



TROPICALITIES

2 of 3

Tonga's no 'soft' drugs transit post

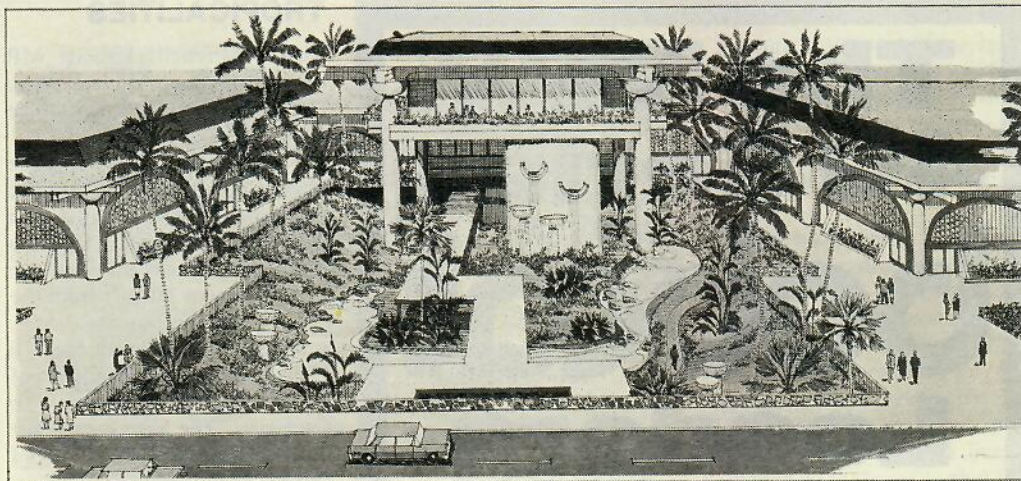
A tangled tale, with an international background and many of the ingredients of a Crime Club thriller, unfolded in Tonga's Supreme Court late last year.

It ended with two West Germans, Werner Heckelmann, 31, and Karl Manfred Schwenk, 38, being convicted on charges of conspiracy, importation of a prohibited drug, and possession of 25 kilograms of high-grade hashish with an estimated value of between \$500 000 and \$750 000 on the New Zealand market for which it had been intended.

Heckelmann, revealed as the prime mover in this 'Operation Tonga Transit', was fined \$T6000 and sentenced to 20 years gaol, while his offsider Schwenk received a 12-year sentence.

The drug saga began early in November, 1981 when New Zealand police advised Tongan colleagues that a known Austrian drug trafficker was believed to be staying at the International Dateline Hotel in Nukualofa. When a local check revealed that a man answering the description given, but calling himself Jan Nielsen (not the name of the trafficker), was indeed staying at the hotel, two New Zealanders -- a policeman and a Customs officer -- flew to Tonga to stand by while local police made a search-warrant raid on 'Nielsen's' room.

Because the suspect had reportedly been seen talking to and visiting the room of another hotel guest (Schwenk), police decided on a simultaneous search of both rooms on the offchance of finding a more than casual link. The Austrian, found in possession of a false Danish passport and three small



One of the most impressive air terminal buildings in the Pacific Islands was opened in mid-January at a ceremony at Guam International Airport. The new terminal, financed entirely by loan funds, cost \$50 million. One of its features is a central garden which will take several years to become fully established. Picture shows an artist's impression of how the garden will be developed at the front of the newly-opened building. The garden will depict three stages of horticulture on Guam — native plants, plants introduced by early settlers and plants bred for modern garden displays.

pellets of hashish, was handed over to the New Zealanders and, with his wife and child, taken back to that country to stand trial on other counts.

From the Tongan angle, it was the 'on spec' subsidiary raid which yielded the major results. In Schwenk's room, police found an aluminium trunk containing the plaster model of a religious statue. It was in two sections — a three-sided base with bas-relief religious motifs, and a sculptured head of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mother Teresa. The model was an expensive and impressive work of art and might well not have aroused suspicion but for the fortunate fact that the New Zealand officer had two Polaroid photographs of it, and that these had been found in the possession of another trafficking suspect (Heckelmann) who had been interrogated in Auckland.

In view of this strange coincidence, the Tongan officer in charge of the raid sent for a drill and bored investigatory holes in the plaster head and base.

When the drill emerged showing traces of what looked and smelled like hashish, the plaster moulds were broken

open and found to contain 57 cellophane-wrapped packages containing 25 kilograms confirmed by New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to be hashish of unusually high THC content.

Further interrogated in Auckland, Heckelmann admitted ownership of the cache, supported Schwenk's claim that he had known nothing of the model's contents, and voluntarily travelled to Tonga to stand trial.

The two accused were held in custody for several weeks while police painstakingly unravelled a train of evidence which showed that the men had travelled from Frankfurt to Nepal together. There, while Schwenk devoted his time to girls and gambling, Heckelmann had purchased the hashish, commissioned the hollow statue which was to be its hiding place, and packed it carefully in the aluminium trunk. This he consigned, in Schwenk's name and as luggage in advance, first to Manila and later to Tonga, via Singapore and Auckland. Documents preserved by Schwenk showed that Heckelmann, armed with Schwenk's written authorisations, had taken possession of the trunk in Manila and again in Tonga, before passing it to his co-conspirator and flying on to Auckland to set up his marketing contacts. Although convinced that the initial Austrian suspect was heavily involved in the drug-running exercise police were unable to find any concrete evidence of this or to elicit any admissions from the two accused which suggested the Austrian was involved.

In passing sentence Mr Justice Hill said the evidence showed Heckelmann to be a cunning criminal who cared nothing for the lives which might be endangered by his actions, an who deserved a sentence of great severity.

Schwenk, he added, had pleaded 'the traditional smuggler's defence' ('I didn't know what was in the package'). Whether his claim was true or false was, however, irrelevant, as it was not a valid plea under Tongan law. He stressed that possession, knowingly or unknowingly, was the relevant offence and that the prosecution does not have to prove knowledge that the material carried was, or contained, a prohibited drug.

Tongan authorities hope that this facet of the local law, plus the severity of the sentence imposed in the kingdom's first major drug trial, may prove discouraging to any other traffickers who might cast an eye in Tonga's direction as a possible 'soft' staging post. — From Penny Hodgkinson in Nukualofa.

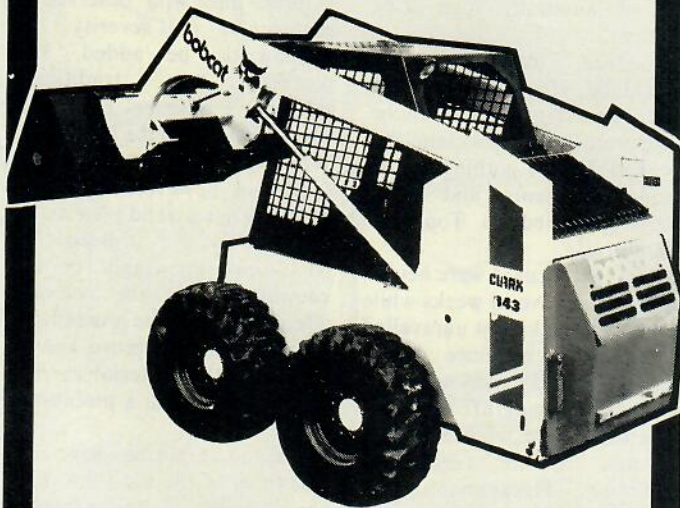
Better late than never in Fiji...

Fiji's Parliament received an 11-years belated Independence gift from Britain's House of Commons late last year.

It is a parliamentary clerk's table made of English brown oak, and was officially presented to a joint meeting of the Upper and Lower Houses.

The presentation was made by a House of Commons delegation led by John Stradling Thomas, Conservative MP for Monmouth, and including

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TROPICALITIES

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, and Michael Ryle, the Clerk of the Overseas Office at the House of Commons.

Speaking after presenting the keys of the desk to the Clerk of Parliament Mrs Lavinia Ah Koy, Mr Thomas said it was a great honour and privilege for him to present the gift from the 'Mother of Parliaments'.

Bill Clark, Leader of the Fiji House, said it was a tradition of Commonwealth parliaments to send gifts. The Speaker's chair in the House was a gift from India, for example. The Opposition Whip, Mrs Irene Jai Narayan, endorsed Mr Clark's remarks and said that the table was an excellent gift of fine craftsmanship. But finer still were the sentiments behind the gift, she said.

Greenpeace III vs. Hippopotame

The revelation that huge quantities of nuclear waste that had been stockpiled on Moruroa Atoll, French Polynesia, are spilling over into the ocean coincided with — and perhaps even prompted — the sailing of the protest vessel *Greenpeace III* (also described in many press reports as *Vega*).

Little by little the mass media in Europe, America, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands began spreading the bad news. The fact that France's best known ecologist, Brice Lalonde — who attracted no fewer than 1 200 000 votes in France's May 1981 presidential election — had joined his friend and fellow peace activist Bruce McTaggart for the new protest cruise to Moruroa was particularly embarrassing for the French Government.

To stem the mounting tide of criticism at home and abroad, Minister for Defence Charles Hernu, at the end of November, produced an old trick that has always worked well in the past: he announced in the French National Assembly that he was going to invite a number of Polynesian government councillors and party leaders to visit Moruroa on December 3 'so that they can see for themselves that there are no radiation dangers for the personnel living

there'. Their tour conductor was to be no less a personage than the boss of the French nuclear submarine fleet, Admiral Claude Pieri, who lost no time in flying out to Tahiti to accomplish his mission.

The last time such an invitation was issued was in 1979 after it had become known (thanks to articles in opposition newspapers) that several serious accidents had occurred on Moruroa, resulting in the deaths of two technicians, the spilling of plutonium on the atoll's surface, and a large-scale under-water leakage of radioactive matter into the ocean. The eight assemblymen and government councillors (who, of course, had no expert knowledge of radiation problems) were literally taken for a ride: all they did, or were allowed to do, was to make a tour of the atoll — by helicopter. On their return to Tahiti they quite frankly declared that they had seen nothing and learnt nothing. In the official bulletin, distributed to all mass media, their main conclusion was worded slightly differently — it stated that they had noticed no pollution whatsoever on Moruroa...

Their reaction to the 1981 invitation was different from that of two years before: like wise old barracudas who've already been hooked, they all refused to take the bait. Even worse for the poor minister and his admirals, they recalled that the Territorial Assembly had voted unanimously on August 18, 1979, for the French Government to allow a group of French and foreign radiobiologists to visit all the relevant islands of French Polynesia and publish their findings. Since Minister Hernu had stated in Papeete on July 31, 1981, that the new Socialist government of President Mitterrand to which he belonged was going to make a complete break with the hush-up policies of previous Right-wing governments, this reminder was a timely one. The assemblymen are still waiting for Minister Hernu to make good on his promise.

Nor has Charles Hernu thought of extending his invitation to the only ones left who are definitely not only willing but eager to go to Moruroa —

Brice Lalonde, David McTaggart, and the other ecologists on the *Greenpeace III*.

For example, the French warship *Hippopotame* recently caught up with them 50 nautical miles from Moruroa and ordered them not to go closer to the place than 42 miles. 'Why 42 miles when territorial waters extend only 12 miles?' the French navy men were asked. The navy officers explained rather lamely that this was the radius of the danger zone forbidden to all ships by a special decree back in the 1960s. The *Greenpeace* crew immediately pointed out that this decree had been issued at a time when the tests were carried out in the atmosphere, and that it did not apply any longer — unless the under-water tests now taking place at Moruroa are also dangerous for ships passing at that distance.

Impressed by this display of logic, the military high command let the *Greenpeace III* proceed until on December 3, 1981, she came within 15 miles of Moruroa. — *Marie-Thérèse and Bengt Danielsson*.

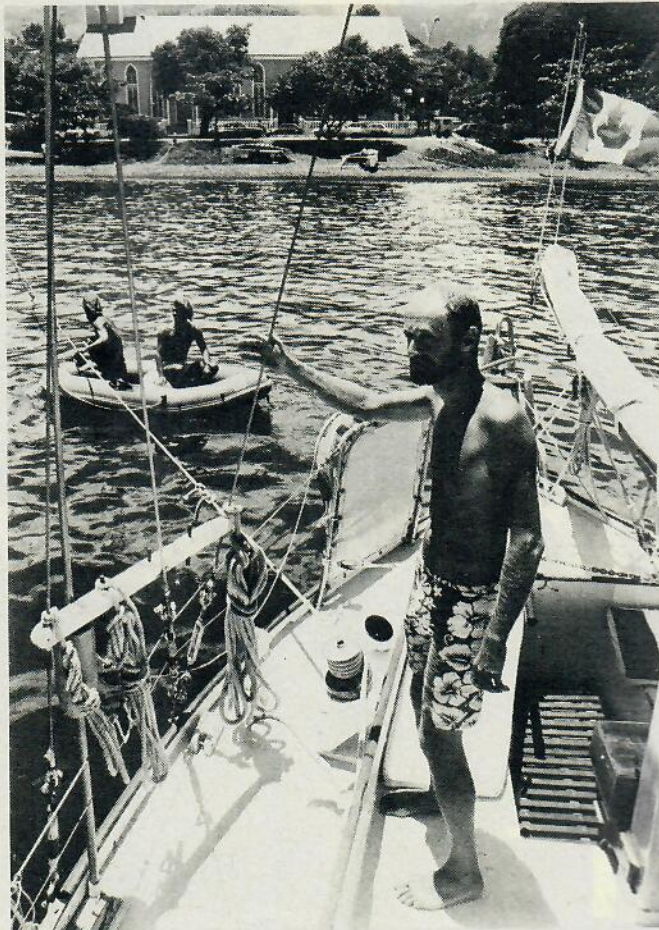
• For later developments, see 'Postmark Papeete', p14.

Culture theme in PATA meeting

The Pacific Area Travel Association recently completed its second Tourism and Heritage Conservation Seminar in Manila. Lord Duncan-Sandys, president of Europa Nostra, was the keynote speaker as he had been at the first seminar in Bangkok in 1979.

The theme of the seminar, 'looking back to tomorrow', was treated by many experts in the field of historic preservation. Terry Kemaston, director of development for PATA whose department sponsored the seminar, said that the co-operation being developed as a result of the joint efforts of experts in tourism and heritage can do nothing but improve the Pacific as a place to live and visit.

Culture and heritage are the single most important attributes a visitor destination has to offer tourists. Conversely, the controlled enjoyment of these attributes by visitors can provide economic stimulus to further



their preservation. The most important message from the seminar for the Pacific Islands was that they should endeavour to retain those physical and cultural attributes that are significant to the area, and to maintain the architectural structure of the villages by building more *Fale*-type residences which blend better into the village environment than European-type houses.

At the same time they should encourage the preservation of early Western-style buildings from the colonial periods. The dances and culture, which are their living heritage, should be cherished and retained for the enjoyment of local people and visitors alike.

Retention of these aspects of the cultural heritage can enhance the lifestyle of local people, while ensuring that visitors see what is unique to the destination.

Meeting after the seminar, the PATA Development Authority Council resolved to emphasise *cultural preservation* at its next Biannual Seminar, a change from the emphasis

On the deck of *Greenpeace III* French ecologist Brice Lalonde prepares to go ashore in Papeete. *Greenpeace* sailed to within 15 miles of Moruroa but French authorities refused a closer approach.

placed on structures and monuments in the previous two. This emphasis on 'culture' should prove of considerable value to Pacific Island countries who are struggling with the impact of tourist development on their cultures. The meeting decided: 'The PATA Development Authority recognises the fragile state of many island cultures and if tourism can develop without infringing on this culture, they would like to assist in seeing that tourism development is properly implemented.'

— *Ta'ofi Atoa*.

Mariner's Tonga in new edition

December saw the publication of a new edition of William Mariner's account of Tonga in the early 19th century, *An Account of the Natives of the Tonga Islands*. Entitled *Tonga*

Islands, William Mariner's Account, the new edition has been wholly produced in Tonga, printed at the Government Printing Office and published by Vavau Press Ltd, of Neiafu, Vavau.

The book marks a couple of significant anniversaries: it appeared on the 175th anniversary of the *Port-au-Prince* massacre in which, on December 1, 1806, an English privateer of that name was seized by the Tongans at Haapai, and many of her crew killed. The lives of 26 men were spared so that they could work the captured guns. Among them was an English youth, William Mariner, who was to remain in Tonga for four years, living as the adopted son of the warrior king Finau 'Ulukalala.

The book's publication also coincides with the 150th anniversary of the introduction of printing in Tonga.

A feature of the new edition is that it carries a preface by Mariner's great-great grandson, Denis McCulloch, of Wallingford, England.

Mariner left Tonga in November 1810. On his return to London his experiences fired the imagination of the young Dr John Martin, who had long wanted to write the history of a society that had been uninfluenced by Western civilisation.

From Mariner's narration, he produced the account — and, into the bargain, compiled the first comprehensive dictionary, and a grammar, of the Tongan language.

His work was first published in two volumes in London in 1817. The two volumes have been combined into one paperback volume by Vavau Press. It includes the original appendices.

The new preface contains Mr McCulloch's account of the family and fortunes of his ancestor. He describes a career that led up to a £1 million Exchequer Bill forgery scandal in which Mariner found himself involved, and suggests that the impact of this event on Mariner 'may have led him to his mysterious death in 1853'

He pays warm tribute to the work of Dr Martin, writing: 'If it had not been for the enthusi-

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asm, tact and patience of this young doctor, we should today know practically nothing of the story, and the record of an important period in the history of Tonga would be much the poorer... I leave to scholars in the various fields of Polynesian studies to assess the values of the *Account* in their own ways'.

McCulloch recognises Mafi Habe, Mariner's adoptive mother, and the great debt Mariner owed her for her efforts in educating a desperate European castaway to become a confident young Tongan chief.

Of the forgery scandal of his later years McCulloch says it came as a shattering blow to Mariner, who had been held in high regard for his probity in business.

The new edition contains an etching depicting Mariner as a young man, and a previously unpublished daguerreotype of him done in about 1850. *Tonga Islands, William Mariner's Account*, by John Martin, MD, fourth edition, Neiafu 1981, is available from booksellers, or from Vavau Press Ltd, PO Box 83, Neiafu, Vavau, Tonga.

Stuart Inder comments: There may be some dispute as to whether the Vavau Press edition is in fact the fourth edition, as claimed, depending on whether or not one is a purist in these matters

The original editions of Mariner's *Tonga* were published in 1817, 1818 and 1827, and all were extremely popular in their day.

All of them were two-volume editions, the second volume being three-quarters filled with the dictionary of Tongan words put down by Dr Martin from young Mariner's memory.

The 1827 edition is marked on the title page as 'third edition'. But in fact an American publisher in 1820 had pirated the second, 1818, edition, and published it in one volume in the USA, omitting the dictionary and a short introduction to the dictionary, but publishing the narrative in full, complete with the foldout map seen in each of the original editions.

Specialist collectors might debate whether in view of this American edition of 1820, the British 1827 one published as a



Englishman William Mariner (above) as the 18-year-old adopted son of a Tongan noble, and (top) 40 years later as a London stockbroker. His four years in Tonga provided material for an important contemporary book which has now been re-published.

Constable Miscellany edition was not in fact the fourth edition, making the new Vavau edition the fifth.

In recent years two other reprints were published in Tonga before the Vavau Press edition, both by H. G. Cummins. But as these were

straight reprints they cannot fairly be called 'new editions'.

The Vavau Press edition, reset and put into one volume, complete with the dictionary, and with the new introduction by McCulloch, is an important development in the production history of this famous work.

It is worth noting that a straight French translation of the book has also appeared.

Beche-de-mer to the pigs?

Will sea slugs appeal to a pig's palate?

That is the question behind a novel proposal to boost the supply of pig food in Tokelau.

The Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, Semu Uili, realising that land sources of animal feeds are limited, is looking to the sea for help — and specifically in the direction of the beche-de-mer which litter the lagoon floors of each atoll.

'The beche-de-mer are a wasted resource,' says Mr Uili. 'Although Samoans eat them, our people just don't bother.'

His idea is for the slugs to be gathered from the shallows, dried in the sun then ground up with coconut as a basic pig food.

'We've got to look at all the possibilities for feed if we are to increase pig production. Our pigs are used to eating fish occasionally when there is a surplus in the village, and at Fakalafo the pigs actually go fishing themselves on the reef.'

Mr Uili graduated from the University of the South Pacific School of Tropical Agriculture and Fisheries at Alafua, near Apia, in 1977. The following year he was appointed director of agriculture and fisheries in a revamped Tokelau Public Service. His right-hand man is another Alafua graduate, Foua Toloa, who was appointed extension officer in 1981.

Mr Uili's staff includes three field supervisors (one on each atoll) and about six field assistants. Both the director and extension officer are based in Apia, where the Tokelau Public Service has its headquarters, and visit Tokelau by sea whenever they can. — From *Development*, published by the External Aid Division of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs. -

'Extinct' bird in Irian Jaya

A type of bird believed to have died out nearly a century ago has been discovered in Irian Jaya, according to a report in *The Evening Standard*, London.

It was living in an elaborate tower of boughs and fruit built to attract its mate, the newspaper said.

There may be a thousand or more of the birds left, said explorer Jared Diamond who discovered the Yellow-Fronted Gardener Bowerbird in an Irian Jaya rainforest.

The British National Geographical Society, which has supported Diamond's research, said the only previous trace of the bird in the Western world came from three skins and plumes sold to British zoologist Lord Rothschild in 1895.

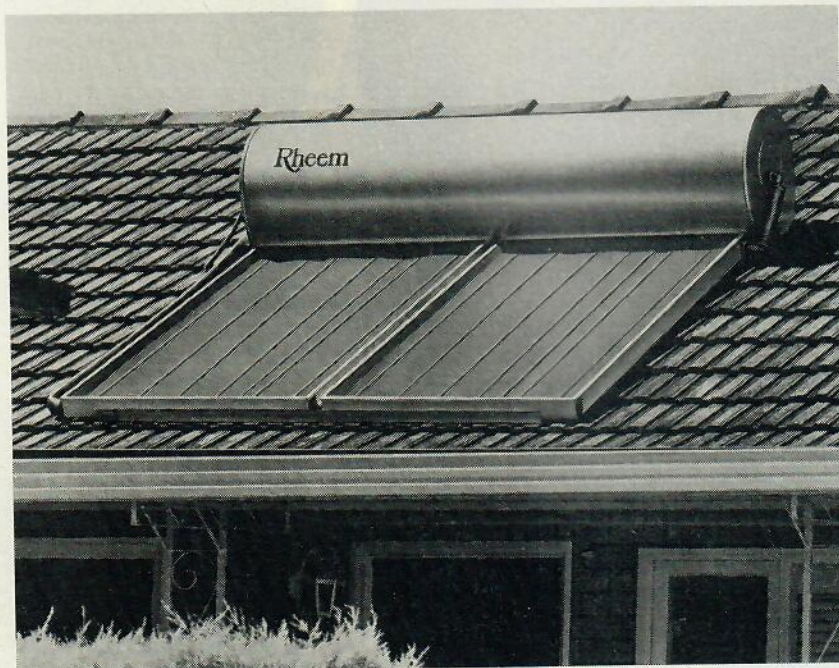
Several expeditions to locate the 'mystery bird of New Guinea' ended in failure.

Diamond said the bird looked like 'a fat chunky robin with an incredibly glorious golden orange crest'.

Diamond, Professor of Physiology at the University of California Medical School in Los Angeles, came across the bird in largely unexplored mountains.

He said: 'The discovery was a totally unexpected bonus. It's like being in the world 30 million years ago.'

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March is named as 'action month' on New Caledonia



A French Government spokesman, in a statement issued in Paris in January, named March as 'action month' for the adoption of new laws by the French Parliament which will shape the future course of the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Earlier, in mid-December, the government had announced it intended to rule *by decree* in the territory for the next 12 months.

Article 38 of the French constitution gives it this power. Rule by decree means that the local Territorial Assembly will be stripped of what powers it ever had to change legislative measures originating in Paris.

Explaining the move in an address to the assembly in Noumea on December 14, Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories Henri Emmanuelli declared: 'The government has decided to use this power because, ultimately, the French Government is responsible for what happens in New Caledonia. It is determined to live up to that responsibility.'

As a sweetener, Mr Emmanuelli told the conservative-dominated assembly that use of Article 38 was in no way intended to deprive the territory of its institutions. Indeed, he added (tongue in cheek?), 'the assembly would remain free to enact other — even more ambitious — reforms if it so desired'.

But he made clear who would be calling the shots when he outlined the six areas of reform which are to receive the immediate attention of the government. These were 1) organisational changes to ensure access of *all* New Caledonians to positions of authority; 2) 'possible' modification of existing land reform legislation to accelerate and widen the land reform process; 3) reform of mining and energy organisation to ensure that resources are used more in the general interest than in the past — this raises

the spectre for the present beneficiaries that, in future, nickel mining royalties may actually be paid to traditional owners of mined lands; 4) tax reforms, in the direction of egalitarianism and modernisation; 5) building cultural institutions to affirm Melanesian structures enabling a more balanced economic and social development.

As if all that were not enough, President Mitterrand has appointed a close political associate in the Socialist Party, Christian Nucci, 42, as the new high commissioner to oversee the reforms on the spot in New Caledonia. An indication of Mr Nucci's political standing is

six months. It is the first time a parliamentarian has been appointed high commissioner of a French territory in the Pacific.

Mr Nucci was quoted in *Le Monde* of December 10 as saying: 'I wish to listen, to inform myself and, in close consultation with the secretariat for Overseas Departments and Territories, to promote the reform policy which has been developed for New Caledonia.'

'I shall devote myself to the

Secretary of State Emmanuelli (left) and High Commissioner Nucci arrive in Noumea with promises of a new approach to affairs in New Caledonia. — Corail picture.



that until his appointment to Noumea, he was vice-president of the National Assembly in Paris (PIM Jan p6).

Commenting on the appointment, which was ratified by the Council of Ministers on December 9, a spokesman for President Mitterrand said that Mr Nucci would take the position as a parliamentarian on special appointment. He would resign his seat only if he remained in the position for more than

most rapid possible realisation of the dispositions made by the government in regard to this overseas territory.'

He said that he proposed to bring a fresh approach to new Caledonia, and to distance himself to some extent from day-to-day events.

Mr Nucci arrived in New Caledonia on December 13, 1981, on the same plane as Mr Emmanuelli.

In other developments re-

lated to the New Caledonian situation:

• Speaking in the Fiji Parliament in December, Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara said the South Pacific Forum-appointed mission to Paris which he is to lead had been deferred until early this year. The mission is to discuss with President Mitterrand the problem of independence for France's Pacific territories, and France's nuclear testing in the Pacific.

• In a December speech to the Pacific regional conference of Rotary International in Melbourne, the Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said the new French Government had shown signs of taking a fresh approach on the question of decolonisation.

Mr Fraser said it was less than 20 years since every South Pacific State was subject to some form of colonial administration, and it was a matter for great satisfaction that the political life of the independent states of the South Pacific since independence had been one of political stability.

'But not all Pacific islands are yet self-governing, and the principles of self-determination and independence for all Pacific island countries — principles which certainly enjoy Australian support — still need to be advanced,' Mr Fraser said.

Mr Fraser said the strategic importance of the South Pacific had been amply demonstrated in earlier times, and Australia had a direct and immediate interest in continued stability throughout the decolonisation period and beyond it.

'We in Australia are well aware of the responsibilities which fall upon us in relation to the South Pacific region and are continuing to take initiatives, as we have done in past years, to discharge those responsibilities.'

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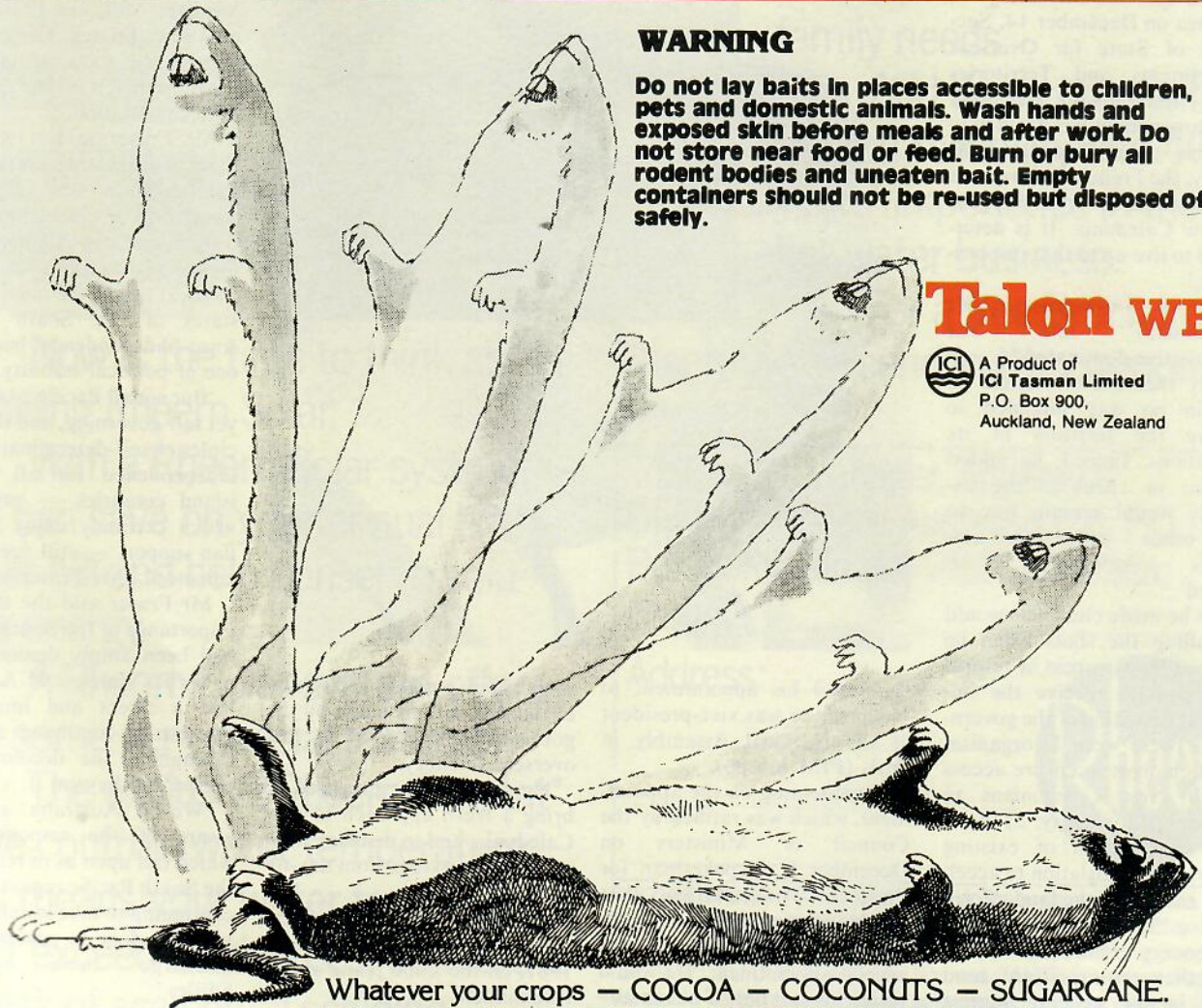
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'Three colours — one people' was the slogan: A section of the crowd during the anti-independence March for Peace and Fraternity in Noumea in November. Professor Jean Guiart of Paris claims that Rightwing settler groups deliberately provoked an earlier riot to provide a plausible basis for the march.

Ratu Mara's proposed Paris visit (on which he will be accompanied by high officials from Papua New Guinea and Tonga) Mr Fraser said: 'This delegation could advance moves for independence of French territories in the South Pacific.'

• Leader of the Labor Party Opposition in the Australian Parliament, Bill Hayden, visited New Caledonia in January. In an article on his visit which was widely published in the Australian press, he wrote:

'It is the misfortune of the new Democratic Socialist administration of France led by President Mitterrand that he has been landed with a legacy of accumulated neglect of important transition arrangements necessary to transform New Caledonia from dependent colony to independent nationhood.

'This is the heritage of a series of paternalistically aloof, conservative French governments unable to grasp one elementary lesson, which after Dien Bien Phu and Algeria should have been understood with greater clarity by France than any other country in the world.

'That lesson is that colonialism is an objectionable anachronism anywhere, and to obstruct the momentum of the forces of national independence is to court disaster...

'The anti-independence argument about Melanesians being a minority is spurious. Current population growth rates ensure a Melanesian majority again before the end of the 1980s.

'A more productive course for European settlers would be to discard this artificial argument, acknowledge the Kanak people's right to determine the future of their own country, and to develop processes which accommodate non-Melanesians.

'Australia has a prime interest in these developments so close to our shores.



'Make no mistake. If badly handled, the issue of New Caledonia independence could have grave consequences.

'New Caledonia will be independent. The real question is when and how the process is consummated, with good will or in bloody conflict'.

• The noted supporter of New Caledonian independence, Professor Jean Guiart of the Musée de l'Homme, Paris, has circulated a leaflet alleging that the November 7 1981 riots in Noumea (PIM Dec p5) were deliberately provoked by Rightwing settler circles to provide a basis for the November 11 March for Peace and Fraternity staged by anti-independence forces (PIM Dec p5).

Professor Guiart writes: 'The riots in Noumea on November 6-7 were organised and paid for by the local Rightwing, which used a small group of Melanesians who have been

working for them over recent years.

'They carefully stoned the stores belonging to small Asian and European merchants. The larger or more luxurious stores owned by the leaders or friends of the Right were not touched.

'This group found a small number of ready followers among unsuspecting jobless young people and adolescents, unorganised and politically untrained, who joined in the fray.'

With his own leaflet Professor Guiart encloses another which was found in the wake of the November 11 march. It contains the names of 14 of the most prominent supporters of New Caledonian independence — including those of Guiart and his son. The leaflet blames the 14 for inciting 'racial hatred' and 'brutal violence' and calls for their 'rejection' by New Caledonian society, 'before they become the murderers of our children'.

personnel 'transform moderates into radicals'. House raids in Port Moresby, Madang and Vanimo followed the seizure by police of a letter, purporting to have originated from OPM sources, which was addressed to an intermediary in Turkey and which requested Russian assistance (PIM Sep '81 p45). The letter had been returned from Turkey unclaimed.

House raids occurred in April and nothing of note was found by security. They seized a number of photographs which contained pictures of people whom authorities considered may be foreign sympathisers of the OPM. Those included group shots of Japanese and ni-Vanuatans, and Hilda Lini, sister of Vanuatu's prime minister, was seen among the latter group. Legal aid was necessary to secure return of the photos. Afterwards security leaked to the press the reason for the raids — alleged Cuban involvement with the OPM. Following this incident, PNG security requested neighbouring countries to crack down on alleged OPM sympathisers.

A few months earlier, security was responsible for the leaking of information that two OPM factions in the PNG-Irian Jaya border region were at loggerheads. Eki Bemey, the newly appointed successor to Martin Tabu and Jacob Prai, was supposedly looking for Seth Rumkorem, another OPM leader. To achieve his purpose, PNG sources stated that he kidnapped a village headman who, he thought, knew the location of Rumkorem's hide-out. OPM officials in Jayapura claim that this incident never

OPM reckons '81 as 'year of setbacks'

Sources in the Free West Papua movement (OPM) regard 1981 as a year of setbacks, and consider that the Indonesian and Papua New Guinean authorities came off best for the year. They allege that the PNG and Indonesian Governments co-ordinated a well-planned assault against them in the two main centres of West Irian activism — Jayapura and the refugee community in Port Moresby.

The PNG Government was the more successful because it contributed to the suppression of an attempt by refugees to maintain an information office and issue a newsletter. A number of alleged OPM sympathisers among the refugees were deported to Irian Jaya, or had life made difficult for them. They were subject to house raids and dismissal from employment.

West Irianese maintain that such tactics by PNG security

POLITICAL CURRENTS

occurred, and was fabricated by authorities in an attempt to discredit them. The headman was a person who in 1978 had his headman's salary of 120 Kina a month withdrawn in an attempt to bring him to heel. He was accused at the time of helping foreign journalists who wished to visit OPM camps in the border region.

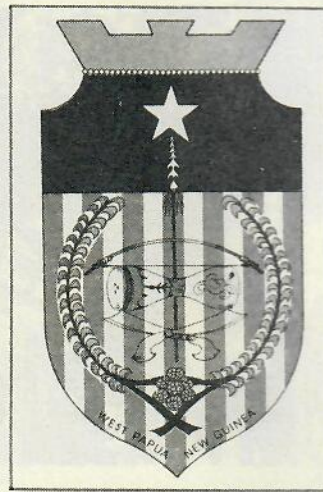
In May, West Irian refugee groups in Port Moresby opened an information centre to disseminate information from Irian Jaya and function as a community centre. In July, they attempted to produce a newsletter, but authorities warned printers not to have anything to do with it. Printing took place elsewhere and two issues were produced before financial problems caused the eight-page publication to close down for the time being.

During the year there have been sporadic attempts to influence the Vanuatu government to expel the only West Irian resident in Port-Vila. This man arrived in Vanuatu in February after being given

Vanuatu travel documents, following attempts by PNG authorities to restrict his activities, and consider him for deportation to Irian Jaya.

Inside Irian Jaya, Eki Bemey is still in control of the largest OPM group. He was born in the Gengem area of Irian Jaya, and his initial experience of political activism occurred during the 1967 disturbances. He later became a government employee and fled to the bush in 1980 to join Martin Tabu, when the Indonesian authorities were searching for Tabu.

During 1981, the OPM engaged in sporadic attacks on Indonesian army camps and strategic installations. The most successful raid occurred when the OPM attacked a sawmill and camp where they captured 50 hostages, mainly Indonesian management personnel and workmen. Authorities attempted to intercept the guerrillas but were unsuccessful. At the time of writing, the 50 hostages are still with the OPM in the mountains south of Jayapura. OPM sources claim that



The Free Papua emblem

the main problem involved in holding so many hostages is acquiring food for them.

In August, OPM guerrillas attacked the gaol at Adapura, south of Jayapura, which contained many OPM captives. During the skirmish, there was heavy loss of life on both sides. The Indonesians and OPM issued conflicting claims concerning the number of casualties. The former claimed

that 15 OPM and one Indonesian soldier were killed. Guerrilla sources stated that casualties were much higher. They put OPM dead at 51 and wounded at 141. In addition, they claimed that of 268 Indonesian troops involved in the engagement, 139 were killed or wounded.

What seems certain is that Indonesian casualties were much higher than the official figures.

Outside Jayapura and other urban areas, the OPM are in effective control, and this has led to a reluctance by the Indonesians to travel by land where the probability of ambush is high. Most travel by authorities is done by helicopter to keep casualties down.

Many skirmishes in Irian Jaya go unnoticed by the world media. This is due to strict censorship of news by Indonesian authorities and relatively inefficient and sporadic communications between the OPM guerrillas and refugee groups outside Irian Jaya. — *By a Special Correspondent.*

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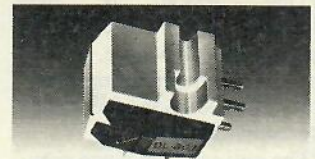
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Prisoners — and two ministers — out in Vanuatu

Release of all but two of the people imprisoned for their role in the secessionist movements of May-August 1980, and the sacking of two government ministers, were highlights of an eventful week in Vanuatu politics in November-December last year.

Those released from gaol on the occasion of the country's Unity Day, November 29, were: Aimé Maléré, Opposition MP for Malakula, and Alfred Maliu, Opposition MP for Santo Rural (and former 'president' of the 'Vemarana' secessionist movement).

Three others who benefited from the amnesty were: Mariano Lauman, brother of Alexis Yolou, who was killed in the course of secessionist disturbances on Tanna in 1980; Joseph Navo; and Albert Ravutia, former agriculture minister in the pre-independence Kalsakau government in the New Hebrides.

The two persons remaining in prison are Jimmy Stevens, who is serving a 14½-year sentence, and Timothy Welles, who was sentenced to eight years for his role in the 'Vemarana' secession as Stevens' right-hand man and chief of police in the secessionist set-up.

Those freed were informed personally by Minister of Home Affairs Fred Timakata, who told them they had been released because of their good behaviour. He said it was his hope 'that the events of the past will be forgotten as we live and work together for the future good of all'.

The ministers whose dismissals were announced by Prime Minister Walter Lini on December 4 were Thomas Reuben Seru, minister of lands, and George Worek, minister of social affairs.

Ian McIntyre reports from Port-Vila: The dismissals were not unexpected. Rumours had been flying around all week that there were going to be changes in government, and that some of

the ministers were speaking out against the PM.

Both Reuben Seru and Worek had, apparently, been warned by the PM on several occasions, and by the administration of the Vanuaaku Party, about their personal image, or the lack of it, and their 'antics' in their private lives.

Both had produced children out of wedlock, and rumour has it that Reuben Seru has at least three women pregnant to him at present, and Worek, one. Reuben Seru's liking for drink and performances when drunk have caused police action on several occasions over the past two years, and the situation has only grown worse recently.

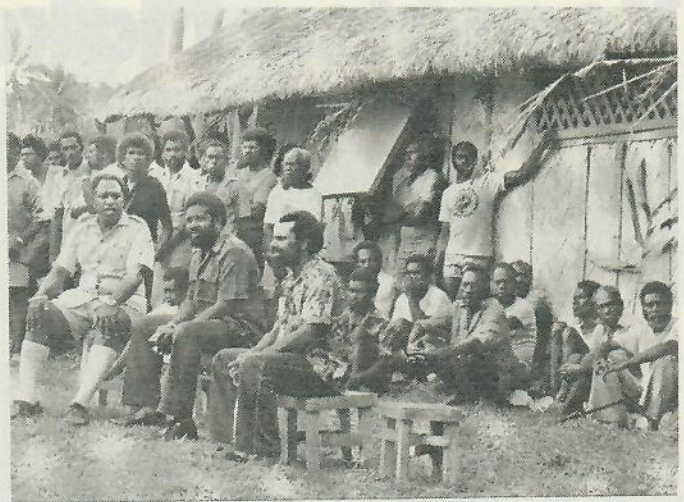
Certain other ministers also fit into the same category, and it was expected that more changes could have been made. Perhaps they still could be, although at present there is a decided lack of elected members capable of being placed in key ministries.

The effect of the removal of the two will no doubt be looked on as a warning to those others transgressing the high moral standards expected of them by the PM, and cause them to step up their efforts to serve their country, rather than themselves.

The fact that the prime minister has abolished the two ministries concerned is unexpected, but interesting — especially the abolition of the lands ministry.

As a result of the dismissals, and the absorption of the two ministries into 'appropriate' existing ones, the Vanuatu cabinet has been reduced in size from nine to seven.

In announcing dismissal of the ministers, the PM said: 'I wish to put on record the deep appreciation of the government of the long years of loyal and devoted service dedicated by Messrs Reuben Seru and Worek to the struggle for independence, and to the building up of our new nation since



independence. I know that they will continue to serve the nation as members of parliament.'

Mr Reuben Seru represents a Santo constituency, and Mr Worek a constituency in the Banks group.

Teddy Kennedy at East-West

United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy, speaking late last year before an overflow crowd at the University of Hawaii's East West Center, said that the United States seeks a partnership for peace and progress in the Pacific. The Massachusetts Democrat, who has spent nearly 20 years in the Senate and is a leader of liberal thought in the USA, did not define the form that partnership should take, nor did he suggest if that was also the goal held by the Reagan Republicans.

Kennedy's statement that there should be no nuclear storage 'in these beautiful waters', and that 'the nuclear way is not the Pacific way' was greeted with warm applause. Additionally the Senator noted the importance of human rights and drew attention to 'the shameful scope of human rights violations in the Philippines', and mentioned similar concerns about Korea.

Remarking that the US now has more trade with the Pacific and Pacific Rim countries than with any other part of the world, Kennedy noted the important future for the region. However, exactly what that future holds for Pacific Islanders has never been made clear by Kennedy or by any of the other economists

The process of national reconciliation following the troubled birth of the new state of Vanuatu has been taken a step further by the release of political prisoners reported on this page. But it is a continuous and many-sided process. Another aspect of the process is reflected in the picture above in which (seated, left to right) Chief Willie Bongmatur, Prime Minister Father Walter Lini and parliamentary Opposition Leader Vincent Boulekone are welcomed at a council of chiefs ceremony. The ceremony, on December 13, was at Melsisi on Pentecost Island to mark the opening of a new *nakamal* (meeting house) for the *Bilmalvanua* (Pentecost Council of Chiefs). A third national parliamentarian, Samuel Bule, also attended the ceremony. The presence of the three parliamentarians represented a linking — in the broader national interest — of the forces of Custom, government and political opposition. — *Tam-Tam* picture.

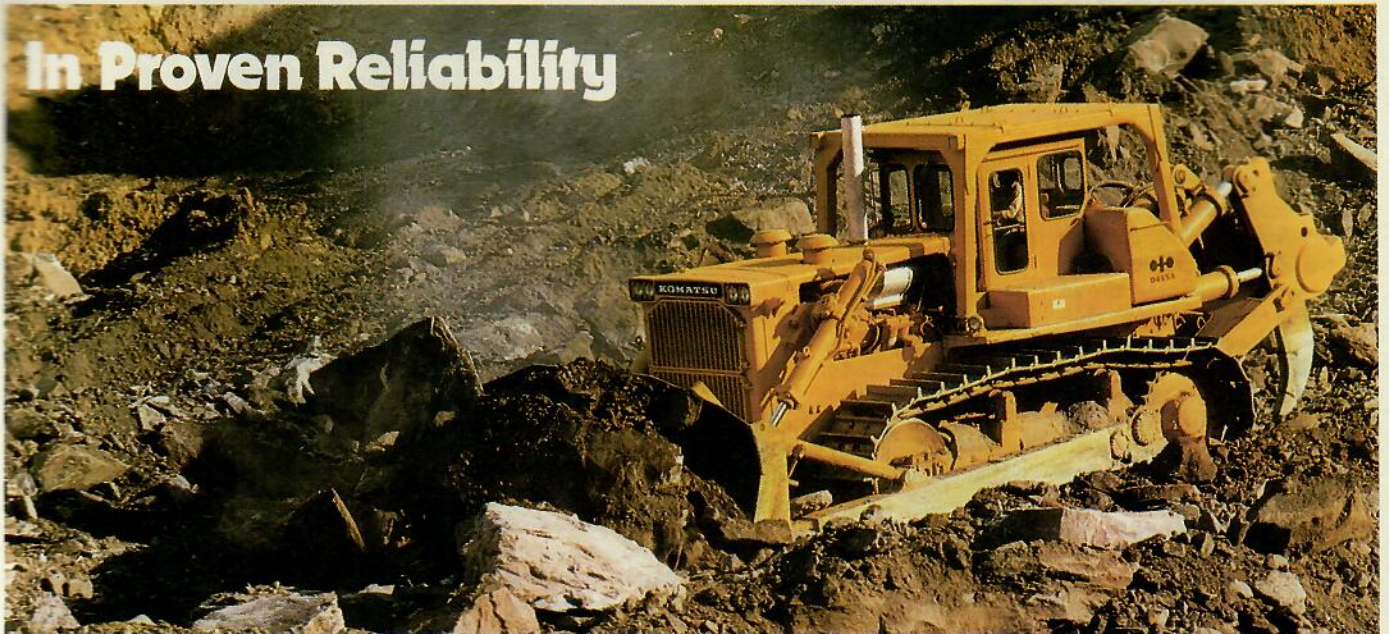
and futurists who have made similar remarks in the last few years, calling the Pacific 'the Mediterranean of the future'.

Like most high-powered Washington officials who visit the region, Kennedy seemed more concerned with the big issues of interest to larger Asian countries and the US, than those important to the Island states. Kennedy did not address how the US perceives the increased Chinese and Russian diplomatic presence in Pacific Island countries.

The tone of Kennedy's remarks might be more popular among Islanders than Reagan's still unclear policies, but neither has addressed economic issues of immediate concern to the islands. — *Robert Graham in Honolulu.*

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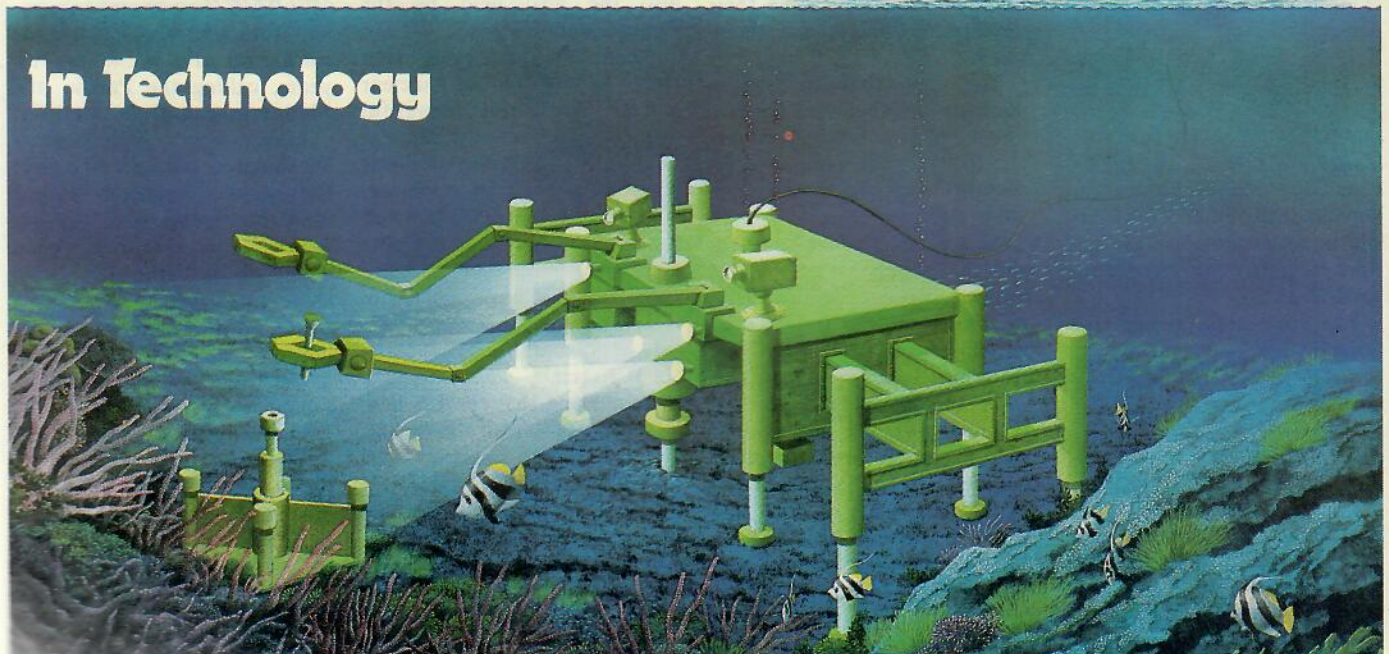
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In Technology



*The Komatsu seabed robot system is currently operating in the Japan Inland Sea at depths down to a maximum of 70 meters, in a government-sponsored bridge works program.



Peter Kenilorea, the man who led Solomon Islands to independence in 1978, and **Virgil Copas**, an Australian who became the first Roman Catholic Archbishop of Port Moresby, received knighthoods in this year's New Year honours announced from Buckingham Palace, London, by Queen Elizabeth. Both men were made Knight Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (KBE).

The new Sir Peter Kenilorea, who comes from Malaita Island, spent a brief period as a teacher and then joined the public administration service of his country. He held a number of senior positions in finance and province administration. He was president of the Civil Servants Association from which grew his political party, the United Party. Within a year of his election to parliament he became chief minister in the transitional independence government, and he became the country's first prime minister in 1978. He is now opposition leader following a parliamentary vote which changed the government last year.

The Most Reverend Dr Virgil Copas went to Papua New Guinea from Australia in 1945, initially to the Vunapope Mission near Rabaul. Except



for six years when he was based in the northern Australian city of Darwin, he has continued to hold a series of prominent positions in the church in PNG. He created wide interest about the time of PNG independence when he stood down from his position as first Archbishop of Port Moresby to allow the appointment of the first Papua New Guinean to the position. Since then he has worked as a missionary and churchman in the PNG Gulf Province, and is based in Kerema.

John C. Lanham has been appointed chief justice of the High Court of the Marshall Islands.

Mr Lanham, 57, served as a judge in Hawaii's First Circuit Court from 1970 to 1980. He was in private practice on Oahu from 1955 to 1970.

From 1958 to 1966 he was a member of the Hawaii House of Representatives, and a member of the Hawaii Senate from 1966-70.

Before he went into private practice, he served as a legal officer with the US Air Force.

Robert Puissant, new ambassador of the French Republic to the Kingdom of Tonga, has presented his credentials to King **Taufa'ahau Tupou IV** in Nukualofa.

Fred Zeder has been nominated by President **Ronald Reagan** to conduct the Micronesian political status talks, according to the Guam newspaper, *Pacific Daily News*.

Like his predecessor, **Peter Rosenblatt**, President **Jimmy Carter's** special representative to the Micronesia talks, Mr Zeder will have the rank of ambassador.

Fred Zeder was director of the US Office of Territories from 1975 to 1977.

The *PDN* reported that Mr Zeder owns Paradise Cruise Corporation in Hawaii, and Marcom, a radio broadcasting company in Saipan. In his post in the Office of Territories, Mr Zeder won wide praise for bringing a 'business viewpoint' to his job.

Aged 60, Mr Zeder is a native of South Orange, New Jersey, USA, and served in the Pacific as a fighter pilot in World War II.

After the war, he formed a marketing and advertising firm which eventually merged with McCann-Erickson Advertising of New York. Later, he organised the Chrysler Zeder Co, an investment and manufacturing firm which operates in New York and Puerto Rico.

Mr Zeder lived for some time in Dallas, Texas, and is a good

friend of US Vice-President **George Bush**. At a ceremony in Nukualofa, **Carlos M. Fernández-Shaw** (left) presents his letters of credence to King **Taufa'ahau Tupou** of Tonga following the establishment of formal diplomatic relationships between the two countries. Ambassador **Fernández-Shaw** lives in **Canberra** where he is Spanish ambassador to Australia. He recently visited a number of island countries in the South Pacific including Tonga and Solomon Islands both of which have now established formal diplomatic links with Spain.

friend of US Vice-President **George Bush**.

Léon Olivier, Belgian ambassador to New Zealand, has been accredited to Vanuatu, and presented his credentials to President **Ati George Sokomanu** at Port-Vila's State House in December.

Mr Olivier spent a week in Vanuatu, meeting Prime Minister **Father Walter Lini**, other government ministers and officials, and members of the diplomatic corps.

The Marshall Islands Government has opened negotiations with Yacht Club owner **Tom Getty** on his taking over the Majuro airport restaurant and bar concession.

Chief Secretary **Oscar deBrum** said the International Development Corporation had failed to get its plans in even after an extension to the original 60 days.

The Yacht Club was the second highest bidder, and Getty said he was having talks with the attorney-general's office with an eye to working out a deal quickly.

A man who as civil servant in



Peter Kenilorea, KBE



Virgil Copas, KBE

PEOPLE

Western Samoa travelled with the famed Maori anthropologist Sir Peter Buck, saw the motor car and the rhinoceros beetle arrive on Samoa's shores, and translated the first-ever speech given in Samoan to the United Nations, retired recently in Auckland.

He is **Magele M. Edmund Stehlin**, who, until December 1981, was Samoa's commercial representative in the Western Samoan Consulate in Auckland. His retirement came after 56 years of service.

During his colourful career as both a New Zealand civil servant in Samoa, and, since independence, a servant of Samoa itself, Magele's experience has covered much of modern Samoa's history. During the troubles in the 1920s between the New Zealand representatives and the Mau, Magele was based first in Savaii and then Apia. He worked on the first shipment of bananas from Samoa to New Zealand aboard the *Mau Pomare*, and travelled to India to meet Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking at an official farewell in Auckland, Samoa's High Commissioner to New Zealand, **Feesago George Fepuleai**, described Magele as a 'devoted, loyal and dedicated public servant'.

'When laurels have come his way, including the honour of an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen some 20 years ago, he has not rested on them,' the high commissioner said. 'For he has discovered that inner satisfaction that surpasses any promotion or award.'

'Though he has not received much in the form of public acclamation, the honours remain stacked in his favour, secret but not forgotten in the many hearts whose lives he had undoubtedly touched and served over such a long time.'

— *Michael Field in Wellington.*

Allan Lind, a principal of the Australian company Solar Edwards, was in Tahiti in December looking over his company's 'success story' operation in French Polynesia.

Commenting on his visit, the Papeete daily *Les Nouvelles* wrote in its issue of December



A popular visitor to Fiji late last year was Sir Tore Lokoloko, Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, who found time after his official engagements for a game of snooker at the Union Club in Suva. Sir Tore and Parliamentary Speaker Mosese Qionbaravi (background) defeated Ratu William Toganivalu and Aminiasi Katonivalu by two frames to one. — Asaeli Lave picture.

28: 'Mr Lind's company now leads in the field of solar water heaters. With its advanced technology, it uses only stainless steel in the manufacture of its tanks.'

'Its heaters are particularly well adapted to Islands climates because stainless steel is not affected by sea air. This great advantage has meant that in less than a year this brand of heater has captured top place on the Tahitian market.'

The paper said that before joining Solar Edwards, Mr Lind was for seven years managing director of another Australian manufacturer of solar water heaters, but these were of the more traditional type, with water containers of enamel-coated steel.

Mr Lind told the paper that over the past three years, not a single client has called for application of the anti-corrosion guarantee clause written into Solar Edwards' purchase contracts.

The type of stainless steel used in manufacture of the

heaters is known as Marine 316. Mr Lind is particularly proud of the fact that his company is exporting heaters to Western Germany, 'one of the world's most advanced countries in stainless steel technology'.

Other countries importing the Solar Edwards heaters include the USA, Spain, Holland, Greece, Mauritius, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

A former Fiji weight-lifting champion is his country's new honorary consul in Vancouver, Canada.

He is **Raj Pillai**, formerly of Suva, who has been officially named as Fiji's honorary consul to the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. As such he will be doing his best to minister to the needs of a community of about 20 000 former Fiji citizens now living in Western Canada. He succeeds **John Kamali** in the post.

Mr Pillai is no stranger to the job of working for the interests of Fiji Canadians: for six years he was president of the Fiji-Canada Association. He has also been the driving force in organising financial and clothing relief at times of natural disasters at home.

Brought up in the Flagstaff area of Suva, Mr Pillai took to weight-lifting at an early age, eventually winning the Fiji championship. In 1966 he

served as manager and coach of the Fiji weight-lifting team at the second South Pacific Games in Noumea. Under his direction, the team accumulated an impressive tally of medals — four gold, one silver, and one bronze.

Mr Pillai emigrated to Canada with his wife **Ambika** and six children in 1968. (A seventh, **Sheila**, has been born since).

After a few years in various jobs, Mr Pillai in 1972 opened a service station. He now owns two motor body repair shops in the greater Vancouver area.

Jim Thomson has joined the staff of South Pacific Yacht Charters in Neiafu, Vavau, Tonga. He has a background in electrical engineering, management consultancy, and boating on the west coasts of Canada and the USA.

Jim built his own 12-metre ferro-cement ketch *Tukulik* on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. He cruised the US west coast and Mexico, and visited the Marquesas, Tuamotus, and Tahiti. While in



Roger Rousseau, shown above, a long-experienced member of the Canadian foreign service, has been accredited as Canadian High Commissioner to six countries in the South Pacific. He is based in Wellington as High Commissioner to New Zealand, but his accreditation extends beyond New Zealand to Fiji, Western Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Kiribati. One of his most widely-known previous appointments was 10 years ago when he became president of the organising committee for the Montreal Olympics.

Raiatea he met **David Bagelow**, who is managing SPYC's operation in French Polynesia, and was recruited by him to co-manage SPYC in Vavau.

He has joined **Don Coleman** in running this growing business. — *Patty Kaliher in Neiafu, Vavau, Tonga.*

Mahendra Motibhai Patel, executive director of Motibhai and Co Ltd, and also current chairman of the Fiji Visitors Bureau Board, has been elected president of the Fiji National Duty Free Merchants Association.

Papua New Guinea's Madang Province has moved a step ahead of the country's other provinces by producing PNG's first audiologist — an expert in identifying hearing problems in young children.

She is Madang Hospital community district nurse Miss **Halon Daing**, 24, who has completed a two-month basic audiology course at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney.

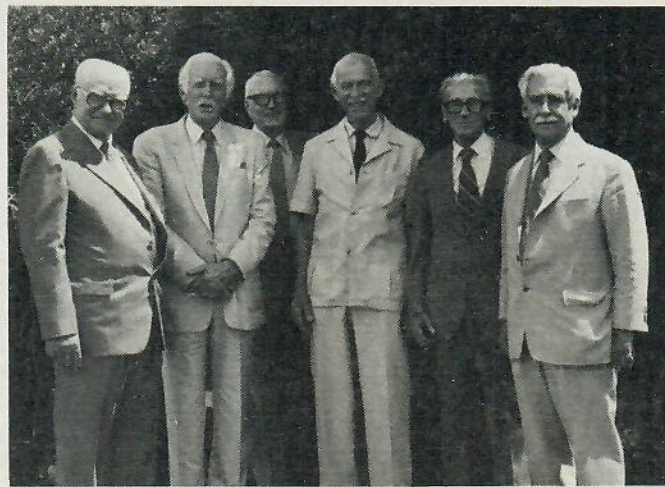
Australia's **Sir Ivan Dougherty** Scholarship, which provides opportunities for special training in the medical treatment of children, enabled Miss Daing to undertake the course.

The scholarship was launched by the Seventh Division of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) Association in memory of comrades who fought in PNG in World War II. — *Alphy Rumber in Hiri, fortnightly magazine of the PNG Government Office of Information.*

Niko Kalou has been appointed the new manager of Fiji's Treasure Island Resort, the first Fijian to hold the job.

Suzanne Murrell has been appointed public information consultant to the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) for seven months. She will organise public education and information activities on major environmental problems in the region.

The Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in March, is a highlight of the programme.



A reunion in Sydney in December provided a rare link with the early years of Australian involvement in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, now part of Papua New Guinea. Photographed at the reunion were, from left, Jim Leahy, 73, who went to New Guinea in 1929 and was a major figure in establishing the coffee industry there; Wendell Bill, 72, a former New South Wales state cricketer, and long associated with others in the group; Eric (Abe) Abraham, 85, of Brisbane, who was postmaster at Rabaul from 1923 to 1934; Dr W. H. Calov, 86, who was a medical officer at Namanula Hospital, Rabaul, from 1920 to 1928, and who is still in practice in Sydney; Jack Thurston, 84, who went to New Guinea in 1924, established shipping, plantation and business interests, and who still shares his time between business interests in Rabaul and Sydney; Ted Porter, of Sydney, formerly of Makurapau Plantation near Rabaul, who went to New Guinea in 1926. Sadly, Jim Leahy died only a few weeks after the reunion was held (see p65).

Based at the South Pacific Commission in Noumea, Miss Murrell was formerly publicity officer for the maritime parks of New Zealand.

Robert Dean Nesen, US ambassador-designate to Nauru, visited the island late last year. Mr Nesen is resident in Canberra, where he serves as US ambassador to Australia.

Benjamini Ravulolo Lomaloma, 24, of Fiji, won the 1981 Best Overseas Cadet award at Britain's Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

He was presented with the Baton of Honour — a leather-

encased cane with a silver knob — by Britain's Admiral of the Fleet, **Sir Terence Lewin**, who reviewed the traditional passing out Sandhurst parade in December.

In his new commissioned rank of Second Lieutenant, **Benjamini Lomaloma** will continue his Sandhurst studies until July, concentrating on war history and military communications.

A New Zealand priest of the Roman Catholic Redemptorist order, **Father Patrick Vincent Hurley**, has been appointed auxiliary bishop of Samoa and Tokelau. He will be assistant to **Cardinal Pio Taofin'u**.

Fiji's first woman accountant in a major bank branch has been appointed by the National Bank of Fiji. She is **Mrs Arieta Khan**, 37, who has been posted to the bank's Lautoka branch.

A bright future in rugby union is predicted for **Mark Sapias**, son of Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia, **Austin Sapias**.

Coach of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) under-16 squad, **John Weatherstone**, says: 'He's a very alert try-scorer and has to be one of the quickest and best rugby backs around for his age. In the past year he's scored about 70 tries. If he continues to develop at his present standard, he has a fantastic future ahead in rugby.'

Mark was chosen recently in the Australian under-17 rugby union team to tour New Zealand in May.

Dr Geoff Glasby, of New Zealand's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Oceanographic Institute, has been awarded a doctorate of science by Victoria University, Wellington, for his outstanding research in marine geochemistry.

Dr Glasby has served as scientific leader of three major cruises of the research vessel *Tangaroa* — Southwest Pacific (1974), the Samoan Basin (1976), and the Lau Basin (1981).

From 1978 until early 1981 he was **Alexander von Humboldt** Fellow at the Technische Hochschule, Aachen, West Germany, studying manganese nodule distribution and the geochemistry of the equatorial Pacific.



In Australia at present is Tongan navigator and seaman Pita Filitonga, who has one major achievement behind him and is setting his sights on another. He was one of the key men in an epic voyage from Vanuatu to Papua New Guinea in 1980 when a traditional Vanuatu canoe was sailed to the South Pacific Festival of Arts. Everything went wrong on the way, but the canoe survived storms, crew problems and other setbacks. Pita now wants to build a Tongan-style canoe as a contribution to the growing interest in Pacific exchanges, and he hopes to sail the canoe between island countries. While in Australia he has been seeking support for the project from people and groups interested in Polynesian sailing history, but he concedes he has a long way to go yet before he has the chance to put his dream into action. The picture above was taken while he was preparing a fish for cooking during the canoe voyage to Port Moresby. A storm washed away fuel and food, and one of the steering oars had to be broken up for firewood to cook the fish.

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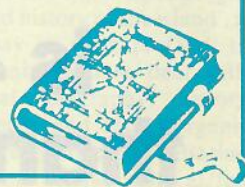
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Sex, surf and sand: Tourism under test

BOOKS



Pacific Tourism: Contrasts in Values and Expectations. By Cynthia Z. Biddlecomb. Published by Lotu Pasifika Productions on behalf of the Pacific Conference of Churches. ii and 61 pp. No ISBN provided. Price \$F1.80.

Pacific Tourism: As Islanders See It. Edited by Ron Crocombe and Freda Rajotte. Published by the Institute of Pacific Studies of the University of the South Pacific, in association with the South Pacific Social Sciences Association. vi and 171 pp. No ISBN provided. Price \$F5 (hard cover), \$3 (soft cover).

Everyone seems to have an opinion on tourism and these two books from Fiji, *Pacific Tourism: As Islanders See It* and *Pacific Tourism: Contrasts in Values and Expectations*, share a title, but not always the same ideas.

There must be about as many government reports, professional publications, and position papers about tourism now published as there are brochures issued by national tourism offices. On the one hand, the tourism-hungry governments seem to be bidding a seductive welcome, and on the other many of the reports cry out for caution.

In between are the central characters in the drama: the tourist hoping to 'get away from it all', and the eager local seeking to make a buck (or a franc) out of the alien hordes who seem to live so well and never work.

With the austral summer upon us, many office workers, families, retired folk, and other persons in the developed world are thinking about travel, and for most of them such excursions will be 'trips of a lifetime'. They will be part of the five percent of the world's population that each year crosses an international boundary, many of them to take just a few weeks' respite from the rigours of their daily lives.

On the other side, the weavers of Vavau are lining up

their baskets, and the carvers of Fiji whittling away at their take-away culture, in anticipation of the season of profits and plenty. Government tourism offices have planned their budgets and advertising campaigns. (The Fiji Visitors Bureau, for example, recently announced plans to spend about \$4 a head for the 200 000 visitors expected in 1982).

As the season approaches, the excitement in the air in a tourist area is as great as the pessimism expressed by some writers on the subject of tourism.

Author Biddlecomb is herself a visitor to Fiji, but on a 14-month assignment from the Methodist Board of Global

The Fiji tourist sell: It thrives on evocative names such as Paradise Point, Treasure Island, Castaway Island and Man Friday Resort. But what do the island communities themselves get from tourism, and is organised tourism good or bad? Two books reviewed on these pages reveal wide diversities of opinion. — Picture from Trans Tours.

Ministries. When her slim volume first appeared, it made the front page of one of the local newspapers. The report contained mildly sensational references to the 'rape' and 'resentment' which could be expected by visitors — if the profits from tourism were not shared more equitably in host communities.

Contrasts in Values and Expectations is intended for Pacific Islanders. The chapters end with four — and in one case five — questions for discussion.

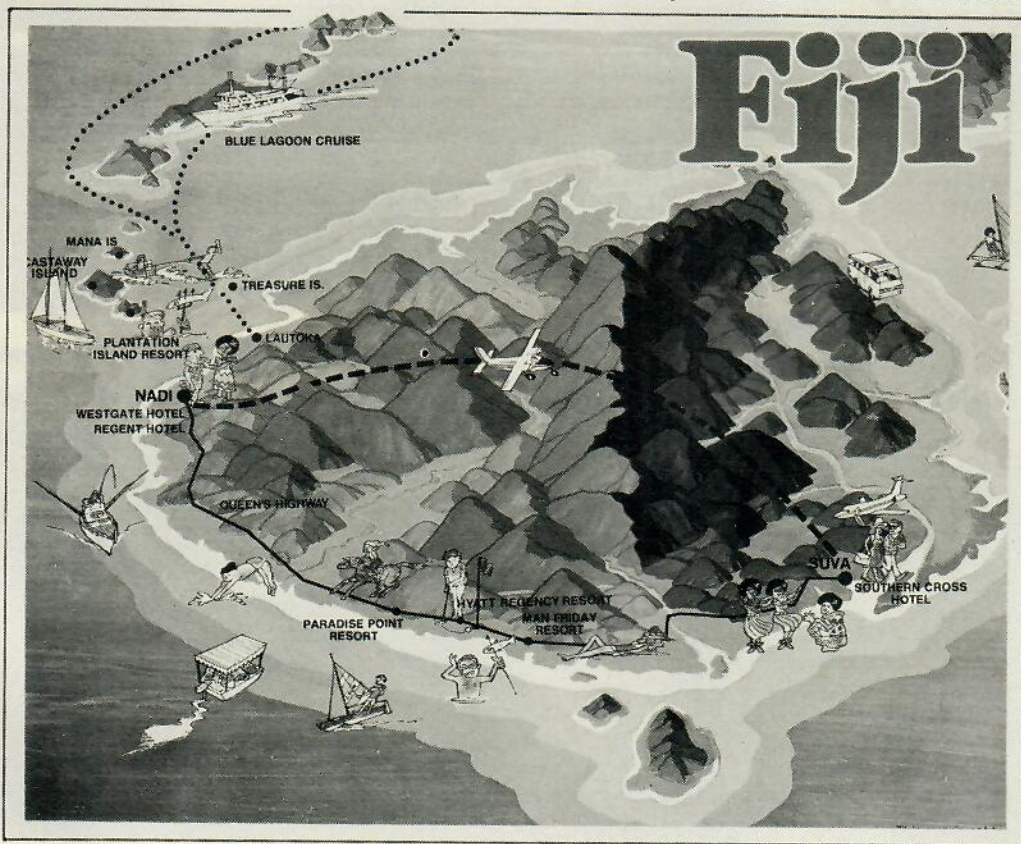
Apart from criticism of 'tourism ghettos', and the description of conflicts between local expectations of revenue and visitor values of relaxation, the book contains some useful comments on study tours, visits to rural areas, and other additions to the conventional tourist agenda.

While strongly critical of some tourist attitudes, the book at the same time displays sympathy for 'tourists who have saved their pennies for years' in order that they may one day flee the humdrum hell of their daily

lives to visit some 'Pacific paradise'.

One central issue Biddlecomb fails to discuss is the question of why package tours are so heavily planned and itineraries so restricted. The point is that the wealthy industrial countries who supply most — but not all — of the world's tourists are poor in *time*. For most vacationers, three to four weeks is all that can be afforded before they return to worries about mortgages, car repayments, and their other everyday preoccupations.

Biddlecomb's central point is that the churches should put the 'holy' back into holidays. Clergy, whether ministering to visitors or locals, should strive to make their flocks aware of the meaning of what they are doing when they travel, and when they receive travellers. The final chapter goes so far as to suggest that the churches



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themselves should organise tours, stressing the concept of pilgrimage, as well as recreation.

Certainly, the church organisation on a world-wide scale is there. In medieval Europe, the church was the main organiser of travel. But whether the strict, almost puritanical, attitudes reflected by Biddlecomb will appeal to any large numbers of people, or prove capable of generating the kind of cash flow needed by export-poor tourist host countries, is another matter.

As Islanders See It is a different kind of book, in the recognised mould of the Institute of Pacific Studies. Except for editors Rajotte and Crocombe, all the other writers are nationals of Pacific Island states.

It struck me as ironic that just before the book's launching



Trans Tours picture

last year, there was a Fiji-wide tourism convention held in one of those oft-criticised luxury hotels. The theme was to urge more people to come to the country to boost the 58 percent occupancy rate under which many Fiji hotels were then labouring. It was at that convention that Ms Jacqueline Hiue — 'the highest paid woman in Australia' as she called herself — made the quotable remark: 'How would you market Fiji in the '80s? Like a can of beans!' It is precisely attitudes such as this that are complained of by many of the Pacific Islander contributors to this book.

As Islanders See It deals with tourism in Tonga, Western Samoa, the Cooks, Fiji, Niue, Kiribati, Hawaii and parts of New Zealand. A tally of the opinions expressed in the 24



Cynthia Biddlecomb: Tourism through the Islanders' eyes.

articles shows that 13 seem to be opposed to tourism, only five are unequivocally for its development, while six try to balance good points with bad, and call for caution in the tourist industry.

The Meleiseas' academic piece on Western Samoa feels that tourism should be only the 'icing on the economic cake', while little Niue hopes for an increase in its annual total of 300 *bona fide* visitors in order to justify its \$250 000 hostelry, built with New Zealand aid.

Some of the articles — such as the lead one by geographer Rajotte, and the Western Samoa piece referred to — are academic exercises. But most are short impressions, derived from student papers prepared at the USP. (At least one of the Islander authors known to me

was surprised to see her third-year class paper turn up in print in the volume. Some, such as Samy's 'Crumbs From the Table', a study of a tourist hotel, have been reprinted more than once.)

As Islanders See It is very long on opinion, but rather short on facts.

The closing article, 'Tourism in Reverse', reports on interviews with 18 students, most of them on sponsored study tours of Fiji. It comes to the unsurprising conclusion that the shorter the stay, the greater the satisfaction with the time spent abroad.

Altogether, these two books shed some light on the tensions and disillusionments to which tourism gives rise. Central tourist authorities, of course, do their very best to suppress all evidence of such 'negative' phenomena.

As I read about tourism, I can't help recalling my first 18 years, spent in a small seaside resort, where, as kids, we used to paint 'Tourists Go Home' signs on walls and rockfaces during the night, before reporting for work in the (then) only industry in town.

Exploiter it may be, but tourism may also be the only commodity some communities have to sell. And for as many surly or careless out-of-towners as I endured, I also recall meeting good people just looking for a good time.

I suspect that most hosts have similar experiences. — *Grant McCall*.

THE FIREWALKERS OF FIJI

Hot stones and cold cash

Beqa — Island of Firewalkers. By John Bigay, Mason Green, Dr Freda Rajotte, Amelia Ravuvu, Mika Tubanavau, and Jesoni Vitusagavulu. Edited by Dr Freda Rajotte and John Bigay. Published by Institute of Pacific Studies, University of the South Pacific. xii and 161 pp. Price and ISBN unprovided.

History will say what the impact of tourism was on Fiji, and

in particular on the indigenous Fijians. Whether the undoubted economic benefits suffice to offset the rapid changes associated with the development of tourism must for the time being remain a matter of opinion. Certainly, the Fijians of pre-tourism, and early tourism, days presented a fine example of human behaviour.

Beqa — Island of Firewalkers is an effort by six authors to 'record for the people

of Beqa and Fiji a short geography and history of the island', as they say in their preface. Its four main sections deal with: physical geography; history; settlement and social organisation; economic organisation; and some unique cultural features.

It is in this last section that the authors devote two chapters to firewalking (*vilavilairevo*), and clearly show how this ancient ceremonial activity has been commercialised, under the pressure of the requirements of tourism, until it has almost lost its mystique.

If tourists expected something 'different' in Fiji, they certainly saw it in firewalking. But it is now performed so often and in so many places, that it often produces an attitude bordering on indifference.

Vilavilairevo, which literally means 'jumping into the oven', is a skill which in the past belonged solely to the people of Sawau on Beqa, which lies off the south coast of Fiji's main island of Viti Levu.

When this skill — of walking barefoot on white-hot rocks — was acquired cannot be dated, but legends describe its origins. It was once the subject of restrictions the breaking of which could bring horrendous results as the gods took their revenge.

Once *vilavilairevo* was performed only on special occasions, such as for visiting royalty. Now it has spread to several other villages of Beqa, which make their own arrangements with hotels to perform for tourists.

Its commercialisation began in 1958, when people from the Beqan village of Rukua performed at the Hibiscus Festival in Suva.

Dakuibeqa was the first village to perform for hotels, and was followed by Rukua, which made its first contract with the Korolevu Beach hotel in 1961, where they performed once a month for \$400 a time.

The authors describe the sequence of events: 'Other villages became aware of the possibility of tapping the tourist industry with this unique art. Dakuni, Dakuibeqa, Naceva and Naiseuseu all began signing contracts with various resort

themselves should organise tours, stressing the concept of pilgrimage, as well as recreation.

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hotels to perform on a regular basis.

'The ability to firewalk spread to neighbouring Yanuca Island, where the villagers have now obtained a contract to perform regularly at the Beachcomber Hotel at Deuba, and to Korovisilou, a village on Viti Levu (along the Queen's Road). In each case, short-term contracts have been made with hotels in Suva, Nadi or along the Coral Coast, and the total number of performances and the payments received per performance have varied considerably over the years . . .

'In addition to performing in Fiji, the Beqa firewalkers have made several international tours, performing in New Zealand, Hawaii, Canada and India.

'Commercialisation has altered the actual ceremony itself in several important aspects: before 1961 the preparations for *vilavilavevo* would involve the entire village for nearly a month. Costumes had to be made, firewood and rocks carefully selected, and ceremonies of preparation completed . . .

'The modern pit is only about eight feet in diameter . . . whereas photographs taken on Beqa in the 1930s show a much larger pit . . .

'Part of the reason for this is the tremendous amount of firewood required for the larger

pit (Dukuiqeba firewalkers have said it should be about six tons) and the increasing time and cost involved in its collection.

'In 1976, a good year for tourism in Fiji, the firewalking income of the village of Rukua reached a peak of about \$9000 . . . since then, tourism has declined and hotels are scheduling fewer performances while tending to pay for them on a percentage-of-receipts basis.'

From 1978, serious differences set in between hotel proprietors and firewalkers. The hoteliers were concerned about the poor quality of performances. The firewalkers complained of irregular contracts, the competitive situation, and declining income per performance.

High-level authorities moved in, and at the time the authors were writing there were proposals for a licence to be issued to firewalking groups who met required standards, on the understanding that members of the Fiji Hotel Association would not employ unlicensed groups.

The authors certainly do the

Six firewalkers 'entering the oven', the expression they use for their performances on Beqa Island. The stones in the pit are heated by tons of firewood which is becoming increasingly difficult to collect, often reducing the size of today's pits.

right thing by Fijian culture in drawing attention to the unfortunate side-effects of tourism, all in the name of economic progress.

The book is a fine account of how the island of Beqa has evolved over time to become what it is today — a place mirroring Fijian culture and traditions, offering a village life much the same as is to be found in 100 other villages in almost any part of Fiji — the firewalking speciality aside.

Beqa is relatively unaffected by the commercial thrust of the Indian community because it offers so little for commercial exploitation. Even Chinese storekeepers, who operate in many Fijian villages, and in remote areas, gave Beqa away years ago.

A particularly useful feature of this book are its two glossaries, one of geographic terms, and the other offering English versions of a number of Fijian expressions. — H. N. B.

The 'joiningest' folk in Hawaii

Sojourners and Settlers: The Chinese Migrants in Hawaii. By Clarence E. Glick. Published by the Hawaii Chinese History Center and The University Press of Hawaii, Honolulu. Page details unavailable. \$US20. ISBN 0 8248 0707 3.

The arrival of the 460-tonne barque *Thetis* in Honolulu harbour on January 3, 1852, marked the beginning of Hawaii's modern social history. Its cargo included 200 Chinese contract labourers, destined for the fields of the islands' burgeoning sugar industry. They constituted the beginning of a migration of peoples from Asia, Europe, and the Pacific who

would irreversibly change the nature of Hawaii's population and, more important, of its culture.

Forty-six thousand Chinese journeyed to Hawaii before its annexation to the United States in 1890. Most came to work in the sugar plantations. Others came as free labourers to work on rice farms developed by fellow Chinese migrants. Chinese also cultivated coffee, bananas, and taro. And of those who signed up with the Caucasian-owned sugar plantations, too few renewed their contracts. They sought instead the status of free labourers and the economic opportunities of the towns. Thus, the labour recruiters turned to Portugal and eventually Japan and the Philippines.

In *Sojourners and Settlers: The Chinese Migrants in Hawaii*, Clarence E. Glick studies these 46 000 Chinese, their cohesion as an ethnic group, and their integration into the larger community of Hawaii. Admirably researched and thoroughly documented, *Sojourners and Settlers* offers an example of the scholarly thoroughness which is called for in the study of each of Hawaii's major immigrant groups.

The Chinese triumphed over discrimination with weapons which their oppressors could appreciate: first, they made money. When the Hawaii legislature or government ministers reproached the Chinese community, its leaders hired lawyers, and went to court.

