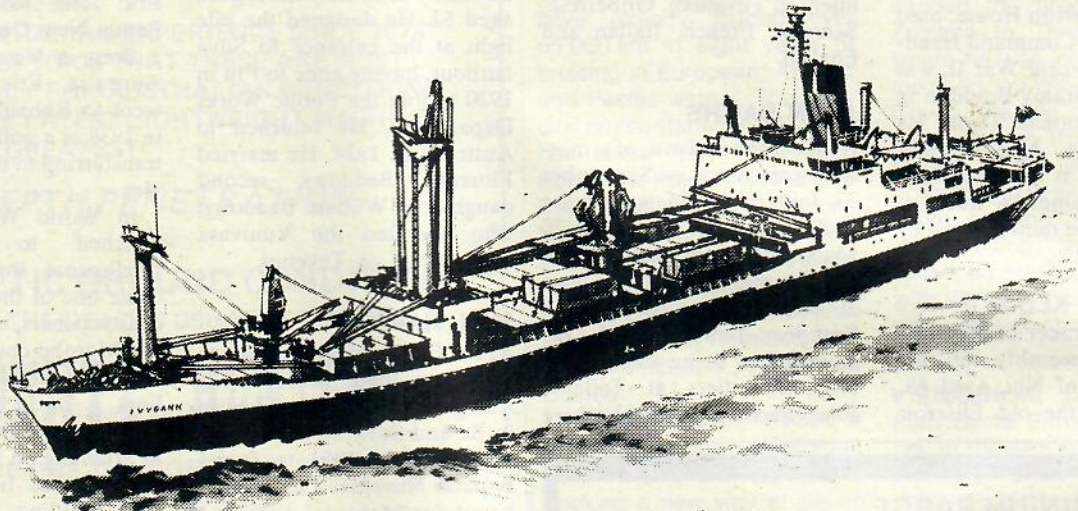
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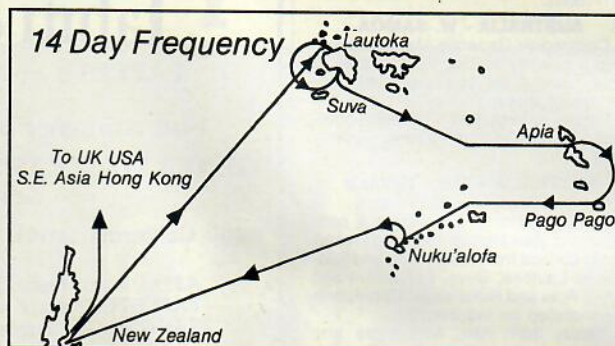
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